

~ART (700)

- **Variety of Materials**
- **Hebrew Art**
- **Artwork Under The Monarchy**
- **Relationship To Christianity**

- Art, as it relates to painting, sculpture, and design, receives relatively little attention in the Bible. Yet man's life began, not in a barren field, but in a garden, a paradise with trees not only good for food, but also desirable to one's sight.
- Thus Yehowah God made to grow out of the ground every tree desirable to one's sight and good for food and also the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and bad. ([Genesis 2:9](#))
- Man was made to appreciate beauty, and the unsurpassed beauty, **artistry**, and design manifest in creations flowers, trees, mountains, valleys, lakes, waterfalls, birds, animals, as well as the human form itself, evoke praise for their divine Creator.
- I shall laud you because in a fear-inspiring way I am wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful, as my soul is very well aware. ([Psalms 139:14](#))
- Everything he has made pretty in its time. Even time indefinite he has put in their heart, that mankind may never find out the work that the true God has made from the start to the finish. ([Ecclesiastes 3:11](#))
- A mere saffron of the coastal plain I am, a lily of the low plains. ([Song of Solomon 2:1](#))
- Like a lily among thorny weeds, so is my girl companion among the daughters. ([Song of Solomon 2:2](#))
- Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my dear one among the sons. His shade I have passionately desired, and there I have sat down, and his fruit has been sweet to my palate. ([Song of Solomon 2:3](#))
- My dear one is resembling a gazelle or the young of the stags.

Look! This one is standing behind our wall, gazing through the windows, glancing through the lattices. (Song of Solomon 2:9)

- **As for the fig tree, it has gained a mature color for its early figs, and the vines are abloom, they have given their fragrance. Rise up, come, O girl companion of mine, my beautiful one, and come away. (Song of Solomon 2:13)**
- **O my dove in the retreats of the crag, in the concealed place of the steep way, show me your form, let me hear your voice, for your voice is pleasurable and your form is comely. (Song of Solomon 2:14)**
- **Look! You are beautiful, O girl companion of mine. Look! You are beautiful. Your eyes are those of doves, behind your veil. Your hair is like a drove of goats that have hopped down from the mountainous region of Gilead. (Song of Solomon 4:1)**
- **Your teeth are like a drove of freshly shorn ewes that have gone up from the washing, all of which are bearing twins, with none among them having lost its young ones. (Song of Solomon 4:2)**
- **Your lips are just like a scarlet thread, and your speaking is agreeable. Like a segment of pomegranate are your temples behind your veil. (Song of Solomon 4:3)**
- **Your neck is like the tower of David, built in courses of stone, upon which are hung a thousand shields, all the circular shields of the mighty men. (Song of Solomon 4:4)**
- **Your two breasts are like two young ones, the twins of a female gazelle, that are feeding among the lilies. (Song of Solomon 4:5)**
- **A garden barred in is my sister, my bride, a garden barred in, a spring sealed up. (Song of Solomon 4:12)**
- **Your skin is a paradise of pomegranates, with the choicest fruits, henna plants along with spikenard plants. (Song of Solomon 4:13)**
- **Spikenard and saffron, cane and cinnamon, along with all sorts of trees of frankincense, myrrh and aloes, along with all the finest perfumes. (Song of Solomon 4:14)**

- And a spring of gardens, a well of fresh water, and trickling streams from Lebanon. ([Song of Solomon 4:15](#))
- His head is gold, refined gold. The locks of his hair are date clusters. His black hair is like the raven. ([Song of Solomon 5:11](#))
- His eyes are like doves by the channels of water, which are bathing themselves in milk, sitting within the rims. ([Song of Solomon 5:12](#))
- His cheeks are like a garden bed of spice, towers of scented herbs. His lips are lilies, dripping with liquid myrrh. ([Song of Solomon 5:13](#))
- His hands are cylinders of gold, filled with chrysolite. His abdomen is an ivory plate covered with sapphires. ([Song of Solomon 5:14](#))
- His legs are pillars of marble based on socket pedestals of refined gold. His appearance is like Lebanon, choice like the cedars. ([Song of Solomon 5:15](#))
- For his invisible qualities are clearly seen from the world's creation onward, because they are perceived by the things made, even his eternal power and godship, so that they are inexcusable. ([Romans 1:20](#))
- Art, as here discussed, implies, basically, the representation of such things by use of various materials and the use of different forms and expression.
- Already in Abraham's time the Bible makes mention of gifts of "a gold nose ring," golden bracelets, and other articles of silver and gold, bestowed on Rebekah.
- Consequently it came about that, when the camels had finished drinking, then the man took a gold nose ring of a half shekel in weight and two bracelets for her hands, ten shekels of gold was their weight. ([Genesis 24:22](#))
- And the servant began to bring out articles of silver and articles of gold and garments and to give them to Rebekah, and he gave choice things to her brother and to her mother. ([Genesis 24:53](#))

- The Royal Tombs of Ur, in which city Abraham once lived, have yielded many exquisite ornaments of high artistic skill. However, many of the art objects recovered through archaeological explorations in the lands of Iraq, Israel, Egypt, and adjacent regions bear some relation to the idolatrous pagan religions or the proud political rulers, thus indicating an early perversion of the use of art.

• Variety of Materials

- Glass appears to have been produced as far back as the **Second Millennium B.C.E.** by the Egyptians and perhaps the Phoenicians. Yet, evidently it originated in Mesopotamia, where pieces of well-made glass have been found, believed to date from as early as the **Third Millennium B.C.E.** Job who lived **circa 1600 B.C.E.**, spoke of glass as being very precious.
- Gold and glass cannot be compared to it, nor is any vessel of refined gold an exchange for it. (**Job 28:17**)
- Though opaque, it was used in making animal figurines, perfume boxes, necklaces, and other jewelry. The Romans were among the first to produce transparent glass.
- And before the throne there is, as it were, a glassy sea like crystal. And in the midst of the throne and around the throne there are four living creatures that are full of eyes in front and behind. (**Revelation 4:6**)

See Also GLASS

- The ancient artists worked with a considerable variety of materials, including clay, terra-cotta, wood, bronze or copper, iron, gold, silver, precious and semiprecious gems, glass, ivory, limestone, and marble.

See Also SEAL

• Hebrew Art

- There is little material evidence remaining to present any clear picture of Hebrew art, yet art appreciation is manifest in the Bible record. On coming out of Egypt, the people brought with them gold and silver articles obtained from the Egyptians.

- **And the sons of Israel did according to the word of Moses in that they went asking from the Egyptians articles of silver and articles of gold and mantles. (Exodus 12:35)**
- **They gladly contributed such items for the decoration of the tabernacle in the wilderness.**
- **Then they came, everyone whose heart impelled him, and they brought, everyone whose spirit incited him, Yehowah's contribution for the work of the tent of meeting and for all its service and for the holy garments. (Exodus 35:21)**
- **And they kept coming, the men along with the women, every willing-hearted one. They brought brooches and earrings and rings and female ornaments, all sorts of articles of gold, that is, everyone who presented the wave offering of gold to Yehowah. (Exodus 35:22)**
- **And all those with whom there were found blue thread and wool dyed reddish purple and coccus scarlet material and fine linen and goat's hair and ram skins dyed red and sealskins, brought them. (Exodus 35:23)**
- **All those contributing the contribution of silver and copper brought Yehowah's contribution, and all those with whom there was found acacia wood for all the work of the service brought it. (Exodus 35:24)**
- **The work of producing the tabernacle with its decorations and equipment gave outlet for their artistic ability in woodworking, metalworking, embroidery, and jewel work, Bezalel and Oholiab particularly taking the lead and instructing. It is notable that credit for their artistic ability is given to Jehovah.**
- **Then Moses said to the sons of Israel; See, Yehowah has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri the son of Hur of the tribe of Judah. (Exodus 35:30)**
- **And he proceeded to fill him with the spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding and in knowledge and in every sort of craftsmanship. (Exodus 35:31)**
- **And for designing devices, for working in gold and silver and copper. (Exodus 35:32)**

- **And in working of stones to set them and in working of wood to make ingenious products of every sort. (Exodus 35:33)**
- **And he has put it into his heart that he should teach, he and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan. (Exodus 35:34)**
- **He has filled them with wisdom of heart to do all the work of a craftsman and an embroiderer and of a weaver in blue thread and wool dyed reddish purple, in coccus scarlet material and fine linen, and of a loom worker, men doing every sort of work and designing devices. (Exodus 35:35)**
- **And Bezalel must work, also Oholiab and every wise-hearted man to whom Yehowah has given wisdom and understanding in these things in order to know how to do all the work of the holy service according to all that Yehowah has commanded. (Exodus 36:1)**
- **And Moses proceeded to call Bezalel and Oholiab and every wise-hearted man into whose heart Yehowah had put wisdom, everyone whose heart impelled him to approach the work in order to do it. (Exodus 36:2)**
- **Prior to the tabernacle work, Aaron had employed artistic ability for a perverse use in using a graving tool to make a molten image of a calf for worship.**
- **And all the people began tearing off the gold earrings that were in their ears and bringing them to Aaron. (Exodus 32:3)**
- **Then he took the gold from their hands, and he formed it with a graving tool and proceeded to make it into a molten statue of a calf. And they began to say; This is your God, O Israel, who led you up out of the land of Egypt. (Exodus 32:4)**
- **Moses, or someone assigned by him, also showed such ability, though properly, when making the serpent of copper at a later time.**
- **Moses at once made a serpent of copper and placed it upon the signal pole, and it did occur that if a serpent had bitten a man and he gazed at the copper serpent, he then kept alive. (Numbers 21:9)**

- **However, the provisions in the Law forbidding the making of images for worship, while not prohibiting all representational art, doubtless exercised a restrictive influence on painting or sculpturing among the Hebrews.**
- **You must not make for yourself a carved image or a form like anything that is in the heavens above or that is on the earth underneath or that is in the waters under the earth. ([Exodus 20:4](#))**
- **You must not bow down to them nor be induced to serve them, because I Yehowah your God am a God exacting exclusive devotion, bringing punishment for the error of fathers upon sons, upon the third generation and upon the fourth generation, in the case of those who hate me. ([Exodus 20:5](#))**
- **In view of the gross idolatry so prevalent in all nations and the widespread use of art to foster such idolatry, it is evident that paintings or carvings of figures, human or animal, would be viewed as suspect by those keeping the Law provisions and by those charged with enforcing it.**
- **And you must take good care of your souls, because you did not see any form on the day of Yehowah's speaking to you in Horeb out of the middle of the fire. ([Deuteronomy 4:15](#))**
- **That you may not act ruinously and may not really make for yourselves a carved image, the form of any symbol, the representation of male or female. ([Deuteronomy 4:16](#))**
- **The representation of any beast that is in the earth, the representation of any winged bird that flies in the heavens. ([Deuteronomy 4:17](#))**
- **The representation of anything moving on the ground, the representation of any fish that is in the waters under the earth. ([Deuteronomy 4:18](#))**
- **And that you may not raise your eyes to the heavens and indeed see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the army of the heavens, and actually get seduced and bow down to them and serve them, which Yehowah your God has apportioned to all the peoples under the whole heavens. ([Deuteronomy 4:19](#))**

- **The graven images of their gods you should burn in the fire. You must not desire the silver and the gold upon them, nor indeed take it for yourself, for fear you may be ensnared by it, for it is a thing detestable to Yehowah your God. ([Deuteronomy 7:25](#))**
- **And you must not bring a detestable thing into your house and actually become a thing devoted to destruction like it. You should thoroughly loathe it and absolutely detest it, because it is something devoted to destruction. ([Deuteronomy 7:26](#))**
- **Even the cherubs of the tabernacle were covered over with a cloth when being transported and thus were hidden from the gaze of the populace,**
- **And Aaron and his sons must come in when the camp is departing, and they must take down the screening curtain and must cover the ark of the testimony with it. ([Numbers 4:5](#))**
- **And they must put a covering of sealskins over it and spread out an entire cloth of blue on top and put in its poles. ([Numbers 4:6](#))**
- **But do this for them that they may indeed keep alive and may not die for their approaching the most holy things. Aaron and his sons will come in, and they must assign them each one to his service and to his load. ([Numbers 4:19](#))**
- **And they must not come in to see the holy things for the least moment of time, and so they have to die. ([Numbers 4:20](#))**
- **While those of the later temple were seen only by the high priest on one day a year.**
- **Further, he made in the innermost room two cherubs of oil-tree wood, ten cubits being the height of each one. ([1 Kings 6:23](#))**
- **And five cubits was the one wing of the cherub, and five cubits was the other wing of the cherub. Ten cubits it was from the tip of his wing to the tip of his wing. ([1 Kings 6:24](#))**
- **And the second cherub was ten cubits. The two cherubs had the same measure and the same shape. ([1 Kings 6:25](#))**
- **The height of the one cherub was ten cubits, and that was so of the other cherub. ([1 Kings 6:26](#))**

- Then he put the cherubs inside the inner house, so that they spread out the wings of the cherubs. Thus the wing of the one reached to the wall and the wing of the other cherub was reaching to the other wall, and their wings were toward the middle of the house, reaching wing to wing. (**1 Kings 6:27**)
- Moreover, he overlaid the cherubs with gold. (**1 Kings 6:28**)
- After these things had been constructed this way, the priests enter the first tent compartment at all times to perform the sacred services. (**Hebrews 9:6**)
- But into the second compartment the High Priest alone enters once a year, not without blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of ignorance of the people. (**Hebrews 9:7**)
- Additionally, after their entry and establishment in the Promised Land, the basically agricultural life of the Israelites was seldom such that it allowed for the leisure time and funds necessary for extensive artwork.
- During the period of the Judges the only artwork indicated was involved in apostate religious practices.
- Thus they abandoned Yehowah and took up serving Baal and the Ashtoreth images. (**Judges 2:13**)
- And it came about during that night that Yehowah went on to say to him; Take the young bull, the bull that belongs to your father, that is, the second young bull of seven years, and you must tear down the altar of Baal that is your father's, and the sacred pole that is by it you should cut down. (**Judges 6:25**)
- And Gideon went on to say to them; Let me make a request of you; Give me, each one of you, the nose ring of his booty. For they had nose rings of gold, because they were Ishmaelites. (**Judges 8:24**)
- Then they said; We shall surely give them. With that they spread out a mantle and went throwing each one the nose ring of his booty into it. (**Judges 8:25**)
- And the weight of the nose rings of gold that he had requested

amounted to one thousand seven hundred gold shekels, besides the moon-shaped ornaments and the eardrops and the garments of wool dyed reddish purple that were upon the kings of Midian and besides the necklaces that were on the necks of the camels. (Judges 8:26)

- And Gideon proceeded to make it into an ephod and to exhibit it in his city Ophrah, and all Israel began to have immoral intercourse with it there, so that it served as a snare to Gideon and to his household. (Judges 8:27)
- Accordingly he gave back the thousand one hundred pieces of silver to his mother, and his mother went on to say; I must without fail sanctify the silver to Yehowah from my hand for my son, so as to make a carved image and a molten statue, and now I shall give it back to you. (Judges 17:3)
- So he returned the silver to his mother, and his mother took two hundred silver pieces and gave them to the silversmith. And he went making a carved image and a molten statue, and it got to be in Micah's house. (Judges 17:4)
- As for the man Micah, he had a house of gods, and he proceeded to make an ephod and teraphim and to fill the hand of one of his sons with power, that he might serve as priest for him. (Judges 17:5)
- In those days there was no king in Israel. As for everybody, what was right in his own eyes he was accustomed to do. (Judges 17:6)
- Then the five men that had gone to spy out the land of Laish answered and said to their brothers; Did you know that there are in these houses an ephod and teraphim and a carved image and a molten statue? And now have in mind what you ought to do. (Judges 18:14)

•• Artwork Under The Monarchy

- While the ancient nation of Israel is not renowned today for its works of art, yet the evidence indicates that, when occasion arose, they were able to produce work of artistic quality that gained wide attention and admiration. The prophet Ezekiel depicts the manner in which Yehowah adorned and beautified Jerusalem so **that a name**

began to go forth among the nations because of your prettiness, for it was perfect because of my splendor that I placed upon you, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah.

- **And I came passing along by you and got to see you, and, look! Your time was the time for love's expressions. So I proceeded to spread my skirt over you and to cover your nakedness and to make a sworn statement to you and enter into a covenant with you, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah, and so you became mine. ([Ezekiel 16:8](#))**
- **Furthermore, I washed you with water and rinsed away your blood from off you and greased you with oil. ([Ezekiel 16:9](#))**
- **And I went on to clothe you with an embroidered garment and to shoe you with sealskin and to wrap you in fine linen and to cover you with costly material. ([Ezekiel 16:10](#))**
- **And I went on to deck you with ornaments and to put bracelets upon your hands and a necklace about your throat. ([Ezekiel 16:11](#))**
- **Furthermore, I put a nose ring in your nostril and earrings on your ears and a beautiful crown on your head. ([Ezekiel 16:12](#))**
- **And you kept decking yourself with gold and silver, and your attire was fine linen and costly material and an embroidered garment. Fine flour and honey and oil were what you ate, and you grew to be very, very pretty, and gradually you became fit for royal position. ([Ezekiel 16:13](#))**
- **And for you a name began to go forth among the nations because of your prettiness, for it was perfect because of my splendor that I placed upon you, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah. ([Ezekiel 16:14](#))**
- **However, the succeeding ([verses 15-18, 25](#)) show that such prettiness was put to a perverted use, as Jerusalem prostituted herself with the surrounding political nations.**
- **Jeremiah, too, describes those looking on Jerusalem after her fall to Babylon as saying;**
- **At you all those passing along on the road have clapped their**

hands. They have whistled and kept wagging their head at the daughter of Jerusalem, saying; Is this the city of which they used to say; It is the perfection of prettiness, an exultation for all the earth? (**Lamentations 2:15**)

- Pretty for loftiness, the exultation of the whole earth, is Mount Zion on the remote sides of the north, the town of the grand King. (**Psalms 48:2**)
- Out of Zion, the perfection of prettiness, God himself has beamed forth. (**Psalms 50:2**)
- Wake up, wake up, put on your strength, O Zion! Put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city! For no more will there come again into you the uncircumcised and unclean one. (**Isaiah 52:1**)
- The temple built by Solomon was evidently an artistic work of consummate beauty and is called a **house of holiness and beauty**.
- Our house of holiness and beauty, in which our forefathers praised you, has itself become something for burning in the fire, and every one of our desirable things has become a devastation. (**Isaiah 64:11**)
- To you the very glory of Lebanon will come, the juniper tree, the ash tree and the cypress at the same time, in order to beautify the place of my sanctuary, and I shall glorify the very place of my feet. (**Isaiah 60:13**)
- In dealing with the construction of the temple in King Solomon's time, much comment has been made in reference works about the assumed lack of artistic skill on the part of the Israelites, to the point of giving practically all the credit to the Phoenicians. The record, however, shows that Solomon requested only one Phoenician artisan, aside from the lumbermen employed in King Hiram's own forests of Lebanon and the stone quarriers.
- And now command that they cut for me cedars from Lebanon, and my servants themselves will prove to be with your servants, and the wages of your servants I shall give to you according to all that you may say, for you yourself well know that there is among us no one knowing how to cut trees like the Sidonians. (**1 Kings 5:6**)

- **So Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders and the Gebalites did the cutting, and they kept preparing the timbers and the stones to build the house. (1 Kings 5:18)**
- **And now send me a skillful man to work in gold and in silver and in copper and in iron and in wool dyed reddish purple and crimson and blue thread, and knowing how to cut engravings, along with the skillful one's that are with me in Judah and in Jerusalem, whom David my father has prepared. (2 Chronicles 2:7)**
- **And send me timbers of cedar, juniper and algum from Lebanon, for I myself well know that your servants are experienced at cutting down the trees of Lebanon, and here my servants are together with your servants. (2 Chronicles 2:8)**
- **Even for preparing timbers for me in great number, for the house that I am building will be great, yes, in a wonderful way. (2 Chronicles 2:9)**
- **And, look! To the gatherers of wood, the cutters of the trees, I do give wheat as food for your servants, twenty thousand cors, and barley twenty thousand cors, and wine twenty thousand baths, and oil twenty thousand baths. (2 Chronicles 2:10)**
- **This artisan, also named Hiram, was an Israeli-Phoenician skilled in working with precious metals, weaving, and engraving. Yet, the record refers to Solomon's own skilled men, and King Hiram likewise spoke of these and the skilled men of Solomon's father David.**
- **And now I do send a skillful man, experienced in understanding, belonging to Hiram-abi. (2 Chronicles 2:13)**
- **The son of a woman of the sons of Dan but whose father was a man of Tyre, experienced, to work in gold and in silver, in copper, in iron, in stones and in timbers, in wool dyed reddish purple, in blue thread and in fine fabric and in crimson and at cutting every sort of engraving and at designing every sort of device that may be given to him along with your own skillful men and the skillful men of my lord David your father. (2 Chronicles 2:14)**
- **The architectural plan of the temple and of all its features was delivered to Solomon by David, providing, insight for the entire thing in**

writing from the hand of Yehowah, even for all the works of the architectural plan.

- **And David proceeded to give Solomon his son the architectural plan of the porch and of its houses and its storerooms and its roof chambers and its dark inner rooms and the house of the propitiatory cover. (1 Chronicles 28:11)**
- **Even the architectural plan of everything that had come to be with him by inspiration for the courtyards of Yehowah's house and for all the dining rooms all around, for the treasures of the house of the true God and for the treasures of the things made holy. (1 Chronicles 28:12)**
- **And for the divisions of the priests and of the Levites and for all the work of the service of Yehowah's house and for all the utensils of the service of Yehowah's house. (1 Chronicles 28:13)**
- **For the gold by weight, the gold for all the utensils for the different services, for all the utensils of silver by weight, for all the utensils for the different services. (1 Chronicles 28:14)**
- **And the weight for the lampstands of gold and their lamps of gold, by weight of the different lampstands and their lamps, and for the lampstands of silver by weight for the lampstand and its lamps according to the service of the different lampstands. (1 Chronicles 28:15)**
- **And the gold by weight for the tables of the layer bread, for the different tables, and silver for the tables of silver. (1 Chronicles 28:16)**
- **And the forks and the bowls and the pitchers of pure gold, and for the small gold bowls by weight for the different small bowls, and for the small silver bowls by weight for the different small bowls. (1 Chronicles 28:17)**
- **And for the incense altar refined gold by weight and for the representation of the chariot, namely, the cherubs of gold for spreading their wings out and screening over the ark of the covenant of Yehowah. (1 Chronicles 28:18)**
- **He gave insight for the entire thing in writing from the hand of Yehowah upon me, even for all the works of the architectural**

plan. (**1 Chronicles 28:19**)

- **By contrast, unfaithful King Ahaz did become enamored with the pagan altar at Damascus and sent the design of the altar and its pattern to priest Urijah to have a copy of it made.**
- **In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah, Ahaz the son of Jotham the king of Judah became king. (**2 Kings 16:1**)**
- **Twenty years old was Ahaz when he began to reign, and for sixteen years he reigned in Jerusalem, and he did not do what was right in the eyes of Yehowah his God like David his forefather. (**2 Kings 16:2**)**
- **And he went walking in the way of the kings of Israel, and even his own son he made pass through the fire, according to the detestable things of the nations whom Yehowah drove out because of the sons of Israel. (**2 Kings 16:3**)**
- **And he kept sacrificing and making sacrificial smoke on the high places and upon the hills and under every luxuriant tree. (**2 Kings 16:4**)**
- **It was then that Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah the king of Israel proceeded to come up against Jerusalem in war and laid siege against Ahaz, but they were not able to fight. (**2 Kings 16:5**)**
- **At that time Rezin the king of Syria restored Elath to Edom, after which he cleared out the Jews from Elath, and the Edomites, for their part, entered Elath and kept dwelling there down to this day. (**2 Kings 16:6**)**
- **So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-pileser the king of Assyria, saying; I am your servant and your son. Come up and save me out of the palm of the king of Syria and out of the palm of the king of Israel, who are rising up against me. (**2 Kings 16:7**)**
- **Accordingly Ahaz took the silver and the gold that was to be found at the house of Yehowah and in the treasures of the king's house and sent the king of Assyria a bribe. (**2 Kings 16:8**)**
- **At that the king of Assyria listened to him and the king of Assyria went up to Damascus and captured it and led its people into exile**

at Kir, and Rezin he put to death. (2 Kings 16:9)

- Then King Ahaz went to meet Tiglath-pileser the king of Assyria at Damascus, and he got to see the altar that was in Damascus. So King Ahaz sent Urijah the priest the design of the altar and its pattern as respects all its workmanship. (2 Kings 16:10)
- And Urijah the priest proceeded to build the altar. According to all that King Ahaz had sent from Damascus was the way that Urijah the priest made it, pending the time that King Ahaz came from Damascus. (2 Kings 16:11)
- When the king came from Damascus, the king got to see the altar, and the king began to go near to the altar and make offerings upon it. (2 Kings 16:12)
- King Solomon also made a great ivory throne, overlaid with gold, of unique design, with figures of lions standing by the armrests and lining the six steps of approach.
- Further, the king made a great ivory throne and overlaid it with refined gold. (1 Kings 10:18)
- There were six steps to the throne, and the throne had a round canopy behind it, and there were armrests on this side and on that side by the place of sitting, and two lions were standing beside the armrests. (1 Kings 10:19)
- And there were twelve lions standing there upon the six steps, on this side and on that side. No other kingdom had any made just like it. (1 Kings 10:20)
- The extensive use of ivory in the royal palace is indicated at;
- All your garments are myrrh and aloeswood and cassia, out from the grand ivory palace stringed instruments themselves have made you rejoice. (Psalms 45:8)
- In the northern kingdom of Israel, with its capital at Samaria, ivory carving in furniture, paneling, and art objects was apparently popular in the days of King Ahab and thereafter.
- As for the rest of the affairs of Ahab and all that he did and the house of ivory that he built and all the cities that he built, are

they not written in the book of the affairs of the days of the kings of Israel? (**1 Kings 22:39**)

- **This is what Yehowah has said; Just as the shepherd snatches away from the mouth of the lion two shanks or a piece of an ear, so the sons of Israel will be snatched away, those sitting in Samaria on a splendid couch and on a Damascene divan. (**Amos 3:12**)**
- **And I will strike down the winter house in addition to the summer house. And the houses of ivory will have to perish, and many houses will have to come to their finish, is the utterance of Yehowah. (**Amos 3:15**)**
- **You men that are lying down on couches of ivory and are sprawling on their divans, and are eating the rams out of a flock and the young bulls from among fattened calves. (**Amos 6:4**)**
- **Archaeological excavations turned up large quantities of ivory pieces, plaques, and panels in what is believed to have been the palace area. Inlaid work of gold, lapis lazuli, and glass occur in some pieces. In Megiddo some 400 ivory pieces were found, including beautifully carved panels, ivory inlaid boxes, and gaming boards, estimated as dating from about the **12th century B.C.E.****
- **In a vision, Ezekiel saw carved representations of reptiles, animals, and idols on a wall of the temple area in apostate Jerusalem,**
- **So I went in and began to see, and, look! There was every representation of creeping things and loathsome beasts, and all the dungy idols of the house of Israel, the carving being upon the wall all round about. (**Ezekiel 8:10**)**
- **And symbolic Oholibah, representing unfaithful Jerusalem, is spoken of as seeing images of Chaldeans carved on a wall and painted with vermilion, a bright-red pigment.**
- **And she kept adding to her acts of prostitution when she got to see the men in carvings upon the wall, images of Chaldeans carved in vermilion. (**Ezekiel 23:14**)**
- **The one saying; I am going to build for myself a roomy house and commodious upper chambers, and my windows must be**

widened out for it, and the paneling will be with cedar and smeared with vermilion. ([Jeremiah 22:14](#))

· Relationship To Christianity

- Paul was a witness of the artistic splendor of Athens, developed around the worship of the Grecian gods and goddesses, and he showed an audience there how illogical it was that humans, owing their life and existence to the true God and Creator, should imagine that the Divine Being is like gold or silver or stone, like something sculptured by the art and contrivance of man.
- Seeing, therefore, that we are the progeny of God, we ought not to imagine that the Divine Being is like gold or silver or stone, like something sculptured by the art and contrivance of man. ([Acts of Apostles 17:29](#))
- He thus demonstrated again that artistic beauty, no matter how impressive or attractive, does not of itself recommend any religion as being true worship.
- Nevertheless, the hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshipers will worship the Father with spirit and truth, for, indeed, the Father is looking for suchlike one's to worship him. ([John 4:23](#))
- God is a Spirit, and those worshiping him must worship with spirit and truth. ([John 4:24](#))
- There is no record or existing evidence of artwork among the Christians of the [First Century C.E.](#) It is only during the [Second and Third Centuries C.E.](#) that some paintings and sculptures appear in the catacombs attributed to nominal Christians. After the union of Church and State in the fourth century, however, art began to be given a prominence that in time equaled that of the pagan religions and was often related to or in direct imitation of such religions, in both its symbolisms and its forms.
- [Louis Réau](#), who held the chair of the History of Art of the Middle Ages at the Sorbonne University of France, demonstrates in his work [Iconographie de l'art chrétien \(Paris, 1955, Vol. I, p. 10\)](#), that such paganism has long been recognized by historians of art and that the responsibility for it is to be placed not merely on the artists but on the policies that were followed by the church itself. He points out (p. 50) [that instead of](#)

really converting the pagans from their old practices and forms of worship, the church chose to respect the ancestral customs and continue them under another name.

- Thus, it is not surprising to find the signs of the zodiac, so prominent in ancient Babylon, displayed on cathedrals such as that of Notre Dame in Paris, where they appear on the left doorway and surround Mary in the huge centrally located rose window.
- Stand still, now, with your spells and with the abundance of your sorceries, in which you have toiled from your youth, that perhaps you might be able to benefit, that perhaps you might strike people with awe. ([Isaiah 47:12](#))
- You have grown weary with the multitude of your counselors. Let them stand up, now, and save you, the worshipers of the heavens, the lookers at the stars, those giving out knowledge at the new moons concerning the things that will come upon you. ([Isaiah 47:13](#))
- Look! They have become like stubble. A fire itself will certainly burn them up. They will not deliver their soul from the power of the flame. There will be no glow of charcoals for people to warm themselves, no firelight in front of which to sit down. ([Isaiah 47:14](#))
- Thus they will certainly become to you, with whom you have toiled as your charmers from your youth. They will actually wander, each one to his own region. There will be no one to save you. ([Isaiah 47:15](#))
- Similarly, a guidebook to the cathedral at Auxerre, also in France, states that in the central entrance to the cathedral, [the sculptor there mixed certain pagan heroes, an Eros, Greek god of love, nude and sleeping a Hercules and a Satyr, one of the Greeks' semi-human demigods! The register at the lower right represents the parable of the Prodigal Son.](#)
- Similarly at the entrance of Saint Peter's Cathedral in Rome appear not only the figure of Christ and the [Virgin](#) but also that of Ganymede carried off by the eagle to become cupbearer of Zeus, king of the gods, and Leda, who bore Castor and Pollux fertilized by the swan Zeus.

- **Commenting further on such pagan influence, Réau asks; But what is one to say then of the Final Judgment of the Sistine Chapel, the principal chapel of the Vatican, where one sees the nude Christ of Michelangelo lance the lightning like a thundering Jupiter, the Roman father of the gods, and the Damned cross the Styx, the river over which the Greeks believed the dead were ferried, in Charon's barque? As he states; An example that came from so high, that is, approved by the papacy, could not fail to be followed.**

- **As has been seen, art was not given major attention by fleshly Israel and is virtually absent from the record of the early congregation of spiritual Israel of the First Century C.E. It is, rather, in the field of literature that they surpassed all other peoples, being used by God to produce a work of superb beauty, not only in form but primarily in content, the Bible. Their inspired writings are as apples of gold in silver carvings, with crystal-clear truths of such brilliance as to rival the finest gems, and word pictures that convey visions and scenes of a grandeur and loveliness beyond the ability of human artists to portray.**

- **As apples of gold in silver carvings is a word spoken at the right time for it. (Proverbs 25:11)**

- **Happy is the man that has found wisdom, and the man that gets discernment. (Proverbs 3:13)**

- **For having it as gain is better than having silver as gain and having it as produce than gold itself. (Proverbs 3:14)**

- **It is more precious than corals, and all other delights of yours cannot be made equal to it. (Proverbs 3:15)**

- **Wisdom is the prime thing. Acquire wisdom, and with all that you acquire, acquire understanding. (Proverbs 4:7)**

- **Highly esteem it, and it will exalt you. It will glorify you because you embrace it. (Proverbs 4:8)**

- **To your head it will give a wreath of charm, a crown of beauty it will bestow upon you. (Proverbs 4:9)**

- **All of them are straight to the discerning one, and upright to the one's finding knowledge. (Proverbs 8:9)**

- **Take my discipline and not silver, and knowledge rather than**

choice gold. (**Proverbs 8:10**)