

Pastor Ron Case
12/12/10

“Reasons for God’s Departure” (3)

*“Ephraim’s glory shall fly away like a bird... Wee to them when I depart from them!”
(Hosea 9:11-12)*

Process of Departure

Ezekiel

9:3, 10:18-19, 11:22-23 – (3) “Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub on which it rested to the threshold of the house... (18) Then the glory of the LORD went out from the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim. (19) And the cherubim lifted up their wings and mounted up from the earth before my eyes... (22) Then the cherubim lifted up their wings, with the wheels beside them, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them. (23) And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain that is on the east side of the city.”

#1 Stubbornness – (11/14/10) **#2 Disobedience** – (11/28/10)

#3 Idolatry

Ezekiel 6:9 – “...*I have been broken over their whoring heart* that has departed from me and over their eyes that go whoring after their idols.”

Key Point: Idolatry Breaks God’s Heart

Abominations that make Desolate

Ezekiel

8:3-10 – (3) “He put out the form of a hand and took me by a lock of my head, and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the entrance of the gateway of the inner court that faces north, where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provokes to jealousy. (4) And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the vision that I saw in the valley. (5) Then he said to me, ‘Son of man, lift up your eyes now toward the north.’ So I lifted up my eyes toward the north, and behold, north of the altar gate, in the entrance, was this image of jealousy. (6) And he said to me, ‘Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations that the house of Israel are committing here, *to drive me far from my sanctuary?* But you will see still greater abominations.’ (7) And he brought me to the entrance of the court, and when I looked, behold, there was a hole in the wall. (8) Then he said to me, ‘Son of man, dig in the wall.’ So I dug in the wall, and behold, there was an entrance. (9) And he said to me, ‘Go in, and see the vile abominations that they are committing here.’ (10) So I went in and saw. And there, engraved on the wall all around, was every form of creeping things and loathsome beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel.”

Response:

Keep your Heart 'Idol-Free'

“Son of man, *these men have taken their idols into their hearts*, and set the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces. Should I indeed let myself be consulted by them?” (Ezekiel 14:3)

“Little children, keep (*Isolate, Guard*) yourselves from idols.” (1 John 5:21)

Questions:

What

impacted me the most in this message?

What are the first two commandments of the ‘Ten Commandments’ concerned with?

Where does idolatry begin? (Prov. 4:23; Matt. 22:37-38)

If my thoughts were to be weighed by God (which, by the way, they are!) would my heart tend toward God or idolatry? (Ps. 24:3-4)