

Idolatry

Lesson: Ezekiel 14:1-8

We see in selective verses from today's lesson.

These men have taken their idols into their hearts; that I may lay hold of the hearts of the house of Israel, who are all estranged from me through their idols. Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: Repent and turn away from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations. (Ezekiel 14:2,5,6)

We will consider 5 points.

First point – **Idol worshiping**. or worshiping graven image.

You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God. (Exodus 20:4-5)

Worshiping idols or bow down before them is against Law of Moses. We read in Genesis 31 that Jacob with whole family went back to his ancestor's country. But Rachel stole idols. As a result she died during their journey. So idol worshiping results early death instead of full life.

Therefore, my beloved, run [keep far, far away] from [any sort of] idolatry [and that includes loving anything more than God. (1 Corinthians 10:14)

Israelites during journey in wilderness became idolaters due nations around them.

That's why all were died in the wilderness except Joshua and Caleb. And next generation entered in the Promised Land.

Of the twelve who had explored the land, only Joshua and Caleb remained alive.

(Numbers 14:38)

Second point- **Magic** or working with magic.

A certain magician, false prophet [Paul said] you will not see the sunlight for some time." Instantly mist and darkness came over the man's eyes, and he began groping around begging for someone to take his hand and lead him. (Acts 13:6,11)

Today also some magicians make some people to follow them. But the end result of these people is dark.

Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. (Acts 19:19)

Black magic, calling spirits, 'yellow leaf', drinking magic contained water, etc. all of these are sin. And God will destroy all these magicians and their followers.

Third point- **Fortune-telling** or telling so called luck with magic/fake dream.

Do not practice fortune-telling or witchcraft. (Leviticus 19:26)

I will put an end to all witchcraft, and there will be no more fortune-tellers. (Micah 5:12)

You must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. (Deuteronomy 13:3)

Usually you read in daily newspaper- 'how will be your week'. This is sin. One God's minister believe that and his Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday went accordingly but when he knew that it's sin, the other remaining week didn't go according to that so called fortune!

Palmistry - fortune-telling through the study of the palm , taking selective fortune card from parrot or so, all are sin.

Fourth point- following so called saints or believing some person without help of Jesus Christ.

*Sorrows will multiply to those who chase other gods. (Psalms 16:4)
Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. (Jeremiah 17:5)*



Do not turn to mediums [who pretend to consult the dead] or to spiritists [who have spirits of divination]; do not seek them out to be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God. (Leviticus 19:31)

Making so-called saints as a mediator to reach God or going to so-called saint's grave is sin. *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)*

The only and only Jesus is One name through whom we get reach to God.

That's why we say at the end of our prayer 'we ask this prayer through Jesus Christ. No need to go to so-called saints instead ask directly to God through Jesus and timely he answered our prayers.

Fifth point- believing on graves or going to graves to ask something.

And the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. (Ecclesiastes 12:7)



We say during funeral of our relatives that- we give this body to the earth, earth to earth, dust to dust, ash to ash. When body mixed with earth then how can we ask something from that, it's useless and sin.

Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? (Isaiah 8:19)

What's inside the grave? Empty bones! Should we believe in disintegrated bones?

Usually we make graveyard in villages outside residential houses. Once a Church elder asked his pastor that during funeral service I felt that some evil spirit was grasping me. The Pastor told that before going I sanctify myself then put gown and went to graveyard for funeral.

He lived among the tombs. Night and day in the tombs and in the mountains he kept crying out and cutting himself with stones. (Mark 5:3,5)

Satan put him in graves. Usually we hear that certain parson was passing through graveyard and an evil spirit caught him. If we publically confess and accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour then he will protect us.

But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars— their portion is in the lake burning with fire and brimstone. (Revelation 21:8)

So we learned that-

1st - Idol worshiping , 2nd - Magic , 3rd - Fortune-telling , 4th - following so called saints , 5th - believing on graves.

To follow these, means kill ourselves to death.

And we know that the Son of God has come. And now we live in fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ. He is the only true God, and he is eternal life. Keep yourselves from idols. (1 John 5:20,21)

Let's ask God to give ourselves the grace for leaving idolatry and confessing our sins and publically accepting Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour. **AMEN**

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