

The Message of the Prophets
No Other Gods

Isaiah 57:1-13
February 28, 2010

The Problem of Idolatry

- The message of the prophets

The Basic Prophetic Message

- You have broken the covenant and had better repent!
- If you don't repent then you will face judgment!
- Yet there is still hope for future restoration!

The Problem of Idolatry

- The message of the prophets
- Condemnation of idolatry
 - Isaiah 57:1-13
 - Jeremiah 2:10-13

Jeremiah 2:10-13

¹⁰For cross to the coasts of Cyprus and see, or send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has been such a thing. ¹¹Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit. . .

Jeremiah 2:10-13

¹²Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the Lord, ¹³for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.” (Jeremiah 2:10–13, ESV)

The Problem of Idolatry

- The message of the prophets
- Condemnation of idolatry
 - Isaiah 57:1-13
 - Jeremiah 2:10-13
 - Idolatry in the OT

Why is Idolatry Wrong?

- The First Commandment
“You shall have no other gods before me.”
(Ex. 20:3)

Why is Idolatry Wrong?

- The First Commandment
- The Greatest Commandment
“⁴Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”
(Deut. 6:4–5, ESV)

Idolatry Today

- The essence of idolatry
 - Why do people worship idols?

Idolatry Today

- The essence of idolatry
 - Why do people worship idols?
 - Is God enough?

Is God Enough?

“³⁰And now you have gone away because you longed greatly for your father’s house, but why did you steal my gods?” ³¹Jacob answered and said to Laban, ‘Because I was afraid, for I thought that you would take your daughters from me by force. . .

Is God Enough?

³²Anyone with whom you find your gods shall not live. In the presence of our kinsmen point out what I have that is yours, and take it.' Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them."
(Gen. 31:30-32, ESV)

Idolatry Today

- The essence of idolatry
- Idolatry of the heart

Greed is idolatry

"Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and **covetousness, which is idolatry.**" (Col. 3:5, ESV)

Greed is idolatry

"For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is **covetous** (that is, an **idolater**), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God."
(Eph. 5:5, ESV)

What are our Idols?

- Idol factory

Idol Factory

"The human heart takes good things like a successful career, love, material possessions, even family, and turns them into ultimate things. Our hearts deify them as the center of our lives, because, we think, they can give us significance and security, safety and fulfillment, if we attain them." (Tim Keller)

What are our Idols?

- Idol factory
- Some common idols

Common Idols

- money
- success
- education
- relationships/sex
- family

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Additional Information

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