

# Isaiah 57:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behind the doors also and the posts hast thou set up thy remembrance: for thou hast discovered thyself to another than me, and art gone up; thou hast enlarged thy bed, and made thee a covenant with them; thou lovedst their bed where thou sawest it.

## Analysis

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This verse intensifies the adultery metaphor with shocking intimacy. "Behind the doors and posts" suggests secret, domestic idolatry—household gods and pagan symbols within private spaces (see Deuteronomy 6:9 for the ironic contrast of what should be on doorposts). The phrase "set up thy remembrance" (zikkaron) likely refers to pagan symbols that parodied the memorial tokens God commanded (Exodus 13:9, Deuteronomy 6:8-9). "Discovered thyself" uses the Hebrew gillah, a euphemism for sexual exposure, literally uncovering nakedness (Leviticus 18:6-19). "Enlarged thy bed" and "made a covenant with them" portrays Israel's insatiable appetite for foreign alliances and their accompanying false religions. The final phrase "thou lovedst their bed where thou sawest it" uses the verb ahab (covenant love) for illicit passion, showing perverted affections. Reformed theology recognizes this as total depravity's manifestation: the affections, not merely actions, are corrupted. What should be loved (God) is abandoned for what should be hated (idols).

## Historical Context

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The domestic idolatry described here reflects practices evident in biblical and archaeological records. Household gods (teraphim) were common in Israelite

homes despite being forbidden (Genesis 31:19, Judges 17:5, 1 Samuel 19:13). Foreign alliances, particularly with Egypt and Assyria, tempted Judah's kings to adopt their allies' religious practices as signs of political loyalty. The mezuzah, which should have contained Scripture (Deuteronomy 6:9), was apparently replaced or accompanied by pagan symbols. This private idolatry was perhaps more dangerous than public apostasy because it showed how deeply false worship had penetrated Israelite society.

## **Related Passages**

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## **Study Questions**

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1. What private idolatries do we maintain that contradict our public profession?
2. How does our culture's pursuit of political or social alliances tempt us to compromise truth?
3. In what ways can religious observance mask a heart that loves created things more than the Creator?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי	זְכוֹרֹנְךָ	שָׁמַתְּ	וְהַמְזוֹתַי הֵן	הַדָּלֹת לְפָנַי	וְאַחֲרָי
H3588	thy remembrance	hast thou set up	also and the posts	the doors	Behind
	H2146	H7760	H4201	H1817	H310
וְתַעֲלֵי י	גַּל יֵת	מֵאֵת י			
H5927	thyself to another than me and art gone up	for thou hast discovered			H853
	H1540				
מֶהֱמָ לָךְ	וַתַּכְּרֵת	מִשְׁכְּבֵם	הִרְחַבְתָּ		
H1992	and made	their bed	thou hast enlarged		
	H0	H3772	H7337		
חֲזִיתִי:	יָד	מִשְׁכְּבֵם	אִתָּם בְּתָ		
thou sawest	where	their bed	thee a covenant with them thou lovedst		
H2372	H3027	H4904	H157		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 23:41** (Parallel theme): And satest upon a stately bed, and a table prepared before it, whereupon thou hast set mine incense and mine oil.

**Ezekiel 16:32** (Parallel theme): But as a wife that committeth adultery, which taketh strangers instead of her husband!