

Religion

Deuteronomy 9:6-21 “They have made a molten image for themselves.” YAHWEH is a completely independent being that has determined godly standards for mankind. Through His commandments, He provides direction, purpose, morals, hope.... The molten image was the reflection or image of their own sensual thoughts and desires.

The golden calf was the Egyptian Apis, who, in the form of a calf, represented the powers of nature. They were accustomed to this worship. Probably, this also was the form in which many of them had in former days tried in a perverted manner to serve their ancestral god. They combined the traditions of the patriarchs with the corruptions around them. Joshua 24:14; Ezekiel 20:8; 23:3, 8

It does not seem that they tried to forsake YAHWEH completely; rather, they worshipped Him under the symbol of Apis. This appears from the statement of the people in Exodus 32:4: “This is your god...” and from the proclamation of Aaron in Exodus 37:5: “Tomorrow *shall be* a feast to YAHWEH.” Their sin was a breach of the second commandment. However, they also worshipped the way of Apis, with riotous and licentious merriment. They:

- Disrespected YAHWEH’S specific command
- Walked in their own ways
- Loved a false idol in YAHWEH’S stead
- Served themselves through this dumb idol
- Embraced lawlessness and sinfulness
- Were prideful
- Had self devotion

Deuteronomy 10:12-22 The right way to worship – genuine religion.

- Fear YAHWEH your God
- Walk in all His ways
- Love Him
- Serve YAHWEH your God with your all
- Keep YAHWEH’S commandment
- Be humble
- Love others

Deuteronomy 11:16 and 17 Beware, be careful, cautious, and on guard against this so your heart is not deceived.

Deuteronomy 11:26-28 We will receive blessings if we worship YAHWEH and cursings if we follow other gods.

Deuteronomy 12:1-14 The worship of the true God was to be center to all that Israel did. Their lives were to evolve around their devotion and not devotion around their lives. Today, we are to experience a metamorphose from our old ways to Christ. Romans 12:1 and 2

Deuteronomy 12:28-32 “Beware that you are not ensnared to follow them.”

Deuteronomy 13:1-18 God must be first at all cost.

Deuteronomy 18:9-22 Spiritualism is detestable to YAHWEH.

Divination – The act of foretelling the future or of discovering it by spiritual means.

Witchcraft – The practices or powers of witches or wizards, especially when regarded as to dealing with evil spirit or the devil.

Omen – A phenomenon or incident regarded as a prophetic sign.

Sorcery – Magic, witchcraft with evil supernatural agencies.

Medium – One through whom the spirit of the dead are believed to communicate with the material world.

Spiritism – The practice of spiritualism – the belief that the spirits of the dead communicate and manifest their presence to the living, usually through the agency of a medium. Also, the doctrines and practices of those so believing are included.

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 The things which happened to Israel are examples.

Philippians 3:17-20 Many walk who are the enemies of the cross of Christ.

Jude 1:2 Mercy is rare in a greeting. 1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2; 2 John 1:3 But singularly important in these and places where it occurs it is always against a background of false teaching.

Jude 1:3 Although he did not want to write a letter regarding the subject matters of a true pastor, he had to as a watchman. Ezekiel 3:17-19; Acts 20:28-30

Contend earnestly - the defense of the faith must be continuous. If we are not aggressive, we lose it. Our faith should be a vibrant, vital, personal relationship with our Lord and God which permeates every aspect of political, social, and personal life. Contending for the faith is spelled out in verses 20-23. Verses 5-19 explain why it is so necessary.

Jude 1:4 John 10:1 - The Church has always had those within the sheepfold who have not passed through the door but have climbed up some other way, and they will always be menaces to the sheep.

“Ungodly” is used in verse 15 and 18 also.

Licentiousness – A license for immorality. Romans 13:13; 2 Corinthians 12:21; Galatians 5:19; Ephesians 4:19; 1 Peter 4:3; 2 Peter 2:2, 7 and 18

Jude 1:5 Why remind the Church of these past events? Christians can backslide to a fate like these three.

1) Israel was delivered from the house of bondage or slavery; yet, they did not walk faithfully in the wilderness. Experiencing great deliverance does not ensure entering the promised land.

2) Angels who were sinless fell to lust and pride. Licentiousness was the downfall of angels!

3) Sodom and Gomorrah were also given over to licentiousness.

These three examples should make an indelible impression and heighten the desire to respond to the threat about which he is writing.

Jude 1:17-25 What we must do