

Failed Worship | What is Worship? Part 2

I. Ancient High Places

- The average high place would have an altar (II Kings 21:3; II Chronicles 14:3), a carved wooden pole that depicted the female goddess of fertility — called an Asherah — a stone pillar symbolizing the male deity (II Kings 3:2), other idols (II Kings 17:29; II Chronicles 33:19), and some type of building (I Kings 12:31; I Kings 13:32; I Kings 16:32-33).
- They also burned incense to their gods, prayed, ate sacrificial meals, and were involved with male or female cultic prostitutes (II Kings 17:8-12; II Kings 21:3-7; Hosea 4:11-14).
- Although most high places were part of the worship of Baal, the Ammonite god Molech and the Moabite god Chemosh were also worshiped at similar high places (II Kings 11:5-8; II Kings 23:10).
- God commanded the children of Israel to destroy all of the High Places (Exodus 23:24; Exodus 34:13; Numbers 33:52; Deuteronomy 7:5; Deuteronomy 12:3).

II. Jewish Kings Who Worshipped at the High Places

- Solomon (I Kings 11:4-8)
- Nadab (I Kings 15:26)
- Baasha (I Kings 15:34)
- Omri (I Kings 16:25)
- Ahab (I Kings 16:30)
- Ahaziah (I Kings 22:52-53)

III. Six Implications of Failed Worship

- **When we worship self, we sin against God.**
 - It make sense when a person high-handedly sins against God. It's a conscious act of defiance. But what makes this even more troubling is the reality that we can unconsciously sin against God.
 - This is where we get into a lot of trouble, because I believe we have many High Places in our lives and we don't even know it.
- **When we worship self, we provoke God to anger.**
 - Ecclesiastes 10:3
 - Proverbs 21:4
 - Romans 8:6-8
- **When we worship self, we invite destruction into our lives.**
 - The Secondary Consequences like going to jail and hurting ourselves and getting pregnant and the like don't always occur when a person sins.
 - But the Primary Consequences always happen. We always break fellowship with God, it always hurts us spiritually by separating us from God and His blessing, and it affects our relationships with those around us.

- **When we worship self, we make it easy for others to do the same.**
 - I Kings 15:26
 - I Kings 15:34
 - I Kings 22:52-53
- **When we worship self, we make it easy for others to be even more sinful than we were.**
 - I Kings 16:25
 - I Kings 16:30
- **When we worship self more than we worship God, it's Failed Worship because we're serving anti-gods.**
 - Our Failed Family Worship may produce driven, capable, smart, achieving children, but their lives will fail spiritually because they're worshipping self, and their gods are puny, anti-gods.
 - James 4

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