

Now at last they had a tangible representation of God, one they could see and touch, one they could bow down to and pray to, bring gifts to, decorate, and admire. And so they turned to idolatry.

What is idolatry? Idolatry is the worship of a god or gods other than the one true God, usually through humanly-made images of created things. Idolatry usually expresses itself by giving religious devotion to some tangible, substantial image of the god that is worshipped.

Now it appears that all forms of idolatry begin in the heart of human beings, at the core or center of their being, whenever they take the worship due to God, and give it to someone or something other than God.

Ezekiel 14:6-7 stresses this point. Would you turn with me there? (Ezekiel 14:6-7) . . .

"Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Repent! Turn from your idols and renounce all your detestable practices! When any Israelite or any alien living in Israel separates himself from me and sets up idols in his heart and puts a wicked stumbling block before his face and then goes to a prophet to inquire of me, I the Lord will answer him myself.'"

Here in Ezekiel we learn that the idolater does three things:

(1) First, he separates himself from God. That's very close to the idea of departing from God.