

Idols - Idolatry

**Ex. 20-3** Thou shalt have no other gods before me. **4** Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: **5** Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

*The first and second commandments: You shall have no other gods before me and you shall not make any graven images of the likeness of anything in heaven above, earth beneath or water under the earth. We are told we have a jealous God who does not share His place, His throne, His kingdom with any of the false gods, or the pagan gods.*

Ex. 34:14 For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:

*Strong's # 07067. anq qanna', kan-naw' - Jealous - from 7065; jealous:--jealous. Compare 7072.*

*07065. anq qana', kaw-naw' a primitive root; to be (causatively, make) zealous, i.e. (in a bad sense) jealous or envious:--(be) envy(-ious), be (move to, provoke to) jealous(-y), X very, (be) zeal(-ous).*

*The American Dictionary defines "jealous" as vigilant in guarding something; jealous of His good name and intolerant of disloyalty or infidelity.*

*Yes, our God is most protective of His Name and also protective of His Chosen. Our God, being a fair and just God, expects nothing less from us, since we are in His image.*

*There are many admonishments in scripture that reveal the magnitude and graveness of this command by our God. We are told not to bow down or to serve idols. The consequences are extremely dreadful and terrifying. The Lord tells us He is a consuming fire; His anger will be kindled against us; He will destroy us from the face of the earth; He will not forgive our transgression; He will have vengeance on His adversaries and reserves wrath for His enemies. (Ex. 20:5; 34:14; De. 4:24; 6:15; Jos. 24:19; Na. 1:2)*

*Scripture names many pagan and false gods the nations believed were worthy of worship, prayer and sacrifice.*

**Ashtoreth** – *The Syrian and Phoenician goddess of the moon, sexual love, and fertility*

**Chemosh** – *The national god of the Moabites*

**Milcom** – *Another name for Molech*

**Molech** – *National god of the Ammonites whose worship involved child sacrifice*

2 Kings 23:13 And the high places that were before Jerusalem, which were on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for **Ashtoreth** the abomination of the Zidonians, (inhabitant of Sidon) and for **Chemosh** the abomination of the Moabites, and for **Milcom** the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile.

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Jer. 32:35 And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto **Molech**; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.

Ezek. 16:21 That thou **hast slain my children**, and delivered them **to cause them to pass through the fire** for them?

Ezek. 8:14 Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD'S house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz.

*Tammuz, a Babylonian fertility god was being mourned, by these women from Judea, with deep grieving, wailing and prostituting themselves because Tammuz had been killed. After his revival, the women broke out into unrestrained feasting and merry making.*

*The New Testament also offers proof of the continued degradation of man, from one generation to the other. In Acts, we find the worship of Diana, the Roman goddess of the moon, hunting, wild animals and virginity.*

Acts. 19:24 For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen;

27 So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that **the temple of the great goddess Diana** should be despised, and **her magnificence** should be destroyed, **whom all Asia and the world worshippeth**. 28 And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, **Great is Diana of the Ephesians**.

*In Acts, we find the worshipping of gods by mankind in attempting to idolize mere humans. Paul and Barnabas were being elevated to the godhead of Zeus and Mercury.*

*Jupiter or Zeus was considered a supreme Greek god living on Mt. Olympus being ruler of heaven and earth. Mercurius or Mercury, a quick and agile messenger and a god of shopkeepers along with being a god of thieves and hypocrites.*

Acts 14:12 And they called Barnabas, **Jupiter (Zeus)**; and Paul, **Mercurius**, because he was the chief speaker. 13 Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people.

*The people of the Bible were also believers in evil spirits; as noted in Mark 3:22 where Beelzebub is named as "prince of the devils." He was considered to be the supreme evil spirit.*

Mark 3:22 And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.

*There are many more gods listed in scripture, but the one most referred to and in competition to our Lord is Baal. Baal was the supreme god worshipped in Canaan and Phoenicia and infiltrated the religious lives of the Israelites during the time of the Judges.*

Judges 3:5 And the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, Hittites, and Amorites, and Perizzites, and Hivites, and Jebusites: 6 And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons, and served their gods. 7 And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgot the LORD their God, and served **Baalim (Baal)** and the groves.

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*In their eyes Baal was a chief god who overshadowed and surpassed our God who was considered weak and ineffective. As stated Baal is the pagan god most talked of in scripture and was considered supreme when compared to our God.*

*What does any of this have to do with our modern age? These pagan gods are not worshipped today; many don't even know these names — or do they?*

*God originally numbered them Day 1, day 2, day 3 until we come to day 7, the last day of the week, the day of the Sabbath. This day is a day of Holy Convocation where we are to rest from all labor while worshipping, praising and spending time with our Lord in order to know, understand and love Him as He loves us.*

Gen. 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2 And **on the seventh day God ended his work** which he had made; and **he rested on the seventh day** from all his work which he had made. 3 And **God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it:** because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

*The naming of the days of the week originated in astrology and ancient cultures.*

*Monday, from old English Monandaeg, means moon.*

*Tuesday, old English Tiwesdaeg, after the Norse god of war.*

*Wednesday, old English Wodnesdaeg or Woden's day, after a German and Scandinavian god. Thursday, old English, Thor's day after the Norse god of thunder.*

*Friday, old English, Frigedaeg, after the goddess Frigg.*

*Saturday, old English, Saturn's day, god of agriculture.*

*Sunday, old English, Sunnandaeg, day of the sun.*

*Most people who are working or who have worked have used the expression "TGIF" to voice their gratitude and happiness that it is the end of the work week. In doing this, most people don't realize they are expressing gratitude to a "goddess," the goddess Frigg, the highest ranking goddess both in marriage and motherhood, being married to Odin.*

*The god Molech was worshipped by offering the human sacrifice of infants and children. We do the same today, calling it abortion. The justifications for this deed are considerable, though none consider the fetus a human life.*

Ps. 127:3 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

*There are other ways we have chosen to honor the pagan gods of early times and biblical days. We have taken from scripture the beautiful, miraculous birth of our Savior along with His brutal, torturous crucifixion and turned them into glossy-eyed, spectacles of pagan worship. Yahshua's birth, called Christmas, does depict a truth with a babe in a manger. The date of the holiday, however, coincides with the pagan holiday Saturnalia, honoring Saturn. Some of the major events wrapped in honoring this pagan holiday and tradition included revelry, drunkenness, and lewdness; houses decked in greenery, gifts exchanged and mistletoe symbolizing fertility. Along with adopting the pagan traditions, we have added a jolly man dressed in red flying through the air in a sled taken in tow by "flying reindeers."*

*Sunrise at Easter is celebrated by many as a somber occasion to only return home to a joyous time of collecting colored eggs that have been hidden and of course, the Easter bunnies. There are certainly many studies that go*

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*into depth of the true meaning of the birth and death of our Lord. This study focuses on exposing idols that remain as constants, firmly affixed to our daily lives.*

*The Second Book of Timothy is a prime example of the forms of pleasure, gratification, and recreation we have chosen to bring satisfaction, adoration and reverence to our most beloved idol, "ME, MYSELF and I." In 1 Corinthians and in Galatians, Paul continues his myriad list of self-degrading undertakings that have brought mankind to become an abomination to our God and not the loving children He had created.*

2 Tim. 3:2 For men shall be **lovers of their own selves**, covetous, boasters, **proud**, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, **lovers of pleasures** more than lovers of God;

*Self-idolization takes many forms such as: materialism, and obsession with careers and jobs. We are not only lords of ourselves, but believe humans can preserve the earth indefinitely when Yah has already expressly told us the current age will end.*

2 Pet. 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Col. 3:5 adds to the definition of idolatry. Idolatry is an issue of the heart where demonic power lies behind the façade of idol worship. Those practicing idolatry are bound to the satanic spirit realm with the danger of eternal damnation.

Col. 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: . . .

1 Cor. 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Gal. 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

*Yes, mankind is guilty of all that Paul expressed in his epistles. We have Yah's laws and commandments, but we want to believe they are too restrictive for us to follow. Since we have been raised to believe we are privileged and entitled, we also conclude there is no reason to follow outdated laws from a book that very few people read or even care to acknowledge. People that choose to go to church have allowed themselves to be lulled into accepting and trusting the weekly sermons, even though they have little to do with the Word of Yah.*

*From the beginning of Scripture to the last chapter in Revelation, we find Yah disciplining His children. Beginning with the banishment from the Garden of Eden, the removal of the Tree of Life, the time spent in*

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*Egypt, the captivity of Judah, the banishment of the 10 tribes from Israel and the list goes on. The punishment cannot and will not cease until all is put away and our Heavenly Father comes to earth to be with His own.*

Rev. 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Rev. 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

*Throughout Scripture, we are told about the prophets, including the greatest Prophet, our Lord Yahshua. These prophets were sent by Yah to His errant and straying children in order to bring them back to the straight and narrow path. The prophets first told their countrymen of their sinful, disobedient and rebellious ways; they were then told of the punishment and judgment that would come to pass if they did not repent and change their course of action. The third part of prophesy would involve the forgiveness by our Lord and His bringing them back into His loving arms.*

*There are many scriptures that can be used telling us of our Lord's displeasure and unhappiness due to our continued rebellious actions evidencing our total rejection of Him. In the times we are living, hatred, violence, disrespect, inconsideration have become the "norm." Thus in contrast, this study shall end with a focus on the positive. This positive needs to be supplemented with the smallest word in our vocabulary, yet one that has immense power and meaning; the word "IF".*

Jer. 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. 12 Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. 13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

***IF** we choose to repent, read the Word, contemplate on our readings while applying the Word and putting our Lord as number 1, then His blessings will pour out on us. He hasn't left us alone as we receive His Holy Spirit upon baptism. His Spirit living within us guides and directs our footsteps as long as we take the time to hear His still quiet voice.*

Ex. 19:5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

Psalms 23:1 <<A Psalm of David.>> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

*Let us move away from the principles and practices of the secular world led by the adversary, and turn to Yah, His Word, His Laws, and His Principles.*

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*Proverb to Ponder:*

Prov. 4:4 He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live. 5 Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

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