

## IDOLATRY

Idolatry – 1) The worship of a physical object as a god, 2) immoderate attachment or devotion to something.

### IDOLATRY – IN TERMS OF RELATIONSHIP

It is not keeping fidelity with YAHWEH, having fear, or making sacrifices (of any kind) towards a false god or “image” other than YAHWEH by active pursuit of self-preservation, prosperity, or gratification from the false god or “idol” and apathy and disdain for Yahweh.

As the Creator of all things and our Sustainer, He is justified in His jealousy and wrath.

There is a popular New Age teaching that says God is somehow capricious and cavalier in who He “picks” for life or death. Nothing like that is portrayed in Scripture. He has put His handiwork all around and has put a conscience in every heart that if people will humble themselves and seek Him, He will reveal Himself to them. He behaves specifically in jealous terms because He made us to be with Him, and He loves us to the point of the gospel of reconciliation through the blood of His son!

Reconciliation says it all – restored relationship. But that is what needs clarification – what does that relationship look like?

### IDOLATRY FORBIDDEN

YAHWEH is our Creator and jealous for our relationship with Him AS HE MADE IT TO BE!

Exodus 20:1-10; 34:14

Deuteronomy 4:3 and 4 “...for all the men who followed Baal-peor, YAHWEH your God has destroyed them from among you.”

Verses 11-20 “...but you saw no form—only a voice.” “...so that you do not act corruptly and make a graven image...”

Deuteronomy 4:24 and 25 “...For YAHWEH your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.” “Make an idol,” “to provoke Him to anger”

Deuteronomy 4:32-40 “...since the day that God created man upon the earth...”

Isaiah 44:1-8 “But now listen, O Jacob, My servant...” “...For I will pour out water on the thirsty...” “...Do not tremble and do not be afraid...” “...Is there any God besides Me, Or is there any *other* Rock? I know of none.”

Isaiah 45:20 - 46:13 “...Who has announced this from of old?” “...For I am God, and there is no other.”

Our frame of reference of YAHWEH must be cultivated, or we will be corrupted. He tells us to remember Him constantly through the Scriptures, and Jesus fought hard to restore that “name”- YAHWEH’S true identity (John 17).

Session Four will be dedicated to “Remembering YAHWEH”

Deuteronomy 6:10-16 “Then watch yourself, that you do not forget YAHWEH...”

Our natural tendency is to want to “handle” and “control” our own way, our own security, but by “controlling” it or “fashioning” it, we prove its worthlessness.

Proverbs 14:12 “There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.”

MARRIAGE PICTURES OF YAHWEH AND ISRAEL (Jeremiah 3:14; Hosea 2:13-14)

When we see the relationship and the jealousy in this light, they make more sense to us. A marriage without a sense of jealousy for the affections of one’s mate should be questioned as to the “soundness” of the relationship.

Deuteronomy 7:3 Discusses marriages with the unbelieving – “uncalled-out” ones (that would not bar those if they were to become converts to YAHWEH, of course).

Deuteronomy 7:25 and 26 “...you shall not covet the silver or the gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, or you will be snared by it ...”

Deuteronomy 8:19 “It shall come about if you ever forget YAHWEH your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I testify against you today that you will surely perish.”

Deuteronomy 9:11-21 The golden calf (Egyptian)

Deuteronomy 12:1-4 Destroy the places of idol worship from the previous inhabitants of the land.

Deuteronomy 13 Idolatrous people and cities to be destroyed

PUNISHMENT FOR IDOLATRY

Deuteronomy 17:2-5 “If there is found in your midst, in any of your towns, which the LORD your God is giving you, a man or a woman who does what is evil in the sight of the LORD your God, by transgressing His covenant, and has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, or the sun or the moon or any of the heavenly host, which I have not commanded, and if it is told you and you have heard of it, then you shall inquire thoroughly. Behold, if it is true and the thing certain that this **detestable** thing has been done in Israel, then you shall bring out that man or that woman who has done this evil deed to your gates, that is, the man or the woman, and you shall stone them to death.”

## OBJECTS DESCRIBED AS BEING USED AS IDOLS

Images of angels (Colossians 2:18)  
Animals (Romans 1:23)  
Gods of Egypt (Exodus 12:12)  
Golden calf (Exodus 32:4)  
Brazen serpent (2 Kings 18:4)  
Net and drag (Habakkuk 1:16)  
Pictures (Numbers 33:52; Isaiah 2:16)  
Pictures on walls (Ezekiel 8:10)  
Earrings (Genesis 35:4)

## SOLOMON'S BANE (I Kings 11:4-11)

The bottom line is he “overextended” himself and became **lax in his convictions**. He actually sided up to Pharaoh early in his reign. **Compromises** brought Solomon down.

The history of Rehoboam and Jeroboam are directly linked to his not holding fast his relationship with YAHWEH through OBEDIENCE. This RESULTED IN IDOLATRY and the inevitable destruction of Israel as told in II Kings 17.

A sobering look into the severity of YAHWEH'S commandments is the prophet sent to Jeroboam in I Kings 13:1-18 and what “temptations” befell him. Compare this to Paul's exclamation in Galatians 1:6-8 “...or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you....” We have to KNOW and HOLD FAST to YAHWEH'S words.

Revelation 22:15 “Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.”

John 17:17 “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”