

# Ezekiel 6:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And your altars shall be desolate, and your images shall be broken: and I will cast down your slain men before your idols.

## Analysis

---

**And your altars shall be desolate, and your images shall be broken: and I will cast down your slain men before your idols.** The judgment targets both cultic objects and worshipers. "Altars shall be desolate" (shamemu, שָׁמְמוּ) means laid waste, rendered useless. "Images" (chammanim, חַמָּנִים) likely refers to sun pillars or incense altars used in idol worship. God promises to break (nisbar, נִשְׁבֵּר) these sacred objects, demonstrating their impotence. Most horrifically, worshipers' corpses will lie "before your idols"—the gods they trusted couldn't protect them. This macabre scene proves idols powerless to save (Psalm 115:4-8; Isaiah 44:9-20; Jeremiah 10:5).

## Historical Context

---

Archaeological excavations throughout Israel have uncovered smashed altars, broken incense stands, and shattered images from the Babylonian destruction layer (586 BC), literally fulfilling this prophecy. The ironic reversal—dead worshipers lying before lifeless idols—vindicated Yahweh's exclusive deity. Those who worshiped stone and wood became like them (Psalm 115:8)—dead, powerless, unable to see, hear, or act. The physical evidence remained visible for generations, teaching survivors that idolatry leads to death.

## Related Passages

---

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

---

1. How does the image of corpses before powerless idols illustrate the futility of trusting anything besides God?
2. What modern idols (wealth, status, pleasure) prove equally powerless when judgment comes?
3. In what ways do we become like what we worship (Psalm 115:8)?

## Interlinear Text

---

|                      |                     |                 |                 |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| וְנֶשׁ מוֹ           | מִזְבְּחַ וְתִיכָּם | וְנִשְׁבְּרוּ   | חַמְצִיץ        |
| shall be desolate    | And your altars     | shall be broken | and your images |
| H8074                | H4196               | H7665           | H2553           |
| וְהִפַּלְתִּי        | חַלְלִיכָם          | לִפְנֵי         | גְלוּלֵיכֶם:    |
| and I will cast down | your slain          | men before      | your idols      |
| H5307                | H2491               | H6440           | H1544           |

## Additional Cross-References

---

**2 Chronicles 14:5** (Parallel theme): Also he took away out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the images: and the kingdom was quiet before him.

**Leviticus 26:30** (Parallel theme): And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your images, and cast your carcasses upon the carcasses of your idols, and my soul shall abhor you.