

## Strange Gods Unmasking The Idols In Everyday Life Elizabeth Scalia

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[Counterfeit Gods](#) Jan 29 2020 The issue of idolatry has been with the human race for thousands of years; the subtle temptation is always to take what is good and turn it into the ultimate good, elevating it above all other things in the search for security and meaning. In this timely and challenging book, New York pastor Timothy Keller looks at the issue of idolatry throughout the Bible -- from the worship of actual idols in the Old Testament, to the idolatry of money by the rich young ruler when he was challenged by Jesus to give up all his wealth. Using classic stories from the Bible Keller cuts through our dependence on the glittering false idols of money, sex and power to uncover the path towards trust in the real ultimate -- God. Today's idols may look different from those of the Old Testament, but Keller argues that they are no less damaging. Culturally transforming as well as biblically based, [COUNTERFEIT GODS](#) is a powerful look at the temptation to worship what can only disappoint, and is a vital message in today's current climate of financial and social difficulty.

[War Against the Idols](#) Nov 01 2022 In the second decade of the sixteenth century medieval piety suddenly began to be attacked in some places as 'idolatry', or false religion. Wherever these ideas became accepted, churches were sacked, images smashed and burned, relics destroyed, and the Catholic Mass abolished. This study calls attention to the centrality of the idolatry issue for the Reformation. It traces the development of Protestant iconoclastic theology and practice, provides a survey and synthesis of its unfolding from Erasmus through Calvin, and lays a foundation for understanding the Reformed ideology that stood in conflict with Catholicism and Lutheranism. Professor Eire's main thesis is that the argument against 'idolatry' was central to Reformed Protestantism, both in its theological aspect and in its political ramifications, and that it reached its fullest and most enduring expression in Calvinism.

[Idols and Celebrity in Japanese Media Culture](#) Aug 06 2020 This is the most complete and compelling account of idols and celebrity in Japanese media culture to date. Engaging with the study of media, gender and celebrity, and sensitive to history and the contemporary scene, these interdisciplinary essays cover male and female idols, production and consumption, industrial structures and fan movements.

[Twilight of the Idols](#) Jun 27 2022 'Twilight of the Gods' was to serve as a short introduction to the whole of Nietzsche's philosophy and its aim was to attack eternal idols as he put it. These included socratic rationality, Christian morality and their contemporary counterparts.

[The Twilight of the Idols and the Anti-Christ](#) Nov 08 2020 'One must be superior to mankind in force, in loftiness of soul—in contempt' In these two devastating works, Nietzsche offers a sustained and often vitriolic attack on the morality and the beliefs of his time, in particular those of Hegel, Kant and Schopenhauer. [Twilight of the Idols](#) is a 'grand declaration of war' on reason, psychology and theology that combines highly charged personal attacks on his contemporaries with a lightning tour of his own philosophy. It also paves the way for [The Anti-Christ](#), Nietzsche's final assault on institutional Christianity, in which he identifies himself with the 'Dionysian' artist and confronts Christ; the only opponent he feels worthy of him. In his introduction Michael Tanner discussed the themes of Nietzsche's argument and places the works in their historical and philosophical context.

[Hijacked! Idols in Disguise](#) Oct 27 2019 Anything or anyone is a potential idol the moment our affection is diverted from God. Deep down, none of us desire to suffer bondage or intentionally act against the will of God. To avert the danger of something or someone becoming an idol, and to fight any idol that besets us, we must resist that object of our obsession and put it in its rightful place. As idolatry has engulfed us, are we, Western Christians ready to stand in Christ in the face of increasing hostility towards Christianity? Can the secular world see a difference in our daily lives; in the living out of our faith? [Hijacked! Idols in Disguise](#) explores the snares that have mesmerized and captivated Western Christians. Consider what redemption would look like if our choices were imbued by a concern for Kingdom values; contrition, confession, repentance, and reconciliation leads to spiritual healing and renews our faith commitment to Christ. Meet the Idol Slayer and join in the journey to breaking the strongholds, to falling in love with God again; standing firm in faith, and proclaiming the Kingdom of God by example and love.

[Book of Idols](#) Jun 03 2020 Cover -- The Book of Idols Idols in the House Jul 29 2022

[Breaking the Idols of Your Heart](#) Dec 30 2019 WE ALL WANT TO KNOW OUR LIFE MATTERS. The Teacher in Ecclesiastes wanted to know if his life mattered. He invested time and energy in every activity he could think of that might bring meaning and purpose to his life but found only disappointment, frustration, hopelessness. In our thirst for significance we, like the Teacher, give our lives-our time, talents, strength, heart-to anything we think will give us worth and purpose: Power. Relationships. Money. Pleasure. Work. But worshiping these idols has a high cost-and still doesn't bring the fulfillment we long for. In [Breaking the Idols of Your Heart](#) Dan Allender and Tremper Longman illuminate for us the Teacher's warnings and, after all his activities, his final radiant conclusion: Meaning and purpose come only when God is truly the center of our life and the object of our hope. Using a compelling fictional narrative at the start of each chapter, the authors lead us through Ecclesiastes to help us recognize and exchange cheap pursuits for the only One worth pursuing. Also included are group discussion questions to take you through Ecclesiastes with others. Ecclesiastes is not an easy book to read, because transferring our worship from money, power and fame to God is not an easy road to travel. But as the Teacher discovered and wrote down for us, it leads to one conclusion: life lived abundantly, with freedom, hope, purpose, meaning.

[The Twilight of the Idols](#) Apr 25 2022 [Twilight of the Idols](#) was written in just over a week, between 26 August and 3 September 1888, while Nietzsche was on holiday in Sils Maria. As Nietzsche's fame and popularity was spreading both inside and outside Germany, he felt that he needed a text that would serve as a short introduction to his work. Originally titled [A Psychologist's Idleness](#), it was renamed [Twilight of the Idols](#) or [How to Philosophize with a Hammer](#). [The Idols of ISIS](#) Nov 20 2021 "This book is intended for course use. It explores the range of political and religious issues at work when ISIS wields their sledgehammers and bombs to destroy or damage important cultural sites in the Middle East--like statues in the Mosul Museum, temples at Palmyra.

[Focusing on a video ISIS released when they destroyed artifacts in Mosul, the author examines three key aspects of the event: the status and power of idols, the institution of museums, and the efficacy of videos in furthering an ideological agenda"--](#)

[Twilight of the Idols with the Antichrist and Ecce Homo](#) Apr 13 2021 Includes three works, all dating from Nietzsche's last lucid months, that aim show him at his most stimulating and controversial: the portentous utterances of the prophet (together with the ill-defined figure of the Übermensch) are forsaken, as wit, exuberance and dazzling insights predominate.

[Idols of the Heart](#) Jun 15 2021 Were all idol-worshippers at heartputting loves, desires, and expectations ahead of God. But theres good news! Elyse shows

us how we can identify our idols and battle besetting sins.

**Idology in Transcultural Perspective** Apr 01 2020 This edited volume expands on what Aoyagi Hiroshi intended in the first decade of the new millennium to establish as a subfield of symbolic anthropology called "idology." It brings together case studies of popular idolatry in Japan, but goes further to provide a transcultural perspective to guide anthropological investigations in different places and times. In proposing an integrated paradigm for the growing body of literature on idols, the volume redirects recurrent questions to more fundamental points of sociocultural inquiry. Contributions from scholars conducting ethnographic fieldwork, as well as those engaged in theoretical and historical analyses, facilitate comparative reading and critical thought. Exceeding a narrow focus on human idols, the chapters shed new light on virtual idols and YouTubers, cartoon characters and voices, robot idols and cybernetic systems. Science and technology studies thus comes together with theories of animation and anthropological work on life in more-than-human worlds.

**Confronting the Idols of Our Age** Jan 23 2022 An idol is a good thing. It is good because God created it. Nothing exists that God did not create and God created all things good. So sex can be an idol, but before it was an idol it was a good creation of God. Materialism is an idol, but to have a material world was God's idea in the first place. Workaholism is an idol, but work is itself a good gift of God. What turns these good gifts of God into idols is what we have done with them. So we have common forms of idolatry expressed in consumerism, individualism, narcissism, careerism, and hedonism; while there are less familiar expressions found in omnism, fatalism, Gnosticism, relativism, positivism, and reductionism. We have put these and other things on a pedestal and made them into mini-gods. In the end they fail to deliver what they promise. These twelve mediations on a scriptural passage by faculty members of Wycliffe College, Toronto, emphasize that the good news is that God can redeem idols. Each one can be restored to its proper place in God's created order and placed under God's authority.

**Desiring God** Jul 25 2019 Insightful and heart-warming, this classic book is written for those who seek to know God better. It unfolds life-impacting, biblical truths and has been called a "soul-stirring celebration of the pleasures of knowing God."

**Idols in the East** May 03 2020 Representations of Muslims have never been more common in the Western imagination than they are today. Building on Orientalist stereotypes constructed over centuries, the figure of the wily Arab has given rise, at the dawn of the twenty-first century, to the "Islamist" terrorist. In *Idols in the East*, Suzanne Conklin Akbari explores the premodern background of some of the Orientalist types still pervasive in present-day depictions of Muslims—the irascible and irrational Arab, the religiously deviant Islamist—and about how these stereotypes developed over time. *Idols in the East* contributes to the recent surge of interest in European encounters with Islam and the Orient in the premodern world. Focusing on the medieval period, Akbari examines a broad range of texts including encyclopedias, maps, medical and astronomical treatises, chansons de geste, romances, and allegories to paint an unusually diverse portrait of medieval culture. Among the texts she considers are *The Book of John Mandeville*, *The Song of Roland*, *Parzival*, and *Dante's Divine Comedy*. From them she reveals how medieval writers and readers understood and explained the differences they saw between themselves and the Muslim other. Looking forward, Akbari also comes to terms with how these medieval conceptions fit with modern discussions of Orientalism, thus providing an important theoretical link to postcolonial and postimperial scholarship on later periods. Far reaching in its implications and balanced in its judgments, *Idols in the East* will be of great interest to not only scholars and students of the Middle Ages but also anyone interested in the roots of Orientalism and its tangled relationship to modern racism and anti-Semitism.

**Adapting Idols: Authenticity, Identity and Performance in a Global Television Format** Oct 20 2021 Since the first series of *Pop Idol* aired in the UK just over a decade ago, *Idols* television shows have been broadcast in more than forty countries all over the world. In all those countries the global *Idols* format has been adapted to local cultures and production contexts, resulting in a plethora of different versions, ranging from the Dutch *Idols* to the Pan-Arab *Super Star* and from Nigerian *Idol* to the international blockbuster *American Idol*. Despite its worldwide success and widespread journalistic coverage, the *Idols* phenomenon has received only limited academic attention. *Adapting Idols: Authenticity, Identity and Performance in a Global Television Format* brings together original studies from scholars in different parts of the world to identify and evaluate the productive dimensions of *Idols*. As one of the world's most successful television formats, *Idols* offers a unique case for the study of cultural globalization. Chapters discuss how *Idols* shows address particular national or regional identity politics and how *Idols* is consumed by audiences in different territories. This book illustrates that even though the same television format is used in countries all over the globe, practices of adaptation can still result in the creation of unique local cultural products.

**Against the Idols of the Age** Mar 13 2021 Little known outside his native Australia, David Stove was one of the most illuminating and brilliant philo-sophical essayists of the postwar era. A fearless at-tacker of intellectual and cultural orthodoxies, Stove left powerful critiques of scientific irrationalism, Darwinian theories of human behavior, and philosophi-cal idealism. He was also an occasional essayist of considerable charm and polemical snap. Stove's writ-ing is both rigorous and immensely readable. It is, in the words of Roger Kimball, "an invigorating blend of analytic lucidity, mordant humor, and an amount of common sense too great to be called 'common.'" *Against the Idols of the Age* brings together a repre-sentative selection of Stove's writing and is an ideal introduction to his work. The book opens with some of Stove's most impor-tant attacks on irrationalism in the philosophy of sci-ence. He exposes the roots of this fashionable attitude, tracing it through writers like Paul Feyerabend and Thomas Kuhn to Karl Popper. Stove was a born controversialist, so it is not surpris-ing that when he turned his attention to contemporary affairs he said things that are politically incorrect. The topical essays that make up the second part of the book show Stove at his most withering and combative. Whether the subject is race, femi-nism, the Enlightenment, or the demand for "non-coercive philosophy," Stove is on the mark with a battery of impressive arguments expressed in sharp, uncompromising prose. *Against the Idols of the Age* concludes with a generous sampling of his blistering attacks on Darwinism. David Stove's writings are an undiscovered treasure. Although readers may disagree with some of his opinions, they will find it difficult to dismiss his razor-sharp arguments. *Against the Idols of the Age* is the first book to make the full range of this important thinker available to the general reader.

**Roman Cult Images** May 15 2021 In this book, Philip Kiernan explores how cult images functioned in Roman temples from the Iron Age to Late Antiquity in the Roman west. He demonstrates how and why a temple's idols, were more important to ritual than other images such as votive offerings and decorative sculpture. These idols were seen by many to be divine and possessed of agency. They were, thus, the primary focus of worship. Aided by cross-cultural comparative material, Kiernan's study brings a biographical approach to explore the 'lives' of idols and cult images - how they were created, housed in temples, used and worshipped, and eventually destroyed or buried. He also shows how the status of cult images could change, how new idols and other cult images were being continuously created, and how, in each phase of their lives, we find evidence for the significant power of idols.

**Confronting the Idols of Our Age** May 27 2022 An idol is a good thing. It is good because God created it. Nothing exists that God did not create and God created all things good. So sex can be an idol, but before it was an idol it was a good creation of God. Materialism is an idol, but to have a material world was God's idea in the first place. Workaholism is an idol, but work is itself a good gift of God. What turns these good gifts of God into idols is what we have done with them. So we have common forms of idolatry expressed in consumerism, individualism, narcissism, careerism, and hedonism; while there are less familiar expressions found in omnism, fatalism, Gnosticism, relativism, positivism, and reductionism. We have put these and other things on a pedestal and made them into mini-gods. In the end they fail to deliver what they promise. These twelve mediations on a scriptural passage by faculty members of Wycliffe College, Toronto, emphasize that the good news is that God can redeem idols. Each one can be restored to its proper place in God's created order and placed under God's authority.

**Gospel Treason** Mar 01 2020 Why do we find it so hard to change? Is it because modern-day idols trap us to commit treason against the gospel? Brad Bigney shows, using poignant testimonies, how to live joyfully and free.

**Idols of a Mother's Heart** Dec 10 2020 Even good things can become idols if we give them central importance in our lives. Having children changes everything, and as mothers, we risk looking for life, purpose and meaning in motherhood. While being a mother brings its unique set of challenges, these years of raising children and helping them grow in the nurture and admonition of the Lord provide an opportunity to grow in our own Christlikeness as well. Writing from her own personal experience as a mom, Christina Fox encourages mothers to prayerfully and thoughtfully examine their own hearts, and to let God use motherhood as a means of sanctification. Split into three sections, the first chapter looks at the meaning motherhood; chapters 2-4 are about idolatry; chapters 5-9 focus on a few different idols that mothers might worship (not an exhaustive list, but a common few); and the final chapters are about facing idols, dethroning them, and turning our heart back to the One true God. Chapter titles include: Part I 1. The Sanctifying Work of Motherhood 2. Made for Worship 3. What is Idolatry? 4. Identifying Idols in Our Lives Part II 5. The Idol of Children 6. The Idol of Achievement and Success 7. The Idol of Comfort 8. The Idol of Control 9. The Idol of Approval Part III 10. Turning from Our Idols 11. Turning to Christ

**Idols** Aug 18 2021 The Icons came from the sky. They belong to an inhuman enemy. They ended our civilization, and they can kill us. Most of us. Dol, Ro, Tima, and Lucas are the four Icon Children, the only humans immune to the Icon's power to stop a human heart. Now that Los Angeles has been saved,

things are more complicated - and not just because Dol has to choose between Lucas and Ro, the two great loves of her life. As she flees to a resistance outpost hidden beneath a mountain, Dol makes contact with a fifth Icon Child, if only through her visions. When Dol and the others escape to Southeast Asia in search of this missing child, Dol's dreams, feelings and fears collide in an epic showdown that will change more than just four lives -- and stop one heart forever. In this riveting sequel to Icons, filled with nonstop action and compelling romance, bestselling author Margaret Stohl explores what it means to be human and how our greatest weakness can be humanity's strongest chance at survival.

*Adapting Idols: Authenticity, Identity and Performance in a Global Television Format* Sep 26 2019 Since the first series of Pop Idol aired in the UK just over a decade ago, Idols television shows have been broadcast in more than forty countries all over the world. In all those countries the global Idols format has been adapted to local cultures and production contexts, resulting in a plethora of different versions, ranging from the Dutch Idols to the Pan-Arab Super Star and from Nigerian Idol to the international blockbuster American Idol. Despite its worldwide success and widespread journalistic coverage, the Idols phenomenon has received only limited academic attention. *Adapting Idols: Authenticity, Identity and Performance in a Global Television Format* brings together original studies from scholars in different parts of the world to identify and evaluate the productive dimensions of Idols. As one of the world's most successful television formats, Idols offers a unique case for the study of cultural globalization. Chapters discuss how Idols shows address particular national or regional identity politics and how Idols is consumed by audiences in different territories. This book illustrates that even though the same television format is used in countries all over the globe, practices of adaptation can still result in the creation of unique local cultural products.

*The Idol Thief* Sep 06 2020 In October 2011 when New York-based antiques dealer Subhash Kapoor, the darling of the art world whose pieces can be seen in every major museum, presented his passport at immigration in Germany, he was unceremoniously whisked away into Interpol custody. India had weeks earlier issued a red-corner notice for Kapoor's arrest after connecting him to audacious idol thefts in two Tamil Nadu temples. But when the US authorities subsequently raided Kapoor's warehouses in New York, more skeletons came tumbling out of his closet. They recovered no less than 100 dollar million worth of stolen Indian art. This was just Kapoor's inventory he had been in business for close to four decades and the true scale of his loot is incalculable. The US declared Kapoor one of the most prolific commodities smugglers in the world. This is the unbelievable true story of how Kapoor was caught, told by one of the men who had for years been chasing Kapoor and is still tracking idols that have passed through his hands. From complicit police officers to corrupt museum officials, from jilted girlfriends to secret inscriptions on centuries-old idols, and from two-faced academics to shady temple looters and smugglers this book has it all. Prepare to be shocked at the twenty-first century pillaging of India's temples by a glittering cast of suave criminals.

*American Idols* Mar 25 2022 Consumerism. Celebrity. Sexual Freedom. Easy Religion. A timely book that helps U.S. readers see and overcome modern-day idolatries.

*Against the Idols of the Age* Jan 11 2021 *Service of the Engine* is a common local Chichewa-English expression in the Malawian fishing village where the author did her fieldwork. It refers to the practice of taking various pills--known locally as Ciba--in order to prevent and cure diseases associated with sex. This study explores the sensitive interface between the use of pharmaceuticals, available through an extensive informal distribution system, and self-treatment of sex-related diseases. The author examines morally sensitive situations in which men and women opt for Ciba, and evaluates its efficacy, or effectiveness. The discussion not only covers physical and metaphorical aspects of efficacy, but also the possible social and moral effects of medication. It offers a fresh and empirically grounded perspective on the links between efficacy, sex-related diseases and moralities. Birgitte Bruun graduated from the Institute of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen, Denmark and is currently working with reproductive health projects for United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Jakarta, Indonesia.

*The Idol in the Age of Art* Aug 30 2022 Conflicting attitudes towards devotional art was a major factor in the confessional divisions that split Reformation Europe. By presenting essays concerned with both European subjects and European perceptions of other cultures, *The Idol in the Age of Art* contributes to ongoing attempts to globalize the study of European art. Approaching the Reformation idol as an essentially international problem, and placing particular emphasis on cultural encounters, it provides fresh perspectives on the very nature of Renaissance art, and underscores how colonial issues came to be often framed in terms of European religious conflicts.

*We Become What We Worship* Feb 09 2021 The heart of the biblical understanding of idolatry, argues Gregory Beale, is that we take on the characteristics of what we worship. Employing Isaiah 6 as his interpretive lens, Beale demonstrates that this understanding of idolatry permeates the whole canon, from Genesis to Revelation.

*Bowing Low* Dec 22 2021 A 300-foot golden stupa covered with pure gold plates. At the top, visible only by a telescope: a giant 76-karat diamond surrounded by thousands of diamonds, precious stones, and jewels. On every high hill, another idol stood proudly: in all directions, as far as my eyes could reach. Golden pagodas and stone statues visible in all directions. They don't stand gleaming in the sunlight, towering above our cities in tangible ways like the idols in Southeast Asia. They may be invisible at first. But they surround us nonetheless, dotting our landscape on all sides with their shiny promises. Will we open the eyes of our hearts to see them? Seeing the idols in another culture revealed the idols in my own. God will not share his glory with idols, even our refined American ones. He wants our whole hearts. He wants us to live holy lives. Bold and challenging, *Bowing Low* is a piercing invitation to explore the seven idols to which the American culture bows and the Biblical truths which will tear them down.

*Born in Heaven, Made on Earth* Jul 05 2020

*Gods at War* Jul 17 2021 Join pastor and bestselling author Kyle Idleman as he illustrates a clear path away from the heartache of our twenty-first-century idolatry and back to the heart of God--enabling us to be completely committed followers of Jesus. What do Netflix, our desire for the corner office, and that perfect picture we just posted on Instagram have to do with each other? None of these things are wrong in and of themselves. But when we begin to allow entertainment, success, or social media to control us, we miss out on the joy of God's rule in our hearts. In *Gods at War*, Idleman helps every believer recognize that there are false gods at war within each of us, and they battle for the place of glory and control in our lives. According to Idleman, idolatry isn't an issue; it is the issue. And he reveals which false gods we are allowing on the throne of our lives by asking insightful questions, including: What do you sacrifice for? What makes you mad? What do you worry about? Whose applause do you long for? We're all wired for worship, but we often end up valuing and honoring the idols of money, sex, food, romance, success, and many others that keep us from the intimate relationship with God that we desire. In this updated and expanded edition of *Gods at War*, Idleman adds a new introduction as well as new content about the battle many of us face with technology, whether we are tempted to send just one more text, stay online when our bodies need rest, or put email before in-person relationships, teaching us how to seek God with our whole heart instead. Praise for *Gods at War*: "Today's false gods are more tempting than ever as they promise comfort, wealth, and happiness. Kyle Idleman equips us to kill the deceitful pests that harass our hearts. Get ready for battle." --Mark Batterson, pastor, National Community Church, and bestselling author of *The Circle Maker* "Don't just read this book--read it now! Kyle's words will dig deep to expose the false gods that drive us away from the real One. In these pages, liberation awaits." --Lee Strobel, bestselling author of *The Case for Christ* and *The Case for Faith*

*Strange Gods* Sep 30 2022 Renowned in the blogosphere as *The anchoress* and as Catholic Portal editor of the popular *Patheos.com*, Elizabeth Scalia offers a powerful critique of the "gods" we worship today, reminding readers that life's deepest desires can be satisfied only in Christ. *Strange Gods*, Scalia's debut book, is packed full of the iconoclastic vim and vigor that has won her a large, faithful Internet following. She presents readers with a surprising look at the ways in which modern people still commit the sin of idolatry in their everyday lives. While literal golden calves no longer dot the landscape, Scalia describes how legitimate loves become obsessively twisted into idols. She unmasks idolatry in a number of everyday experiences--friendships that become needy or possessive, commitments political and religious that grow so intense they lead to hatred of others, to name a few--and points to the incarnation of Christ and authentic worship of him as a way out of idolatry and into peace, happiness, and love.

*Greed as Idolatry* Oct 08 2020 What are the origin and meaning of the words "greed is idolatry" found in Ephesians 5:5 and Colossians 3:5? In what sense are the greedy guilty of idolatry? Many different answers have been given to this question throughout the history of interpretation. In fact, a consensus exists on only one score -- that the expression serves to vilify greed. Brian Rosner ably takes on the challenge of interpretation by tackling the phrase as a metaphor, structuring his argument around an intriguing comparison to mountain climbing. From this vantage point, he offers a thorough history of interpretation of the phrase, including a study of the origin of the concept of idolatrous greed in biblical and Jewish sources. Rosner concludes that the comparison of greed with idolatry teaches that to desire to acquire and keep for oneself more money and material things is an attack on God's exclusive right to human love, trust, and obedience. With this work comes a stunning, fresh understanding of familiar terms -- "greed," "idolatry," and even "God" -- challenging both the church as a whole and individual believers to consider the far-ranging implications of our materialistic world. The first full-length study of this intriguing Pauline expression, *Greed as Idolatry* has profound implications for theological ethics today.

*Breaking the Idols of Your Heart* Nov 28 2019 WE ALL WANT TO KNOW OUR LIFE MATTERS. The Teacher in Ecclesiastes wanted to know if his life mattered. He invested time and energy in every activity he could think of that might bring meaning and purpose to his life but found only disappointment, frustration, hopelessness. In our thirst for significance we, like the Teacher, give our lives-our time, talents, strength, heart-to anything we think will give us worth and purpose: Power. Relationships. Money. Pleasure. Work. But worshiping these idols has a high cost-and still doesn't bring the fulfillment we long for. In *Breaking the Idols of Your Heart* Dan Allender and Tremper Longman illuminate for us the Teacher's warnings and, after all his activities, his final radiant conclusion: Meaning and purpose come only when God is truly the center of our life and the object of our hope. Using a compelling fictional narrative at the start of each chapter, the authors lead us through Ecclesiastes to help us recognize and exchange cheap pursuits for the only One worth pursuing. Also included are group discussion questions to take you through Ecclesiastes with others. Ecclesiastes is not an easy book to read, because transferring our worship from money, power and fame to God is not an easy road to travel. But as the Teacher discovered and wrote down for us, it leads to one conclusion: life lived abundantly, with freedom, hope, purpose, meaning.

*Strange Gods* Sep 18 2021 Elizabeth Scalia's *Strange Gods* offers readers a surprising look at the ways in which modern people still commit the sin of idolatry in their everyday lives. While literal golden calves no longer dot the landscape, Scalia shows readers that idolatry is alive and kicking, causing havoc and unhappiness. Scalia describes how legitimate loves become obsessively twisted into idols: spiritually deforming hate is very often conceived in love. We love our country; we love our community; we love our church; we love our traditions; we love our perception of ourselves; we love life; we love babies. Because we love these things, we are willing to engage in activities that support them. But sometimes . . . we become fully-enthralled activists, with our perspectives so narrowed that there leaves little room for give-and-take, or dialogue. Our blinders cut off our peripheral vision until mercy becomes invisible; there is only room for battle. Identifying idolatry in a number of everyday experiences—friendships that become needy or possessive, commitments political and religious that grow so intense they lead to hatred of others, to name a few—Scalia points to the incarnation of Christ and authentic worship of him as a way out of idolatry and into peace, happiness, and love.

*Arabs and Empires Before Islam* Aug 25 2019 *Arabs and Empires before Islam* illuminates the history of the Arabs before the emergence of Islam, collating nearly 250 translated extracts from an extensive array of ancient sources. Drawn from a broad period between the eighth century BC and the Middle Ages, the sources include texts originally written in Greek, Latin, Syriac, Persian, and Arabic, inscriptions in a variety of languages and alphabets, and discussions of archaeological sites from across the Near East. More than twenty international experts from the fields of archaeology, classics and ancient history, linguistics and philology, epigraphy, and art history provide detailed commentary on and analysis of this diverse selection of material. Richly illustrated with sixteen colour plates, fifteen maps, and over seventy in-text images, the volume provides a comprehensive, wide-ranging, and up-to-date examination of what ancient sources had to say about the politics, culture, and religion of the Arabs in the pre-Islamic period. It offers a full consideration of the traces which the Arabs have left in the epigraphic, literary, and archaeological records, and sheds light on their relationship with their often more-powerful neighbours: the states and empires of the ancient Near East. *Arabs and Empires before Islam* gathers together a host of material never before collected into a single volume—some of which appears in English translation for the very first time—and provides a single point of reference for a vibrant and dynamic area of research.

*Crashing the Idols* Feb 21 2022 If prophets are called to unveil and expose the illegitimacy of those principalities masquerading as "the right" and purportedly using their powers for "the good," then Will D. Campbell is one of the foremost prophets in American religious history. Like Clarence Jordan and Dorothy Day, Campbell incarnates the radical iconoclastic vocation of standing in contraposition to society, naming and smashing the racial, economic, and political idols that seduce and delude. Despite an action-packed life, Campbell is no activist seeking to control events and guarantee history's right outcomes. Rather, Campbell has committed his life to the proposition that Christ has already set things right. Irrespective of who one is, or what one has done, each human being is reconciled to God and one another, now and forever. History's most scandalous message is, therefore, "Be reconciled!" because once that imperative is taken seriously, social constructs like race, ethnicity, gender, and nationality are at best irrelevant and at worst idolatrous. Proclaiming that far too many disciples miss the genius of Christianity's good news (the kerygma) of reconciliation, this Ivy League-educated preacher boldly and joyfully affirms society's so-called least one, cultivating community with everyone from civil rights leaders and Ku Klux Klan militants, to the American literati and exiled convicts. Except for maybe the self-righteous, none is excluded from the beloved community. For the first time in nearly fifty years, Campbell's provocative *Race and Renewal of the Church* is here made available. Gayraud Wilmore called Campbell's foundational work "an unsettling reading experience," but one that articulates an unwavering "confidence in the victory which God can bring out of the weakness of the church."

*No Other Gods* Jun 23 2019 Musician and author Kelly Minter explores the natural needs of women that can become modern-day idols, replacing God's presence in their lives.