

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, כְּמָנִים) likely refers to sun pillars or incense altars used in idol worship. God promises to break (nisbar, נִשְׁבַּר) 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

shall be desolate	And your altars	shall be broken	and your images
H8074	H4196	H7665	H2553
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 carcases upon the carcases of your idols, and my soul shall abhor you.