

## Duane D. Miller

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**From:** MATSATI [matsati@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2006 3:56 PM  
**To:** 'MATSATI'  
**Subject:** The Idols we place in our Hearts ...

Hello Everyone,

I am currently reading through the book of Ezekiel and found some interesting verses in my Bible reading for today. Ezekiel was a Priest and Prophet of ancient Yisrael of the 6<sup>th</sup> Century BC. He was the subject and author of the biblical book of Ezekiel. He began to prophesy to the Jews in Yisrael 592 BC, pronouncing God's judgment on a sinful nation. He witnessed the conquest of Jerusalem by Babylon and saw his fellow Israelites taken away into captivity. He offered a promise of Israel's restoration in his famous vision of a valley of dry bones that revive and assemble themselves. He also envisaged a theocratic community revolving around a restored Temple in Jerusalem. Ezekiel is a fascinating book, and there are a few verses that I find very interesting that I would like to comment upon, the Lord spoke to my heart about the topic of idolatry and our hearts.

### **Ezekiel 6:9**

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And they that escape of you shall remember me among the nations whither they shall be carried captives, because I am broken with their **whorish heart**, which hath departed from me, and with their **eyes, which go a whoring** after their idols: and they shall lothe themselves for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations. (KJV)

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### **Ezekiel 14:3-7**

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Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumbling block of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them? Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that **setteth up his idols in his heart**, and **putteth the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face**, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols; may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols. Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations. For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger that sojourneth in Israel, which separateth himself from me, and setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to a prophet to enquire of him concerning me; I the LORD will answer him by myself: (KJV)

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What particularly jumped out at me was the topic of idolatry. For some reason Christians mostly believe idolatry involves worshiping some inanimate object, like an Ashtoreth pole (Note: Ashtoreth is the moon goddess of the Phoenicians, representing the passive principle in nature, their principal female deity; frequently associated with the name of Baal, the sun-god, their chief male deity, see Judges 10:6 and 1 Samuel 7:4; 12:10, for more information see reference (1)) or similar deity's one finds for example in the Hindu religion. The fact is idols come in many forms and are not limited to the molten images (Num33:52 Deu9:12 Deu27:15 Judg17:3 Judg17:4 Judg18:14 Judg18:17 Judg18:18, etc) which were so often mentioned in the scriptures. The idols which Ezekiel speaks of concerns those we establish in our hearts. Such idols of the heart include personal pride/fame, money/finances, school/education, etc ... I would also suggest that trying to "please" everyone else over trying to please the Lord God is also a

form of idolatry of the heart. The one thing today we seem to lack is discernment, discernment of the lies HaSatan throws at us to keep us in bondage (so HaSatan can maintain his stronghold in your life).

There are valuable lessons we can learn from reading/studying the scriptures. While we are reading and studying the scriptures God speaks to us and teaches us such as what we are seeing here in Ezekiel.

The idols of the heart have become an epidemic (a sudden, widespread occurrence of an undesirable phenomenon) in Christian society today. People are more concerned with which sports team is winning the super bowl, what the latest hottest clothing a particular actor/movie star is wearing, or any other bit of uselessness rather than asking God how he can help you to become a better witness to your spouse, friends, neighbor, and boss at work. What is wrong with the believers these days? I have an idea what the problem really involves.

We are living in the last days for the time is near for the Lord Yeshua's return. In the book of Daniel, Daniel spoke of the last days, and how the wicked will continue in their wickedness and none of the wicked shall understand.

### **Daniel 12:10**

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Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand. (KJV)

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What we are seeing is a division of the Church, a division of the body of believers. There are some who will stand for the fundamentals of the truth in Yeshua, standing upon the sure foundation of scripture believing without compromising their faith in Yeshua. And then there are those who say they are Christians and yet they are not. Where one is a believer in word, but their deeds produce no fruits of the spirit. There is a difference between those who are saved, they call sin for what it is, sin, and there are those who exchange good for evil, and the truth for a lie, and will not admit that they sin. (Isa5:20-24)

**If you recognize this as something you are doing, please ask for the Lord's forgiveness and help.**

So, what I propose is that we are seeing the phenomena of the last days before the glorious return of our Savior Yeshua Hamoshiakh. Those who are living wickedly will continue to live wickedly because they have created an idol in their hearts rather than trusting in the one true God. There is still hope however, for those who are lost, the kingdom of heaven is at hand, and Yeshua is soon to return. Pray for repentance and revival in this country and in the world, and in the hearts of your neighbors and friends.

**"Our Love ought to draw others to a taste of life that satisfies like no other, and our strength ought to warn others that pursuit of a false god leads to an abyss that will eventually violate and destroy their soul."** Dr. Dan B. Allender, Bold Love, (C) 1992, Navpress, pg 211

People today despise the judgments of God, one thinks if they fully give themselves over to the Lord their life will be boring and lack of luster and it appears people are contented with a gentle sheen or soft glow of sin in their lives rather than the saving power of grace, love, and forgiveness in Yeshua.

### **Ezekiel 20:16**

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Because they despised my judgments, and walked not in my statutes, but polluted my sabbaths: for their heart went after their idols. (KJV)

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Worship begins in the heart, and thus God desires that we come back to the heart of Worship with him at the center without the idols of this life, lust, money, etc. The Lord searches deeper than we

realize, he knows our deepest fears, and desires. Ask the Lord for a heart of worship that is only for him and for a life in the fullness of Yeshua Hamoshiakh (Jesus the Messiah), let's pray ...

### Prayer

Dear Heavenly father,

Hear I am to worship you, here I am to bow down to you; oh Lord. Please open my eyes let me see your glory. Here I am to say that you are my God, you are all together lovely, worthy, and wonderful to me even in the midst of my sinfulness. King of all days so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above I worship you with all my heart. Humbly you came to the earth you created ...for the sake of dieing for my sins. Please destroy the strongholds that HaSatan has built up in my life and help me to live in the victory that you have won on my behalf. I exalt and glorify your name in Yeshua's (Jesus') name I pray. Amen!

Did you know there are some Christians who claim praying to the Lord exalting his name is not the way we should pray, claiming it is a mode of impersonal prayer, rather some say we should pray without exaltation somehow making it more personal in what is called a "less flamboyant" manner. I have to say that we need to exalt the name of God as often as we can, we were created and designed to bring Glory to God and his Holy Name. In all that we do we need to bring Glory to God, in our witness to others, in our speech, and even in prayer before God. Now there are times when we do pray in a more personal manner, I do that all of the time, but I also see written in the scriptures exaltation and praise to God in prayer.

### References

1. Note: These names often occur in the plural (Ashtaroth, Baalim), probably as indicating either different statues or different modifications of the deities. This deity is spoken of as Ashtoreth of the Zidonians. She was the Ishtar of the Accadians and the Astarte of the Greeks (Jer. 44:17; 1 Kings 11:5, 33; 2 Kings 23:13). There was a temple of this goddess among the Philistines in the time of Saul (1 Sam. 31:10). Under the name of Ishtar, she was one of the great deities of the Assyrians. The Phoenicians called her Astarte. Solomon introduced the worship of this idol (1 Kings 11:33). Jezebel's 400 priests were probably employed in its service (1 Kings 18:19). It was called the "queen of heaven" (Jer. 44:25). DDM, 2006.

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

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הללויה לארוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:

*Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi, "YESHUA" King Messiah for ever and ever!!!*