

~IDOL - IDOLATRY (2970)

[Greek, *ei'do-lon*]

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• An idol is an image, a representation of anything, or a symbol that is an object of passionate devotion, whether material or imagined. Generally speaking, idolatry is the veneration, love, worship, or adoration of an idol.

• It is usually practiced toward a real or supposed higher power, whether such power is believed to have animate existence, as a human, an animal, or an organization, or is inanimate, as a force or lifeless object of nature. Idolatry generally involves some form, ceremony, or ritual.

• The Hebrew terms used to refer to idols often highlighted the origin and inherent worthlessness of idols, or they were derogatory terms of contempt.

• Among these are words rendered, carved or graven image, literally, something carved out, molten statue, image, or idol, literally, something cast or poured out, horrible idol, vain idol literally, vanity, and dungy idol. Idol is the usual rendering of the Greek word *ei'do-lon*.

•• Not All Images Are Idols

• God's Law not to form images.

• 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**)
- **Did not rule out the making of all representations and statues. This is indicated by Yehowah's later command to make two golden cherubs on the cover of the Ark and to embroider representations of cherubs on the inner tent covering of ten tent cloths for the tabernacle and the curtain separating the Holy from the Most Holy.**
- **And you must make two cherubs of gold. Of hammered work you are to make them on both ends of the cover. (Exodus 25:18)**
- **And the tabernacle you are to make of ten tent cloths, of fine twisted linen and blue thread and wool dyed reddish purple and coccus scarlet material. With cherubs, the work of an embroiderer, you will make them. (Exodus 26:1)**
- **And you must make a curtain of blue thread and wool dyed reddish purple and coccus scarlet material and fine twisted linen. He will make it with cherubs, the work of an embroiderer. (Exodus 26:31)**
- **And you must put the curtain under the hooks and bring the ark of the testimony there within the curtain, and the curtain must make a division for you between the Holy and the Most Holy. (Exodus 26:33)**
- **Likewise, the interior of Solomon's temple, the architectural plans for which were given to David by divine inspiration.**
- **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)**

- **Was beautifully embellished with engraved carvings of cherubs, palm-tree figures, and blossoms. Two cherubs of oil-tree wood overlaid with gold stood in the Most Holy of that temple.**
- **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)**
- **Moreover, he overlaid the cherubs with gold. (1 Kings 6:28)**
- **And all the walls of the house round about he carved with engraved carvings of cherubs and palm-tree figures and engravings of blossoms, inside and outside. (1 Kings 6:29)**
- **The molten sea rested upon 12 copper bulls, and the sidewalls of the copper carriages for temple use were decorated with figures of lions, bulls, and cherubs.**
- **It was standing upon twelve bulls, three facing north, and three facing west, and three facing south, and three facing east, and the sea was above upon them, and all their hind parts were toward the center. (1 Kings 7:25)**
- **And this was the workmanship of the carriages, they had sidewalls, and the sidewalls were between the crossbars. (1 Kings 7:28)**
- **And upon the sidewalls that were between the crossbars there were lions, bulls and cherubs, and over the crossbars it was like that. Up above and beneath the lions and the bulls there were wreaths in hanging work. (1 Kings 7:29)**
- **Twelve lions lined the steps leading up to Solomon's throne.**
- **Further, the king made a great ivory throne and overlaid it with pure gold. (2 Chronicles 9:17)**
- **And there were six steps to the throne, and there was a footstool in gold to the throne, they were attached, and there were armrests on this side and on that side by the place of sitting, and two lions were standing beside the armrests. (2 Chronicles 9:18)**
- **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. (2 Chronicles 9:19)**

- **These representations, however, were not **idols** for worship. Only the officiating priests saw the representations of the tabernacle interior and, later, of the temple interior. No one but the High Priest entered the Most Holy, and that only on the Day of Atonement.**
- **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**)**
- **Thus there was no danger of the Israelites being ensnared into idolizing the golden cherubs in the sanctuary. These representations primarily served as a picture of the heavenly cherubs.**
- **For Christ entered, not into a holy place made with hands, which is a copy of the reality, but into heaven itself, now to appear before the person of God for us. (**Hebrews 9:24**)**
- **Neither is it in order, that he should offer himself often, as indeed the High Priest enters into the holy place from year to year with blood not his own. (**Hebrews 9:25**)**
- **That they were not to be venerated is evident from the fact that the angels themselves were not to be worshiped.**
- **Let no man deprive you of the prize who takes delight in a mock humility and a form of worship of the angels, taking his stand on, the things he has seen, puffed up without proper cause by his fleshly frame of mind. (**Colossians 2:18**)**
- **At that I fell down before his feet to worship him. But he tells me; Be careful! Do not do that! All I am is a fellow slave of you and of your brothers who have the work of witnessing to Jesus. Worship God! For the bearing witness to Jesus is what inspires prophesying. (**Revelation 19:10**)**
- **Well, I John was the one hearing and seeing these things. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel that had been showing me these things. (**Revelation 22:8**)**
- **But he tells me; Be careful! Do not do that! All I am is a fellow slave of you and of your brothers who are prophets and of those who are observing the words of this scroll. Worship God.**

(Revelation 22:9)

- **Of course, there were times when images became **idols**, although not originally intended as objects of veneration. The copper serpent that Moses formed in the wilderness came to be worshiped, and therefore faithful King Hezekiah crushed it to pieces.**
- **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)**
- **And it came about in the third year of Hoshea the son of Elah the king of Israel that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz the king of Judah became king. (2 Kings 18:1)**
- **He it was that removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars to pieces and cut down the sacred pole and crushed to pieces the **copper serpent** that Moses had made, for down to those days the sons of Israel had continually been making sacrificial smoke to it, and it used to be called the **copper serpent-idol**. (2 Kings 18:4)**
- **The ephod made by Judge Gideon became a snare to him and to his household.**
- **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)**

•• Images As Aids In Worship

- **The Scriptures do not sanction the use of **images** as a means to address God in prayer. Such a practice runs counter to the principle that those seeking to serve Yehowah must worship him with spirit and truth.**
- **God is a Spirit, and those worshiping him must worship with spirit and truth. (John 4:24)**
- **While we keep our eyes, not on the things seen, but on the things unseen. For the things seen are temporary, but the things unseen are everlasting. (2 Corinthians 4:18)**

- **We are therefore always of good courage and know that, while we have our home in the body, we are absent from the Lord. (2 Corinthians 5:6)**
- **For we are walking by faith, not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)**
- **He tolerates no mixing of idolatrous practices with true worship, as is illustrated by his condemnation of calf worship, although the Israelites had attached his name thereto.**
- **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)**
- **When Aaron got to see this, he went to building an altar before it. Finally Aaron called out and said; There is a festival to Yehowah tomorrow. (Exodus 32:5)**
- **So on the next day they were early in rising, and they began offering up burnt offerings and presenting communion sacrifices. After that the people sat down to eat and drink. Then they got up to have a good time. (Exodus 32:6)**
- **Yehowah now said to Moses; Go, descend, because your people whom you led up out of the land of Egypt have acted ruinously. (Exodus 32:7)**
- **They have turned aside in a hurry from the way I have commanded them to go. They have made a molten statue of a calf for themselves and keep bowing down to it and sacrificing to it and saying; This is your God, O Israel, who led you up out of the land of Egypt. (Exodus 32:8)**
- **And Yehowah went on to say to Moses; I have looked at this people and here it is a stiff-necked people. (Exodus 32:9)**
- **So now let me be, that my anger may blaze against them and I may exterminate them, and let me make you into a great nation. (Exodus 32:10)**

- **Yehowah does not share his glory with graven images.**
- **I am Yehowah. That is my name, and to no one else shall I give my own glory, neither my praise to graven images. (Isaiah 42:8)**
- **There is not a single instance in Scripture where faithful servants of Yehowah resorted to the use of visual aids to pray to God or engaged in a form of relative worship. Of course, some may cite**
- **By faith Jacob, when about to die, blessed each of the sons of Joseph and worshiped leaning upon the top of his staff. (Hebrews 11:21)**
- **Which, according to the Catholic Douay Version, reads; By faith Jacob, dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and adored the top of his rod.**
- **Then in a footnote on this scripture it is held that Jacob paid relative honor and veneration to the top of Joseph's rod, and the comment is made: Some translators, who are no friends to this relative honor, have corrupted the text, by translating it as, he worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.**
- **However, rather than being a corruption of the text, as this footnote maintains, this latter rendering and comparable variants thereof are in agreement with the sense of the Hebrew text at;**
- **Then he said; Swear to me. So he swore to him. At that Israel prostrated himself over the head of the couch. (Genesis 47:31)**
- **And have been adopted even by a number of Catholic translations, including The Jerusalem Bible.**

·· **Forms Of Idolatry**

- **Acts of idolatry referred to in the Bible included such revolting practices as ceremonial prostitution, child sacrifice, drunkenness, and self-laceration to the point of causing blood to flow.**
- **And even the male temple prostitute proved to be in the land. They acted according to all the detestable things of the nations whom Yehowah had driven out from before the sons of Israel. (1 Kings 14:24)**

- **And they began calling at the top of their voice and cutting until they caused blood to flow out upon them.**
- **And they began calling at the top of their voice and cutting themselves according to their custom with daggers and with lances, until they caused blood to flow out upon them. (1 Kings 18:28)**
- **And you must say; Hear the word of Yehowah, O you kings of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem. This is what Yehowah of armies, the God of Israel, has said; Here I am bringing a calamity upon this place, of which when anyone hears, his ears will tingle. (Jeremiah 19:3)**
- **For the reason that they have left me and have proceeded to make this place unrecognizable and to make sacrificial smoke in it to other gods whom they had not known, they and their forefathers and the kings of Judah, and they have filled this place with the blood of the innocent ones. (Jeremiah 19:4)**
- **And they built the high places of the Baal in order to burn their sons in the fire as whole burnt offerings to the Baal, something that I had not commanded or spoken of, and that had not come up into my heart. (Jeremiah 19:5)**
- **On the tops of the mountains they sacrifice, and on the hills they make sacrificial smoke, under massive tree and storax tree and big tree, because its shade is good. That is why your daughters commit fornication and your own daughters-in-law commit adultery. (Hosea 4:13)**
- **I shall not hold an accounting against your daughters because they commit fornication, and against your daughters-in-law because they commit adultery. For, as to the men, it is with the harlots that they get off to themselves, and with the female temple prostitutes that they sacrifice, and a people that does not understand will be trodden down. (Hosea 4:14)**
- **And on garments seized as a pledge they stretch themselves out beside every altar, and the wine of those who have been fined they drink at the house of their gods. (Amos 2:8)**

- **Idols were venerated by partaking of food and drink in festivals or ceremonies in their honor**
- **So on the next day they were early in rising, and they began offering up burnt offerings and presenting communion sacrifices. After that the people sat down to eat and drink. Then they got up to have a good time. (Exodus 32:6)**
- **For if anyone should see you, the one having knowledge, reclining at a meal in an idol temple, will not the conscience of that one who is weak be built up to the point of eating foods offered to idols? (1 Corinthians 8:10)**
- **By bowing and sacrificing to them, by song and dance before them, and even by a kiss.**
- **They have turned aside in a hurry from the way I have commanded them to go. They have made a molten statue of a calf for themselves and keep bowing down to it and sacrificing to it and saying; This is your God, O Israel, who led you up out of the land of Egypt. (Exodus 32:8)**
- **But he said; It is not the sound of the singing over mighty performance, and it is not the sound of the singing of defeat. It is the sound of other singing that I am hearing. (Exodus 32:18)**
- **So it came about that as soon as he got near the camp and could see the calf and the dances, Moses anger began to blaze, and he at once threw the tablets from his hands and shattered them at the foot of the mountain. (Exodus 32:19)**
- **And I have let seven thousand remain in Israel, all the knees that have not bent down to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him. (1 Kings 19:18)**
- **And now they commit additional sin and make for themselves a molten statue from their silver, idols according to their own understanding, the work of craftsmen, all of it. To them they are saying; Let the sacrificers who are men kiss mere calves. (Hosea 13:2)**
- **Idolatry was also committed by arranging a table of food and drink for false gods.**

- **But you men are those leaving Yehowah, those forgetting my holy mountain, those setting in order a table for the god of Good Luck and those filling up mixed wine for the god of Destiny. (Isaiah 65:11)**
- **By making drink offerings, sacrificial cakes, and sacrificial smoke**
- **The sons are picking up sticks of wood, and the fathers are lighting the fire, and the wives are kneading flour dough in order to make sacrificial cakes to the queen of the heavens, and there is a pouring out of drink offerings to other gods for the purpose of offending me. (Jeremiah 7:18)**
- **But we shall positively do every word that has gone forth from our mouth, in order to make sacrificial smoke to the queen of the heavens and to pour out to her drink offerings, just as we ourselves and our forefathers, our kings and our princes did in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, when we used to be satisfied with bread and to be well off, and we did not see any calamity at all. (Jeremiah 44:17)**
- **And by weeping in religious ceremony.**
- **So he brought me to the entrance of the gate of the house of Yehowah, which is toward the north, and, look! There the women were sitting, weeping over the god Tammuz. (Ezekiel 8:14)**
- **Certain actions, such as, tattooing the flesh, making cuttings upon the flesh, imposing baldness on the forehead, cutting the sidelocks, and destroying the extremity of the beard, were prohibited by the Law, possibly, at least in part, because of being linked with prevailing idolatrous practices of neighboring peoples.**
- **You must eat nothing along with blood. You must not look for omens, and you must not practice magic. (Leviticus 19:26)**
- **You must not cut your side locks short around, and you must not destroy the extremity of your beard. (Leviticus 19:27)**
- **And you must not make cuts in your flesh for a deceased soul, and you must not put tattoo marking upon yourselves. I am Yehowah. (Leviticus 19:28)**

- Sons you are of Yehowah your God. You must not make cuttings upon yourselves or impose baldness on your foreheads for a dead person. (**Deuteronomy 14:1**)
- Then there are the more subtle forms of **idolatry**. **Covetousness is idolatry**
- Deaden, therefore, your body members that are upon the earth as respects fornication, uncleanness, sexual appetite, hurtful desire, and **covetousness, which is idolatry**. (**Colossians 3:5**)
- Since the object of an individual's cravings diverts affection from the Creator and thus, in effect, becomes an idol. Instead of serving Yehowah God in faithfulness, a person can become a slave to his belly, that is, to fleshly desire or appetite, and make this his god.
- For men of that sort are slaves, not of our Lord Christ, but of their own bellies, and by smooth talk and complimentary speech they seduce the hearts of guileless ones. (**Romans 16:18**)
- For there are many, I used to mention them often but now I mention them also with weeping, who are walking as the enemies of the torture stake of the Christ. (**Philippians 3:18**)
- And their finish is destruction, and their god is their belly, and their glory consists in their shame, and they have their minds upon things on the earth. (**Philippians 3:19**)
- Since love for the Creator is demonstrated by obedience.
- For this is what the love of God means, that we observe his commandments, and yet his commandments are not burdensome. (**1 John 5:3**)
- Rebellion and pushing ahead presumptuously are comparable to acts of idolatry.
- In turn Samuel said; Does Yehowah have as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of Yehowah? Look! To obey is better than a sacrifice, to pay attention than the fat of rams. (**1 Samuel 15:22**)
- For rebelliousness is the same as the sin of divination, and pushing ahead presumptuously the same as using uncanny

power and teraphim. Since you have rejected the word of Yehowah, he accordingly rejects you from being king. (**1 Samuel 15:23**)

· Pre-Flood Idolatry

- **Idolatry** had its beginning, not in the visible realm, but in the invisible. A glorious spirit creature developed the **covetous** desire to **resemble the Most High**. So strong was his desire that it alienated him from his God, Yehowah, and his **idolatry** caused him to rebel.
- Now it came to be the day when the sons of the true God entered to take their station before Yehowah, and even Satan proceeded to enter right among them. (**Job 1:6**)
- Then Yehowah said to Satan; Where do you come from? At that Satan answered Yehowah and said; From roving about in the earth and from walking about in it. (**Job 1:7**)
- And Yehowah went on to say to Satan; Have you set your heart upon my servant Job, that there is no one like him in the earth, a man blameless and upright, fearing God and turning aside from bad? (**Job 1:8**)
- At that Satan answered Yehowah and said; Is it for nothing that Job has feared God? (**Job 1:9**)
- Have not you yourself put up a hedge about him and about his house and about everything that he has all around? The work of his hands you have blessed, and his livestock itself has spread abroad in the earth. (**Job 1:10**)
- But, for a change, thrust out your hand, please, and touch everything he has and see whether he will not curse you to your very face. (**Job 1:11**)
- Not a newly converted man, for fear that he might get puffed up with pride and fall into the judgment passed upon the Devil. (**1 Timothy 3:6**)
- O how you have fallen from heaven, you shining one, son of the dawn! How you have been cut down to the earth, you who were disabling the nations! (**Isaiah 14:12**)

- **As for you, you have said in your heart; To the heavens I shall go up. Above the stars of God I shall lift up my throne, and I shall sit down upon the mountain of meeting, in the remotest parts of the north. (Isaiah 14:13)**
- **I shall go up above the high places of the clouds, I shall make myself resemble the Most High. (Isaiah 14:14)**
- **In Eden, the garden of God, you proved to be. Every precious stone was your covering, ruby, topaz and jasper, chrysolite, onyx and jade, sapphire, turquoise and emerald, and of gold was the workmanship of your settings and your sockets in you. In the day of your being created they were made ready. (Ezekiel 28:13)**
- **You are the anointed cherub that is covering, and I have set you. On the holy mountain of God you proved to be. In the midst of fiery stones you walked about. (Ezekiel 28:14)**
- **You were faultless in your ways from the day of your being created until unrighteousness was found in you. (Ezekiel 28:15)**
- **Your heart became haughty because of your beauty. You brought your wisdom to ruin on account of your beaming splendor. Onto the earth I will throw you. Before kings I will set you, for them to look upon you. (Ezekiel 28:17)**
- **Similarly, Eve constituted herself the first human idolater by coveting the forbidden fruit, this wrong desire leading her to disobey God's command. By allowing selfish desire to rival his love for Yehowah and then by disobeying him, Adam likewise became guilty of idolatry.**
- **Consequently the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was something to be longed for to the eyes, yes, the tree was desirable to look upon. So she began taking of its fruit and eating it. Afterward she gave some also to her husband when with her and he began eating it. (Genesis 3:6)**
- **And to Adam he said; Because you listened to your wife's voice and took to eating from the tree concerning which I gave you this command: You must not eat from it, cursed is the ground on your account. In pain you will eat its produce all the days of your life. (Genesis 3:17)**

- **Since the rebellion in Eden, only a minority of mankind have remained free from idolatry. During the lifetime of Adam's grandson Enosh, men apparently practiced a form of idolatry. At that time a start was made of calling on the name of Yehowah.**
- **And to Seth also there was born a son and he proceeded to call his name Enosh. At that time a start was made of calling on the name of Yehowah. ([Genesis 4:26](#))**
- **But evidently this was no calling upon Yehowah in faith, something done by righteous Abel many years earlier and for which he suffered martyrdom at the hands of his brother Cain.**
- **But as for Abel, he too brought some firstlings of his flock, even their fatty pieces. Now while Yehowah was looking with favor upon Abel and his offering. ([Genesis 4:4](#))**
- **He did not look with any favor upon Cain and upon his offering. And Cain grew hot with great anger, and his countenance began to fall. ([Genesis 4:5](#))**
- **After that Cain said to Abel his brother; Let us go over into the field. So it came about that while they were in the field Cain proceeded to assault Abel his brother and kill him. ([Genesis 4:8](#))**
- **Apparently, what was started in the days of Enosh was a false form of worship in which Yehowah's name was misused or improperly applied.**
- **Either men applied Yehowah's name to themselves or to other men, through whom they pretended to approach God in worship, or else they applied the divine name to **idol objects**, as a visible, tangible aid in their attempt to worship the invisible God.**
- **To what extent idolatry was practiced from the days of Enosh until the Flood, the Bible record does not reveal. The situation must have progressively deteriorated, because in Noah's day;**
- **Yehowah saw that the badness of man was abundant in the earth and every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only bad all the time. ([Genesis 6:5](#))**
- **Besides the inherited sinful inclination of man, the materialized angels, who had relations with the daughters of men, and the hybrid**

offspring of these unions, the Nephilim, exerted upon the world of that time a strong influence toward bad.

- **The Nephilim proved to be in the earth in those days, and also after that, when the sons of the true God continued to have relations with the daughters of men and they bore sons to them, they were the mighty ones who were of old, the men of fame. (Genesis 6:4)**

· Idolatry In Patriarchal Times

- **Although the Flood of Noah's day destroyed all human idolaters, idolatry began anew, spearheaded by Nimrod, a mighty hunter in opposition to Yehowah.**

- **He displayed himself a mighty hunter in opposition to Yehowah. That is why there is a saying; Just like Nimrod a mighty hunter in opposition to Yehowah. (Genesis 10:9)**

- **Doubtless under Nimrod's direction, the building of Babel and its tower, likely a ziggurat for use in **idolatrous** worship, began. The plans of those builders were frustrated when Yehowah confused their language.**

- **No longer being able to understand one another, they gradually left off building the city and scattered. However, the **idolatry** that began at Babel did not end there. Wherever those builders went they carried their false religious concepts.**

- **Now all the earth continued to be of one language and of one set of words. (Genesis 11:1)**

- **And it came about that in their journeying eastward they eventually discovered a valley plain in the land of Shinar, and they took up dwelling there. (Genesis 11:2)**

- **And they began to say, each one to the other; Come on! Let us make bricks and bake them with a burning process. So brick served as stone for them, but bitumen served as mortar for them. (Genesis 11:3)**

- **They now said; Come on! Let us build ourselves a city and also a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a celebrated name for ourselves, for fear we may be scattered over all the**

surface of the earth. (**Genesis 11:4**)

- And Yehowah proceeded to go down to see the city and the tower that the sons of men had built. (**Genesis 11:5**)
- After that Yehowah said; Look! They are one people and there is one language for them all, and this is what they start to do. Why, now there is nothing that they may have in mind to do that will be unattainable for them. (**Genesis 11:6**)
- Come now! Let us go down and there confuse their language that they may not listen to one another's language. (**Genesis 11:7**)
- Accordingly Yehowah scattered them from there over all the surface of the earth, and they gradually left off building the city. (**Genesis 11:8**)
- That is why its name was called Babel, because there Yehowah had confused the language of all the earth, and Yehowah had scattered them from there over all the surface of the earth. (**Genesis 11:9**)

See Also GODS AND GODDESSES

- The next city mentioned in the Scriptures, Ur of the Chaldeans, like Babel, was not devoted to the worship of the true God, Yehowah. Archaeological diggings there have revealed that the patron deity of that city was the moon-god Sin. It was in Ur that Terah, the father of Abram, Abraham, resided.
- And this is the history of Terah. Terah became father to Abram, Nahor and Haran, and Haran became father to Lot. (**Genesis 11:27**)
- Later Haran died while in company with Terah his father in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans. (**Genesis 11:28**)
- Living in the midst of idolatry, Terah may have engaged in it, as is indicated centuries later by Joshua's words to the Israelites.
- And Joshua went on to say to all the people; This is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; It was on the other side of the River that your forefathers dwelt a long time ago, Terah the

- father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, and they used to serve other gods. ([Joshua 24:2](#))
- **But Abraham displayed faith in the true God, Yehowah.**
 - **Wherever Abraham, and later his descendants, went they met up with idolatry, influenced by the original apostasy at Babel. So there was an ever-present danger of being contaminated by such idolatry. Even those related to Abraham had idols. Laban, who was the father-in-law of Abraham's grandson Jacob, had teraphim, or family gods, in his possession.**
 - **Now Laban had gone to shear his sheep. Meantime Rachel stole the teraphim that belonged to her father. ([Genesis 31:19](#))**
 - **In answer Jacob proceeded to say to Laban; It was because I was afraid. For I said to myself; You might tear your daughters away from me. ([Genesis 31:31](#))**
 - **Whoever it is with whom you may find your gods, let him not live. Before our brothers, examine for yourself what is with me and take them for yourself. But Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them. ([Genesis 31:32](#))**
 - **Jacob himself found it necessary to instruct his household to put away all their foreign gods, and he hid the idols turned over to him.**
 - **Then Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him; Put away the foreign gods that are in the midst of you and cleanse yourselves and change your mantles. ([Genesis 35:2](#))**
 - **And let us rise and go up to Bethel. And there I shall make an altar to the true God who answered me in the day of my distress in that he proved to be with me in the way that I have gone. ([Genesis 35:3](#))**
 - **So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods that were in their hands and the earrings that were in their ears, and Jacob hid them under the big tree that was close by Shechem. ([Genesis 35:4](#))**
 - **Perhaps he disposed of them in this way so that none in his household might reuse the metal as something having special value on account of its previous idolatrous use. Whether Jacob initially melted or smashed the images is not stated.**

·· Idolatry And God's Covenant People

- As Yehowah had indicated to Abraham, his descendants, the Israelites, became alien residents in a land not theirs, namely Egypt, and suffered affliction there.
- And he began to say to Abram; You may know for sure that your seed will become an alien resident in a land not theirs, and they will have to serve them, and these will certainly afflict them for four hundred years. ([Genesis 15:13](#))
- In Egypt they came in contact with **rank idolatry**, for image making ran riot in that country. Many of the deities worshiped there were represented by animal heads, among them being the cat-headed Bast, the cow-headed Hathor, the falcon-headed Horus, the jackal-headed Anubis, and the ibis-headed Thoth, to name but a few. Creatures of sea, air, and land were venerated, and at death sacred animals were mummified.
- The Law that Yehowah gave to his people after liberating them from Egypt was explicitly directed against **idolatrous** practices so prevalent among the ancients.
- The second of the Ten Commandments expressly prohibited making for worship a carved image or a representation of anything in the heavens, on the earth, or in the waters.
- 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](#))
- You must not make for yourself a **carved image**, any 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. ([Deuteronomy 5:8](#))

- You must not bow down to them or be led to serve them, because I Yehowah your God am a God exacting exclusive devotion, bringing punishment for the error of fathers upon sons and upon the third generation and upon the fourth generation, in the case of those who hate me. ([Deuteronomy 5:9](#))
- In his final exhortations to the Israelites, Moses emphasized the impossibility of making an **image** of the true God and warned them to beware of the snare of **idolatry**.
- 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](#))
- To further safeguard the Israelites from becoming **idolaters**, they were commanded not to conclude any covenant with the pagan inhabitants of the land they were entering or to form marriage alliances with them, but to annihilate them.
- All existing appendages of **idolatry** altars, sacred pillars, sacred poles, and graven images were to be destroyed.
- And Yehowah your God will certainly abandon them to you, and you must defeat them. You should without fail devote them to destruction. You must conclude no covenant with them nor show them any favor. ([Deuteronomy 7:2](#))

- **And you must form no marriage alliance with them. Your daughter you must not give to his son, and his daughter you must not take for your son. (Deuteronomy 7:3)**
- **For he will turn your son from following me, and they will certainly serve other gods, and Yehowah's anger will indeed blaze against you, and he will certainly annihilate you in a hurry. (Deuteronomy 7:4)**
- **On the other hand, this is what you should do to them. Their altars you should pull down, and their sacred pillars you should break down, and their sacred poles you should cut down, and their graven images you should burn with fire. (Deuteronomy 7:5)**
- **Moses successor Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem and admonished them to remove the false gods and to serve Yehowah faithfully. The people agreed to do so and continued serving Yehowah during his lifetime and that of the older men who extended their days after Joshua.**
- **And now fear Yehowah and serve him in faultlessness and in truth, and remove the gods that your forefathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt, and serve Yehowah. (Joshua 24:14)**
- **Now if it is bad in your eyes to serve Yehowah, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve, whether the gods that your forefathers who were on the other side of the River served or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are dwelling. But as for me and my household, we shall serve Yehowah. (Joshua 24:15)**
- **At this the people answered and said; It is unthinkable, on our part, to leave Yehowah so as to serve other gods. (Joshua 24:16)**
- **And Israel continued to serve Yehowah all the days of Joshua and all the days of the older men who extended their days after Joshua and who had known all the work of Yehowah that he did for Israel. (Joshua 24:31)**

- **But thereafter wholesale apostasy set in. The people began worshipping Canaanite deities Baal, Ashtoreth, and the sacred pole, or Asherah.**
- **Hence, Yehowah abandoned the Israelites into the hands of their enemies. However, when they repented, he mercifully raised up judges to deliver them.**
- **And the sons of Israel fell to doing what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah and serving the Baals. (Judges 2:11)**
- **Thus they abandoned Yehowah the God of their fathers who had brought them out of the land of Egypt and went following other gods from among the gods of the peoples who were all around them and they began bowing down to them, so that they offended Yehowah. (Judges 2:12)**
- **Thus they abandoned Yehowah and took up serving Baal and the Ashtoreth images. (Judges 2:13)**
- **At this Yehowah's anger blazed against Israel, so that he gave them into the hands of the pillagers, and they began to pillage them, and he proceeded to sell them into the hand of their enemies round about, and they were no longer able to stand before their enemies. (Judges 2:14)**
- **Everywhere that they went out, the hand of Yehowah proved to be against them for calamity, just as Yehowah had spoken and just as Yehowah had sworn to them, and they got to be in very sore straits. (Judges 2:15)**
- **So Yehowah would raise up judges, and they would save them out of the hand of their pillagers. (Judges 2:16)**
- **And even to their judges they did not listen, but they had immoral intercourse with other gods and went bowing down to them. They quickly turned aside from the way in which their forefathers had walked by obeying the commandments of Yehowah. They did not do like that. (Judges 2:17)**
- **And when Yehowah did raise up judges for them, Yehowah proved to be with the judge, and he saved them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge, for Yehowah would feel regret over their groaning because of their oppressors and**

those who were shoving them around. (**Judges 2:18**)

- And it occurred that when the judge died they would turn around and act more ruinously than their fathers by walking after other gods to serve them and bow down to them. They did not refrain from their practices and their stubborn behavior. (**Judges 2:19**)
- So the sons of Israel did what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, and they were forgetful of Yehowah their God and went serving the Baals and the sacred poles. (**Judges 3:7**)

See Also ASHTORETH

See Also BAAL 4

See Also SACRED PILLAR

See Also SACRED POLE

· Under The Rule Of The Kings

- During the reigns of Israel's first king, Saul, of his son Ishbosheth, and of David, there is no mention of large-scale **idolatry** being engaged in by the Israelites. Nevertheless, there are indications that **idolatry** lingered on in the kingdom. Saul's own daughter, Michal, for instance, had a **teraphim image** in her possession.
- Then Michal took the **teraphim image** and placed it on the couch, and a net of goats hair she put at the place of his head, after which she covered it with a garment. (**1 Samuel 19:13**)
- It was not until the latter part of the reign of David's son Solomon, however, that outright **idolatry** came to be practiced, the monarch himself, under the influence of his many foreign wives, giving the impetus to **idolatry** by sanctioning it.
- High places were built to **Ashtoreth**, **Chemosh**, and **Milcom**, or **Molech**. The people in general succumbed to false worship and began bowing down to these idol gods.
- And he came to have seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives gradually inclined his heart. (**1 Kings 11:3**)
- And it came about in the time of Solomon's growing old that his wives themselves had inclined his heart to follow other gods, and his heart did not prove to be complete with Yehowah his God like

the heart of David his father. (**1 Kings 11:4**)

- **And Solomon began going after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the disgusting thing of the Ammonites. (**1 Kings 11:5**)**
- **And Solomon began to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, and he did not follow Yehowah fully like David his father. (**1 Kings 11:6**)**
- **It was then that Solomon proceeded to build a high place to Chemosh the disgusting thing of Moab on the mountain that was in front of Jerusalem, and to Molech the disgusting thing of the sons of Ammon. (**1 Kings 11:7**)**
- **And that was the way he did for all his foreign wives who were making sacrificial smoke and sacrificing to their gods. (**1 Kings 11:8**)**
- **The reason why is that they have left me and begun to bow down to Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, to Chemosh the god of Moab and to Milcom the god of the sons of Ammon, and they have not walked in my ways by doing what is right in my eyes and my statutes and my judicial decisions like David his father. (**1 Kings 11:33**)**
- **And the high places that were in front of Jerusalem, that were to the right of the Mount of Ruination, that Solomon the king of Israel had built to Ashtoreth the disgusting thing of the Sidonians and to Chemosh the disgusting thing of Moab and to Milcom the detestable thing of the sons of Ammon, the king made unfit for worship. (**2 Kings 23:13**)**

See Also CHEMOSH

See Also MOLECH

See Also TERAPHIM

- **On account of this **idolatry**, Yehowah ripped ten tribes away from Solomon's son Rehoboam and gave these to Jeroboam.**
- **And he went on to say to Jeroboam; Take for yourself ten pieces, for this is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; Here I am ripping the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and I shall certainly give you ten tribes. (**1 Kings 11:31**)**

- **And the one tribe is what will continue his for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city that I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel. (1 Kings 11:32)**
- **The reason why is that they have left me and begun to bow down to Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, to Chemosh the god of Moab and to Milcom the god of the sons of Ammon, and they have not walked in my ways by doing what is right in my eyes and my statutes and my judicial decisions like David his father. (1 Kings 11:33)**
- **But I shall not take the entire kingdom out of his hand, because a chieftain I shall set him for all the days of his life, for the sake of David my servant whom I chose, because he kept my commandments and my statutes. (1 Kings 11:34)**
- **And I shall certainly take the kingship out of the hand of his son and give it to you, even ten tribes. (1 Kings 11:35)**
- **And the Israelites kept up their revolt against the house of David down to this day. (1 Kings 12:19)**
- **And it came about that as soon as all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, they at once sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. None became a follower of the house of David except the tribe of Judah by itself. (1 Kings 12:20)**
- **When Rehoboam arrived at Jerusalem, he immediately congregated all the house of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin, a hundred and eighty thousand choice men able-bodied for war, to fight against the house of Israel, so as to bring the kingship back to Rehoboam the son of Solomon. (1 Kings 12:21)**
- **Then the word of the true God came to Shemaiah the man of the true God, saying; (1 Kings 12:22)**
- **Say to Rehoboam the son of Solomon the king of Judah and to all the house of Judah and Benjamin and the rest of the people. (1 Kings 12:23)**
- **This is what Yehowah has said; You must not go up and fight against your brothers the sons of Israel. Go back each one to his**

house, for it is at the instance of myself that this thing has been brought about. So they obeyed the word of Yehowah, and went back home according to the word of Yehowah. (1 Kings 12:24)

- **Although assured that his kingdom would remain firm if he continued serving Yehowah in faithfulness, Jeroboam, on becoming king, instituted calf worship, fearing that the people would revolt against his rule if they continued going to Jerusalem for worship.**
- **And it must occur that, if you obey all that I shall command you, and you do walk in my ways and actually do what is right in my eyes by keeping my statutes and my commandments, just as David my servant did, I will also prove to be with you, and I will build you a lasting house, just as I have built for David, and I will give you Israel. (1 Kings 11:38)**
- **And Jeroboam began to say in his heart; Now the kingdom will return to the house of David. (1 Kings 12:26)**
- **If this people continues going up to render sacrifices in the house of Yehowah in Jerusalem, the heart of this people will also be bound to return to their lord, Rehoboam the king of Judah, and they will certainly kill me and return to Rehoboam the king of Judah. (1 Kings 12:27)**
- **Consequently the king took counsel and made two golden calves and said to the people; It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here is your God, O Israel, that brought you up out of the land of Egypt. (1 Kings 12:28)**
- **Then he placed the one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. (1 Kings 12:29)**
- **And this thing came to be a cause for sin, and the people began to go before the one as far as Dan. (1 Kings 12:30)**
- **And he began to make a house of high places and to make priests from the people in general, who did not happen to be of the sons of Levi. (1 Kings 12:31)**
- **And Jeroboam went on to make a festival in the eighth month on the fifteenth day of the month, like the festival that was in Judah, that he might make offerings upon the altar that he had made in Bethel, to sacrifice to the calves that he had made, and**

- he put in attendance at Bethel the priests of the high places that he had made. ([1 Kings 12:32](#))
- **And he began to make offerings upon the altar that he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, in the month that he had invented by himself, and he proceeded to make a festival for the sons of Israel and to make offerings upon the altar to make sacrificial smoke. ([1 Kings 12:33](#))**
 - **Idolatrous calf worship continued all the days the ten-tribe kingdom existed, with Tyrian Baalism being introduced during Ahab's reign.**
 - **And Ahab the son of Omri proceeded to do worse in the eyes of Yehowah than all those who were prior to him. ([1 Kings 16:30](#))**
 - **And it came about that, as if it were the most trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he now took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal the king of the Sidonians and began to go and serve Baal and to bow down to him. ([1 Kings 16:31](#))**
 - **Further, he set up an altar to Baal at the house of Baal that he built in Samaria. ([1 Kings 16:32](#))**
 - **And Ahab went on to make the sacred pole, and Ahab came to do more to offend Yehowah the God of Israel than all the kings of Israel that happened to be prior to him. ([1 Kings 16:33](#))**
 - **Not all apostatized, however. While Ahab reigned, there still was a remnant of 7,000 who had neither bent the knee to nor kissed Baal, and this at a time when Yehowah's prophets were being killed with the sword, doubtless at the instigation of Ahab's wife Jezebel.**
 - **Then Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done and all about how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ([1 Kings 19:1](#))**
 - **At that Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying; So may the gods do, and so may they add to it, if at this time tomorrow I shall not make your soul like the soul of each one of them! ([1 Kings 19:2](#))**
 - **To this he said; I have been absolutely jealous for Yehowah the God of armies, for the sons of Israel have left your covenant,**

- your altars they have torn down, and your prophets they have killed with the sword, so that I only am left, and they begin looking for my soul to take it away. (**1 Kings 19:14**)
- And I have let seven thousand remain in Israel, **all the knees that have not bent down to Baal**, and every mouth that has not kissed him. (**1 Kings 19:18**)
 - Yet, what does the divine pronouncement say to him? I have left seven thousand men over for myself, men who have not bent the knee to Baal. (**Romans 11:4**)

See Also CALF (Calf Worship)

- **With the exception of Jehu's eradication of Baal worship.**
- And Jehu went on to say; Sanctify a solemn assembly for Baal. Accordingly they proclaimed it. (**2 Kings 10:20**)
- After that Jehu sent through all Israel, so that all the worshipers of Baal came in. And not a single one was left over that did not come in. And they kept coming into the house of Baal, and the house of Baal came to be full from end to end. (**2 Kings 10:21**)
- He now said to the one who was over the wardrobe; Bring out garments for all the worshipers of Baal. So he brought the attire out for them. (**2 Kings 10:22**)
- Then Jehu entered with Jehonadab the son of Rechab into the house of Baal. He now said to the worshipers of Baal; Search carefully and see that there may be here with you none of the worshipers of Yehowah, but only the worshipers of Baal. (**2 Kings 10:23**)
- Finally they came in to render up sacrifices and burnt offerings, and Jehu himself stationed eighty men outside at his disposal and went on to say; As for the man that escapes from the men whom I am bringing into your hands, the ones soul will go for the others soul. (**2 Kings 10:24**)
- And it came about that as soon as he finished rendering up the burnt offering, Jehu immediately said to the runners and the adjutants; Come in, strike them down! Do not let a single one go out. And the runners and the adjutants began to strike them

down with the edge of the sword and to throw them out, and they kept going as far as the city of the house of Baal. (2 Kings 10:25)

- Then they brought out the sacred pillars of the house of Baal and burned each one. (2 Kings 10:26)
- Further, they pulled down the sacred pillar of Baal and pulled down the house of Baal, and they kept it set aside for privies down to this day. (2 Kings 10:27)
- Thus Jehu annihilated Baal out of Israel. (2 Kings 10:28)
- There is no record of any religious reform being undertaken by a monarch of the ten-tribe kingdom. To the prophets repeatedly sent by Yehowah, the people and rulers of the northern kingdom gave no heed, so that finally the Almighty abandoned them into the hands of the Assyrians because of their sordid record of **idolatry**.
- And it came about because the sons of Israel had sinned against Yehowah their God, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh the king of Egypt, and they began to fear other gods. (2 Kings 17:7)
- And they kept walking in the statutes of the nations whom Yehowah had driven out from before the sons of Israel, and in the statutes of the kings of Israel that they had made. (2 Kings 17:8)
- And the sons of Israel went searching into the things that were not right toward Yehowah their God and kept building themselves high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen clear to the fortified city. (2 Kings 17:9)
- And they kept setting up for themselves sacred pillars and sacred poles upon every high hill and under every luxuriant tree. (2 Kings 17:10)
- And there on all the high places they continued to make sacrificial smoke the same as the nations whom Yehowah had taken into exile because of them, and they kept doing bad things to offend Yehowah. (2 Kings 17:11)
- And they continued to serve **dungy idols**, concerning which

Yehowah had said to them; You must not do this thing. (2 Kings 17:12)

- **And Yehowah kept warning Israel and Judah by means of all his prophets and every visionary, saying; Turn back from your bad ways and keep my commandments, my statutes, according to all the Law that I commanded your forefathers and that I have sent to you by means of my servants the prophets. (2 Kings 17:13)**
- **And they did not listen but kept hardening their necks like the necks of their forefathers that had not exercised faith in Yehowah their God. (2 Kings 17:14)**
- **And they continued rejecting his regulations and his covenant that he had concluded with their forefathers and his reminders with which he had warned them, and they went following vain idols and became vain themselves, even in imitation of the nations that were all around them, concerning whom Yehowah had commanded them not to do like them. (2 Kings 17:15)**
- **And they kept leaving all the commandments of Yehowah their God and proceeded to make for themselves molten statues, two calves, and to make a sacred pole, and they began to bow down to all the army of the heavens and to serve Baal. (2 Kings 17:16)**
- **And they continued to make their sons and their daughters pass through the fire and to practice divination and to look for omens, and they kept selling themselves to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, to offend him. (2 Kings 17:17)**
- **Therefore Yehowah got very incensed against Israel, so that he removed them from his sight. He did not let any remain but the tribe of Judah alone. (2 Kings 17:18)**
- **Even Judah itself did not keep the commandments of Yehowah their God, but they went walking in the statutes of Israel that they had made. (2 Kings 17:19)**
- **Consequently Yehowah rejected all the seed of Israel and kept afflicting them and giving them into the hand of pillagers, until he had cast them away from before him. (2 Kings 17:20)**
- **For he ripped Israel off from the house of David, and they proceeded to make Jeroboam the son of Nebat king, and**

- Jeroboam proceeded to part Israel from following Yehowah, and he caused them to sin with a great sin. (2 Kings 17:21)**
- **And the sons of Israel went walking in all the sins of Jeroboam that he had done. They did not depart from them. (2 Kings 17:22)**
 - **Until Yehowah removed Israel from his sight, just as he had spoken by means of all his servants the prophets. So Israel went off its own soil into exile in Assyria down to this day. (2 Kings 17:23)**
 - **In the kingdom of Judah, the situation was not much different, aside from the reforms carried out by certain kings. Whereas a divided kingdom had come about as a direct result of **idolatry**, Solomon's son Rehoboam did not take to heart Yehowah's discipline and shun idolatry. As soon as his position was secure, he and all Judah with him apostatized.**
 - **And it came about that, as soon as the kingship of Rehoboam was firmly established and as soon as he was strong, he left the Law of Yehowah, and also all Israel with him. (2 Chronicles 12:1)**
 - **The people built high places, equipping these with sacred pillars and sacred poles, and engaged in ceremonial prostitution.**
 - **And they too kept building for themselves high places and sacred pillars and sacred poles upon every high hill and under every luxuriant tree. (1 Kings 14:23)**
 - **And even the male temple prostitute proved to be in the land. They acted according to all the detestable things of the nations whom Yehowah had driven out from before the sons of Israel. (1 Kings 14:24)**
 - **Although Abijam, Abijah, expressed faith in Yehowah at the time he warred against Jeroboam and was blessed with victory, to a large extent he imitated the sinful course of his father and predecessor on the throne, Rehoboam.**
 - **And in the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam the son of Nebat, Abijam became king over Judah. (1 Kings 15:1)**
 - **And he went on walking in all the sins of his father that he did**

prior to him, and his heart did not prove to be complete with Yehowah his God, like the heart of David his forefather. (**1 Kings 15:3**)

- So Abijah engaged in the war with a military force of four hundred thousand mighty men of war, chosen men. And Jeroboam himself drew up in battle formation against him with eight hundred thousand chosen men, valiant, mighty men. (**2 Chronicles 13:3**)
- Abijah now rose up upon Mount Zemaraim, which is in the mountainous region of Ephraim, and said; Hear me, O Jeroboam and all Israel. (**2 Chronicles 13:4**)
- Is it not for you to know that Yehowah the God of Israel himself gave a kingdom to David over Israel to time indefinite, to him and to his sons, by a covenant of salt? (**2 Chronicles 13:5**)
- And Jeroboam the son of Nebat, the servant of Solomon the son of David, proceeded to rise up and rebel against his lord. (**2 Chronicles 13:6**)
- And idle men, good-for-nothing fellows, kept collecting themselves together by him. Finally they proved superior to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, when Rehoboam himself happened to be young and fainthearted, and he did not hold his own against them. (**2 Chronicles 13:7**)
- And now you men are thinking of holding your own against the kingdom of Yehowah in the hand of the sons of David, when you are a large crowd and there are with you the **golden calves** that Jeroboam made for you as gods. (**2 Chronicles 13:8**)
- Have you not driven out Yehowah's priests, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and do you not keep making priests for yourselves like the peoples of the lands? As for anyone that came and filled his hand with power by means of a young bull and seven rams, he became a priest of what are no gods. (**2 Chronicles 13:9**)
- As for us, Yehowah is our God, and we have not left him, but priests are ministering to Yehowah, the sons of Aaron, and also the Levites in the work. (**2 Chronicles 13:10**)

- **And they are making burnt offerings smoke to Yehowah morning by morning and evening by evening and also perfumed incense, and the layers of bread are upon the table of pure gold, and there are the golden lampstand and its lamps to light up evening by evening, because we are keeping the obligation to Yehowah our God, but you yourselves have left him. (2 Chronicles 13:11)**
- **And, look! With us there is at the head the true God with his priests and the signal trumpets for sounding the battle alarm against you. O sons of Israel, do not fight against Yehowah the God of your forefathers, for you will not prove successful. (2 Chronicles 13:12)**
- **And Jeroboam, for his part, dispatched an ambush around to come behind them, so that they proved to be in front of Judah and the ambush behind them. (2 Chronicles 13:13)**
- **When those of Judah turned around, why, there they had the battle in front and behind. And they began to cry out to Yehowah, while the priests were loudly sounding the trumpets. (2 Chronicles 13:14)**
- **And the men of Judah broke out shouting a war cry. And it came about that, when the men of Judah shouted a war cry, then the true God himself defeated Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah. (2 Chronicles 13:15)**
- **And the sons of Israel took to flight from before Judah, and then God gave them into their hand. (2 Chronicles 13:16)**
- **And Abijah and his people went striking them down with a vast slaughter, and the slain of Israel kept falling down, five hundred thousand chosen men. (2 Chronicles 13:17)**
- **Thus the sons of Israel were humbled at that time, but the sons of Judah proved superior because they leaned upon Yehowah the God of their forefathers. (2 Chronicles 13:18)**
- **The next two Judean kings, Asa and Jehoshaphat, served Yehowah in faithfulness and endeavored to rid the kingdom of **idolatry**. But Judah was so steeped in worship at high places that, despite the efforts of both of these kings to destroy them, the high places seem to have persisted secretly or they cropped up again.**

- **And Asa proceeded to do what was right in the eyes of Yehowah, like David his forefather. (1 Kings 15:11)**
- **Accordingly he had the male temple prostitutes pass out of the land and removed all the **dungy idols** that his forefathers had made. (1 Kings 15:12)**
- **As for even Maacah his grandmother, he went on to remove her from being lady, because she had made a horrible idol to the sacred pole, after which Asa cut down her **horrible idol** and burned it at the torrent valley of Kidron. (1 Kings 15:13)**
- **And the high places he did not remove. Nevertheless, Asa's heart itself proved to be complete with Yehowah all his days. (1 Kings 15:14)**
- **Jehoshaphat was thirty-five years old when he began to reign, and for twenty-five years he reigned in Jerusalem, and his mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi. (1 Kings 22:42)**
- **And he kept walking in all the way of Asa his father. He did not turn aside from it, by doing what was right in the eyes of Yehowah. Only the high places themselves did not disappear. The people were still sacrificing and making sacrificial smoke on the high places. (1 Kings 22:43)**
- **And Asa proceeded to do what was good and right in the eyes of Yehowah his God. (2 Chronicles 14:2)**
- **So he removed the foreign altars and the high places and broke up the sacred pillars and cut down the sacred poles. (2 Chronicles 14:3)**
- **Further, he said to Judah to search for Yehowah the God of their forefathers and to do the Law and the commandment. (2 Chronicles 14:4)**
- **Accordingly he removed from all the cities of Judah the high places and the incense stands, and the kingdom continued without disturbance before him. (2 Chronicles 14:5)**
- **And Yehowah kept the kingdom firmly established in his hand, and all Judah continued to give presents to Jehoshaphat, and he**

- came to have riches and glory in abundance. (2 Chronicles 17:5)
- And his heart became bold in the ways of Yehowah, and he even removed the high places and the sacred poles from Judah. (2 Chronicles 17:6)
 - And Jehoshaphat went on reigning over Judah. Thirty-five years old he was when he began to reign, and for twenty-five years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi. (2 Chronicles 20:31)
 - And he kept walking in the way of his father Asa, and he did not turn aside from it, by doing what was right in Yehowah's eyes. (2 Chronicles 20:32)
 - Only the high places themselves did not disappear, and the people themselves had not yet prepared their heart for the God of their forefathers. (2 Chronicles 20:33)
 - The reign of Judah's next king, Jehoram, commenced with bloodshed and began a new chapter in Judah's idolatry. This is attributed to his having idolatrous Ahab's daughter, Athaliah, as wife.
 - Finally Jehoshaphat lay down with his forefathers and was buried with his forefathers in the City of David, and Jehoram his son began to reign in place of him. (2 Chronicles 21:1)
 - And he had brothers, Jehoshaphat's sons, Azariah and Jehiel and Zechariah and Azariah and Michael and Shephatiah, all these being the sons of Jehoshaphat the king of Israel. (2 Chronicles 21:2)
 - Consequently their father gave them many gifts in silver and in gold and in choice things along with fortified cities in Judah, but the kingdom he gave to Jehoram, for he was the firstborn. (2 Chronicles 21:3)
 - When Jehoram rose up over the kingdom of his father he proceeded to make his position strong, and so he killed all his brothers with the sword and also some of the princes of Israel. (2 Chronicles 21:4)
 - And he went on walking in the way of the kings of Israel, just as those of the house of Ahab had done, for Ahab's own daughter

- had become his wife, and he continued to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes. ([2 Chronicles 21:6](#))
- He himself also had made high places on the mountains of Judah, that he might cause the inhabitants of Jerusalem to have immoral intercourse, and that he might drive Judah away. ([2 Chronicles 21:11](#))
 - The queen mother Athaliah also proved to be the counselor to Jehoram's son Ahaziah. Hence, during the rule of Ahaziah and that of the usurper Athaliah, idolatry continued with the approval of the crown.
 - Then the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah his youngest son king in place of him, for the marauder band that came with the Arabs to the camp had killed all the older ones, and Ahaziah the son of Jehoram began to reign as king of Judah. ([2 Chronicles 22:1](#))
 - Twenty-two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and for one year he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah the granddaughter of Omri. ([2 Chronicles 22:2](#))
 - He himself also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother herself became his counselor in doing wickedly. ([2 Chronicles 22:3](#))
 - And he continued with them in the house of the true God hidden for six years, while Athaliah was ruling as queen over the land. ([2 Chronicles 22:12](#))
 - Early in the reign of Jehoash, following the execution of Athaliah, there was a restoration of true worship. But upon the death of High Priest Jehoiada, there was a return to idol worship at the instigation of Judah's princes.
 - And Jehoash continued doing what was right in Yehowah's eyes all the days of his that Jehoiada the priest instructed him. ([2 Kings 12:2](#))
 - It was only the high places that did not disappear. The people were still sacrificing and making sacrificial smoke on the high places. ([2 Kings 12:3](#))

- **And after Jehoiada's death the princes of Judah came in and proceeded to bow down to the king. At that time the king listened to them. (2 Chronicles 24:17)**
- **And gradually they left the house of Yehowah the God of their forefathers and began serving the sacred poles and the idols, so that there came to be indignation against Judah and Jerusalem because of this guilt of theirs. (2 Chronicles 24:18)**
- **Yehowah therefore abandoned the Judean forces into the hands of the invading Syrians, and Jehoash was murdered by his own servants.**
- **And it came about at the turn of the year a military force of Syria came up against him, and they began to invade Judah and Jerusalem. Then they brought all the princes of the people to ruin from among the people, and all their spoil they sent to the king of Damascus. (2 Chronicles 24:23)**
- **For it was with a small number of men that the military force of the Syrians made an invasion, and Yehowah himself gave into their hand a military force of very great number, because they had left Yehowah the God of their forefathers, and upon Jehoash they executed acts of judgment. (2 Chronicles 24:24)**
- **And when they went away from him, for they left him with many diseases, his own servants conspired against him because of the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest, and they got to kill him upon his own couch, so that he died. Then they buried him in the City of David, but they did not bury him in the burial places of the kings. (2 Chronicles 24:25)**
- **Undoubtedly the execution of God's judgment upon Judah and the violent death of Amaziah's father Jehoash made a deep impression upon Amaziah, so that he proceeded at first to do what was right in Yehowah's eyes.**
- **At the age of twenty-five years Amaziah became king, and for twenty-nine years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 25:1)**
- **And he continued to do what was right in Yehowah's eyes, only not with a complete heart. (2 Chronicles 25:2)**

- **And it came about that as soon as the kingdom had become strong upon him, he promptly killed his servants who had struck down the king his father. (2 Chronicles 25:3)**
- **And their sons he did not put to death, but did according to what is written in the law, in the book of Moses, that Yehowah commanded, saying; Fathers should not die for sons, neither should sons themselves die for fathers, but it is each one for his own sin that they should die. (2 Chronicles 25:4)**
- **But after defeating the Edomites and taking their **images**, he began serving the gods of his vanquished foes.**
- **But it occurred after Amaziah came from striking down the Edomites that he now brought the gods of the sons of Seir and set them up for himself as gods, and before them he began to bow down, and to them he began to make sacrificial smoke. (2 Chronicles 25:14)**
- **Retribution came when Judah was defeated by the ten-tribe kingdom and later when Amaziah was murdered by conspirators.**
- **But Amaziah did not listen, for it was from the true God for the purpose of giving them into his hand, because they had searched for the gods of Edom. (2 Chronicles 25:20)**
- **So Jehoash the king of Israel went up, and they proceeded to look each other in the face, he and Amaziah the king of Judah, at Beth-shemesh, which belongs to Judah. (2 Chronicles 25:21)**
- **And Judah came to be defeated before Israel, so that they took to flight each one to his tent. (2 Chronicles 25:22)**
- **And it was Amaziah the king of Judah, the son of Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz, that Jehoash the king of Israel seized at Beth-shemesh, after which he brought him to Jerusalem and made a breach in the wall of Jerusalem, from the Gate of Ephraim clear to the Corner Gate, four hundred cubits. (2 Chronicles 25:23)**
- **And he took all the gold and the silver and all the articles that were to be found in the house of the true God with Obed-edom and the treasures of the king's house and the hostages, and then returned to Samaria. (2 Chronicles 25:24)**

- **And from the time that Amaziah turned aside from following Yehowah, they proceeded to form a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem. At length he fled to Lachish, but they sent after him to Lachish and put him to death there. (2 Chronicles 25:27)**
- **Although Azariah, Uzziah, and his son Jotham are reported generally to have done what was right in Yehowah's eyes, their subjects persisted in idolatry at the high places.**
- **In the twenty-seventh year of Jeroboam the king of Israel, Azariah the son of Amaziah the king of Judah became king. (2 Kings 15:1)**
- **Sixteen years old he happened to be when he began to reign, and for fifty-two years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jecoliah of Jerusalem. (2 Kings 15:2)**
- **And he continued to do what was upright in Yehowah's eyes, according to all that Amaziah his father had done. (2 Kings 15:3)**
- **It was only that the high places did not disappear. The people were still sacrificing and making sacrificial smoke on the high places. (2 Kings 15:4)**
- **In the second year of Pekah the son of Remaliah the king of Israel, Jotham the son of Uzziah the king of Judah became king. (2 Kings 15:32)**
- **Twenty-five years old he happened to be when he began to reign, and for sixteen years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jerusha the daughter of Zadok. (2 Kings 15:33)**
- **And he continued to do what was right in Yehowah's eyes. According to all that Uzziah his father had done, he did. (2 Kings 15:34)**
- **It was only that the high places did not disappear. The people were still sacrificing and making sacrificial smoke on the high places. He it was that built the upper gate of the house of Yehowah. (2 Kings 15:35)**
- **Sixteen years old was Uzziah when he began to reign, and for fifty-two years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jecoliah of Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 26:3)**

- **And he kept doing what was right in Yehowah's eyes, according to all that Amaziah his father had done. (2 Chronicles 26:4)**
- **However, as soon as he was strong, his heart became haughty even to the point of causing ruin, so that he acted unfaithfully against Yehowah his God and came into the temple of Yehowah to burn incense upon the altar of incense. (2 Chronicles 26:16)**
- **Immediately Azariah the priest and with him priests of Yehowah, eighty valiant men, came in after him. (2 Chronicles 26:17)**
- **Then they stood up against Uzziah the king and said to him; It is not your business, O Uzziah, to burn incense to Yehowah, but it is the business of the priests the sons of Aaron, the ones sanctified, to burn incense. Go out from the sanctuary, for you have acted unfaithfully, and it is not for any glory to you on the part of Yehowah God. (2 Chronicles 26:18)**
- **Twenty-five years old was Jotham when he began to reign, and for sixteen years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jerushah the daughter of Zadok. (2 Chronicles 27:1)**
- **And he kept doing what was right in Yehowah's eyes, according to all that Uzziah his father had done. Only he did not invade the temple of Yehowah. However, the people were yet acting ruinously. (2 Chronicles 27:2)**
- **During the kingship of Jotham's son Ahaz, Judah's religious state reached a new low. Ahaz began to practice idolatry on a scale never known before in Judah, he was the first-reported Judean king to have sacrificed his offspring in the fire as a false religious act.**
- **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)
- 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 Yehowah's eyes like David his forefather. (2 Chronicles 28:1)
- But he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and even molten statues he made of the Baals. (2 Chronicles 28:2)
- And he himself made sacrificial smoke in the valley of the son of Hinnom and **proceeded to burn up his sons in the fire**, according to the detestable things of the nations that Yehowah had driven out from before the sons of Israel. (2 Chronicles 28:3)
- And he regularly sacrificed and made sacrificial smoke on the high places and upon the hills and under every sort of luxuriant tree. (2 Chronicles 28:4)
- **Yehowah chastised Judah by means of defeats at the hands of their enemies. Ahaz, instead of repenting, concluded that the gods of the kings of Syria were giving them the victory and therefore decided to sacrifice to these deities so that they might also help him.**
- Consequently Yehowah his God gave him into the hand of the king of Syria, so that they struck him and carried off from him a great number of captives and brought them to Damascus. And also into the hand of the king of Israel he was given, so that he struck him with a great slaughter. (2 Chronicles 28:5)
- And he began to sacrifice to the gods of Damascus that were striking him, and he went on to say; Because the gods of the kings of Syria are helping them, to them I shall sacrifice, that they may help me. And they themselves became to him a cause for making him and all Israel stumble. (2 Chronicles 28:23)
- **Furthermore, the doors of Yehowah's temple were closed, and its utensils were cut to pieces.**
- **Furthermore, Ahaz gathered together the utensils of the house of**

- the true God and cut to pieces the utensils of the house of the true God, and closed the doors of the house of Yehowah, and made altars for himself at every corner in Jerusalem. (**2 Chronicles 28:24**)
- **While Ahaz did not benefit from Yehowah's discipline, his son Hezekiah did.**
 - **Hezekiah himself became king at the age of twenty-five years, and for twenty-nine years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Abijah the daughter of Zechariah. (**2 Chronicles 29:1**)**
 - **And he proceeded to say to them; Listen to me, you Levites. Now sanctify yourselves and sanctify the house of Yehowah the God of your forefathers, and bring the impure thing out from the holy place. (**2 Chronicles 29:5**)**
 - **For our fathers have acted unfaithfully and have done what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah our God, so that they left him and turned around their face away from the tabernacle of Yehowah and offered the back of the neck. (**2 Chronicles 29:6**)**
 - **They also closed the doors of the porch and kept the lamps extinguished, and incense they did not burn, and burnt sacrifice they did not offer up in the holy place to the God of Israel. (**2 Chronicles 29:7**)**
 - **And Yehowah's indignation came to be against Judah and Jerusalem, so that he constituted them an object at which to quake, an object of astonishment and a cause for whistling, just as you are seeing with your own eyes. (**2 Chronicles 29:8**)**
 - **And here our forefathers fell by the sword, and our sons and our daughters and our wives were in captivity for this. (**2 Chronicles 29:9**)**
 - **Now it is close to my heart to conclude a covenant with Yehowah the God of Israel, that his burning anger may turn back from us. (**2 Chronicles 29:10**)**
 - **Now, my sons, do not give yourselves up to rest, for you are the ones whom Yehowah has chosen to stand before him to minister to him and to continue as his ministers and makers of sacrificial**

smoke. (2 Chronicles 29:11)

- **In the very first year of his becoming king, Hezekiah restored the true worship of Yehowah.**
- **He himself, in the first year of his reigning, in the first month, opened the doors of the house of Yehowah and began to repair them. (2 Chronicles 29:3)**
- **His reign saw the destruction of appendages of false worship not only in Judah and Benjamin but also in Ephraim and Manasseh.**
- **And as soon as they finished all this, all the Israelites that were found there went out to the cities of Judah, and they proceeded to break up the sacred pillars and cut down the sacred poles and pull down the high places and the altars out of all Judah and Benjamin and in Ephraim and Manasseh until they had finished, after which all the sons of Israel returned to their cities, each one to his own possession. (2 Chronicles 31:1)**
- **But Hezekiah's own son Manasseh completely revived idolatry.**
- **Twelve years old was Manasseh when he began to reign, and for fifty-five years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hephzibah. (2 Kings 21:1)**
- **And he proceeded to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, according to the detestable things of the nations that Yehowah had driven out from before the sons of Israel. (2 Kings 21:2)**
- **So he built again the high places that Hezekiah his father had destroyed, and set up altars to Baal and made a sacred pole, just as Ahab the king of Israel had done, and he began to bow down to all the army of the heavens and to serve them. (2 Kings 21:3)**
- **And he built altars in the house of Yehowah, respecting which Yehowah had said; In Jerusalem I shall put my name. (2 Kings 21:4)**
- **And he went on to build altars to all the army of the heavens in two courtyards of the house of Yehowah. (2 Kings 21:5)**
- **And he made his own son pass through the fire, and he practiced magic and looked for omens and made spirit mediums and**

- professional foretellers of events. He did on a large scale what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, to offend him. (2 Kings 21:6)
- Further, he put the carved image of the sacred pole that he had made in the house of which Yehowah had said to David and to Solomon his son; In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I shall put my name to time indefinite. (2 Kings 21:7)
 - Twelve years old was Manasseh when he began to reign, and for fifty-five years he reigned in Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 33:1)
 - And he proceeded to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, according to the detestable things of the nations that Yehowah had driven out from before the sons of Israel. (2 Chronicles 33:2)
 - So he built again the high places that Hezekiah his father had pulled down, and set up altars to the Baals and made sacred poles, and he began to bow down to all the army of the heavens and serve them. (2 Chronicles 33:3)
 - And he built altars in the house of Yehowah, respecting which Yehowah had said; In Jerusalem my name will prove to be to time indefinite. (2 Chronicles 33:4)
 - And he went on to build altars to all the army of the heavens in two courtyards of the house of Yehowah. (2 Chronicles 33:5)
 - And he himself made his own sons pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom, and practiced magic and used divination and practiced sorcery and made spiritistic mediums and professional foretellers of events. He did on a grand scale what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, to offend him. (2 Chronicles 33:6)
 - Furthermore, he put the carved image that he had made in the house of the true God, respecting which God had said to David and to Solomon his son; In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I shall put my name to time indefinite. (2 Chronicles 33:7)
 - As to the reasons for this, the Bible record is silent. Manasseh, who began ruling as a 12-year-old, may have been wrongly directed

initially by counselors and princes not exclusively devoted to Yehowah's service.

- **Unlike Ahaz, though, Manasseh, as a captive in Babylon, repented upon receiving this severe discipline from Yehowah and undertook reforms upon returning to Jerusalem.**
- **And Yehowah kept speaking to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention. (2 Chronicles 33:10)**
- **Finally Yehowah brought against them the chiefs of the army that belonged to the king of Assyria, and so they captured Manasseh in the hollows and bound him with two fetters of copper and took him to Babylon. (2 Chronicles 33:11)**
- **And as soon as it caused him distress, he softened the face of Yehowah his God and kept humbling himself greatly because of the God of his forefathers. (2 Chronicles 33:12)**
- **And he kept praying to Him, so that He let himself be entreated by him and He heard his request for favor and restored him to Jerusalem to his kingship, and Manasseh came to know that Yehowah is the true God. (2 Chronicles 33:13)**
- **And after this he built an outer wall for the City of David to the west of Gihon in the torrent valley and as far as the Fish Gate, and he ran it around to Ophel and proceeded to make it very high. Further, he put chiefs of the military force in all the fortified cities in Judah. (2 Chronicles 33:14)**
- **And he proceeded to remove the foreign gods and the idol image from the house of Yehowah and all the altars that he had built in the mountain of the house of Yehowah and in Jerusalem and then had them thrown outside the city. (2 Chronicles 33:15)**
- **Moreover, he prepared the altar of Yehowah and began to sacrifice upon it communion sacrifices and thanksgiving sacrifices and went on to say to Judah to serve Yehowah the God of Israel. (2 Chronicles 33:16)**
- **His son Amon, however, reverted to sacrificing to the graven images.**
- **Twenty-two years old was Amon when he began to reign, and for**

- two years he reigned in Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 33:21)
- And he proceeded to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, just as Manasseh his father had done, and to all the graven images that Manasseh his father had made Amon sacrificed, and he continued serving them. (2 Chronicles 33:22)
 - And he did not humble himself because of Yehowah the same as Manasseh his father humbled himself, for Amon was one that made guiltiness increase. (2 Chronicles 33:23)
 - Finally his servants conspired against him and put him to death in his own house. (2 Chronicles 33:24)
 - Next came Josiah's rule and a thorough eradication of **idolatry** in Judah. The sites of **idolatrous worship** were **desecrated** there and even in the cities of Samaria.
 - The foreign-god priests and those making sacrificial smoke to Baal, as well as to the sun, the moon, the constellations of the zodiac, and all the army of the heavens, were **put out of business**.
 - And the king went on to command Hilkiah the High Priest and the priests of the second rank and the doorkeepers to bring out from the temple of Yehowah all the utensils made for Baal and for the sacred pole and for all the army of the heavens. Then he burned them outside Jerusalem on the terraces of Kidron, and he brought the dust of them to Bethel. (2 Kings 23:4)
 - And he put out of business the foreign-god priests, whom the kings of Judah had put in that they might make sacrificial smoke on the high places in the cities of Judah and the surroundings of Jerusalem, and also those making sacrificial smoke to Baal, to the sun and to the moon and to the constellations of the zodiac and to all the army of the heavens. (2 Kings 23:5)
 - Furthermore, he brought out the sacred pole from the house of Yehowah to the outskirts of Jerusalem, to the torrent valley of Kidron, and burned it in the torrent valley of Kidron and ground it to dust and cast its dust upon the burial place of the sons of the people. (2 Kings 23:6)
 - Further, he pulled down the houses of the male temple prostitutes that were in the house of Yehowah, where the

women were weaving tent shrines for the sacred pole. (2 Kings 23:7)

- Then he brought all the priests from the cities of Judah, that he might make unfit for worship the high places where the priests had made sacrificial smoke, from Geba as far as Beer-sheba, and he pulled down the high places of the gates that were at the entrance of the gate of Joshua, the chief of the city, which was at the left as a person came into the gate of the city. (2 Kings 23:8)
- Only the priests of the high places would not come up to the altar of Yehowah in Jerusalem, but they ate unfermented cakes in among their brothers. (2 Kings 23:9)
- And he made unfit for worship Topheth, which is in the valley of the sons of Hinnom, that no one might make his son or his daughter pass through the fire to Molech. (2 Kings 23:10)
- Further, he caused the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun to cease from entering the house of Yehowah by the dining room of Nathan-melech the court official, which was in the porticoes, and the chariots of the sun he burned in the fire. (2 Kings 23:11)
- And the altars that were upon the roof of the roof chamber of Ahaz that the kings of Judah had made, and the altars that Manasseh had made in two courtyards of the house of Yehowah, the king pulled down, after which he crushed them there, and he cast their dust into the torrent valley of Kidron. (2 Kings 23:12)
- And the high places that were in front of Jerusalem, that were to the right of the Mount of Ruination, that Solomon the king of Israel had built to Ashtoreth the disgusting thing of the Sidonians and to Chemosh the disgusting thing of Moab and to Milcom the detestable thing of the sons of Ammon, the king made unfit for worship. (2 Kings 23:13)
- And he broke the sacred pillars to pieces and went on to cut down the sacred poles and to fill their places with human bones. (2 Kings 23:14)
- And also the altar that was in Bethel, the high place that Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who caused Israel to sin, had made, even that altar and the high place he pulled down. Then he

burned the high place, he ground it to dust and burned the sacred pole. (2 Kings 23:15)

- When Josiah turned, he got to see the burial places that were there in the mountain. So he sent and took the bones from the burial places and burned them upon the altar, that he might make it unfit for worship, according to Yehowah's word that the man of the true God had proclaimed, who proclaimed these things. (2 Kings 23:16)
- Then he said; What is the gravestone over there that I am seeing? At this the men of the city said to him; It is the burial place of the man of the true God that came from Judah and proceeded to proclaim these things that you have done against the altar of Bethel. (2 Kings 23:17)
- So he said; Let him rest. Do not let anyone disturb his bones. Consequently they let his bones alone along with the bones of the prophet that had come from Samaria. (2 Kings 23:18)
- And also all the houses of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria that the kings of Israel had built to cause offense Josiah removed, and he went on to do to them according to all the doings that he had done at Bethel. (2 Kings 23:19)
- Accordingly he sacrificed all the priests of the high places that were there upon the altars and burned human bones upon them. After that he returned to Jerusalem. (2 Kings 23:20)
- The king now commanded all the people, saying; Hold a Passover to Yehowah your God according to what is written in this book of the covenant. (2 Kings 23:21)
- For no Passover like this had been held from the days of the judges that had judged Israel, nor all the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah. (2 Kings 23:22)
- But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah this Passover was held to Yehowah in Jerusalem. (2 Kings 23:23)
- And also the spirit mediums and the professional foretellers of events and the teraphim and the dungy idols and all the disgusting things that had appeared in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem Josiah cleared out, in order, that he might actually

carry out the words of the Law that were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest had found at the house of Yehowah. (2 Kings 23:24)

- And like him there did not prove to be a king prior to him who returned to Yehowah with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his vital force, according to all the Law of Moses, neither after him has there risen up one like him. (2 Kings 23:25)
- Nevertheless, Yehowah did not turn back from the great burning of his anger, with which his anger burned against Judah over all the offensive things with which Manasseh had made them offend. (2 Kings 23:26)
- But Yehowah said; Judah, too, I shall remove from my sight, just as I have removed Israel, and I shall certainly reject this city that I have chosen, even Jerusalem, and the house of which I have said; My name will continue there. (2 Kings 23:27)
- Eight years old was Josiah when he began to reign, and for thirty-one years he reigned in Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 34:1)
- And he proceeded to do what was right in Yehowah's eyes and walk in the ways of David his forefather, and he did not turn aside to the right or to the left. (2 Chronicles 34:2)
- And in the eighth year of his reigning, while he was still a boy, he started to search for the God of David his forefather, and in the twelfth year he started to cleanse Judah and Jerusalem from the high places and the sacred poles and the graven images and the molten statues. (2 Chronicles 34:3)
- Further, they pulled down before him the altars of the Baals, and the incense stands that were up above he cut down from off them, and the sacred poles and the graven images and the molten statues he broke in pieces and reduced to powder, and then sprinkled it upon the surface of the burial places of those that used to sacrifice to them. (2 Chronicles 34:4)
- And the bones of priests he burned upon their altars. Thus he cleansed Judah and Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 34:5)

- **Still this large-scale campaign against idolatry did not effect permanent reform. The last four Judean kings, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah, persisted in idolatry.**
- **Twenty-three years old was Jehoahaz when he began to reign, and for three months he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah from Libnah. (2 Kings 23:31)**
- **And he began to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, according to all that forefathers of his had done. (2 Kings 23:32)**
- **Twenty-five years old was Jehoiakim when he began to reign, and for eleven years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Zebidah the daughter of Pedaiah from Rumah. (2 Kings 23:36)**
- **And he continued to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, according to all that forefathers of his had done. (2 Kings 23:37)**
- **Eighteen years old was Jehoiachin when he began to reign, and for three months he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Nehushta the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. (2 Kings 24:8)**
- **And he continued to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, according to all that his father had done. (2 Kings 24:9)**
- **Twenty-one years old was Zedekiah when he began to reign, and for eleven years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah from Libnah. (2 Kings 24:18)**
- **And he continued to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, according to all that Jehoiakim had done. (2 Kings 24:19)**

See Also ASTROLOGERS

See Also HIGH PLACES

See Also ZODIAC

- **The references to **idolatry** in the writings of the prophets further cast light on what occurred during the last years of the kingdom of Judah. **Sites of idolatry, ceremonial prostitution, and child sacrifice continued to exist.****

- **And Yehowah proceeded to say to me in the days of Josiah the king; Have you seen what unfaithful Israel has done? She is going upon every high mountain and underneath every luxuriant tree, that she may commit prostitution there. (Jeremiah 3:6)**
- **The sin of Judah is written down with an iron stylus. With a diamond point it is engraved on the tablet of their heart, and on the horns of their altars. (Jeremiah 17:1)**
- **When their sons remember their altars and their sacred poles beside a luxuriant tree, upon the high hills. (Jeremiah 17:2)**
- **On the mountains in the field. Your resources, all your treasures, I shall give for mere plunder, your high places because of sin throughout all your territories. (Jeremiah 17:3)**
- **And you must go out to the valley of the son of Hinnom, which is at the entrance of the Gate of the Potsherds. And there you must proclaim the words that I shall speak to you. (Jeremiah 19:2)**
- **And you must say; Hear the word of Yehowah, O you kings of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem. This is what Yehowah of armies, the God of Israel, has said; Here I am bringing a calamity upon this place, of which when anyone hears, his ears will tingle. (Jeremiah 19:3)**
- **For the reason that they have left me and have proceeded to make this place unrecognizable and to make sacrificial smoke in it to other gods whom they had not known, they and their forefathers and the kings of Judah, and they have filled this place with the blood of the innocent ones. (Jeremiah 19:4)**
- **And they built the high places of the Baal in order to burn their sons in the fire as whole burnt offerings to the Baal, something that I had not commanded or spoken of, and that had not come up into my heart. (Jeremiah 19:5)**
- **And the Chaldeans who are fighting against this city must come in and set this city aflame with fire and must burn it down and the houses upon the roofs of which they have made sacrificial smoke to Baal and have poured out drink offerings to other gods for the purpose of offending me. (Jeremiah 32:29)**

- Furthermore, they built the high places of Baal that are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, in order to make their sons and their daughters pass through the fire to Molech, a thing that I did not command them, neither did it come up into my heart to do this detestable thing, for the purpose of making Judah sin. (**Jeremiah 32:35**)
- And you must say; O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah; This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said to the mountains and to the hills, to the streambeds and to the valleys; Here I am! I am bringing upon you a sword, and I shall certainly destroy your high places. (**Ezekiel 6:3**)
- And your altars must be made desolate and your incense stands must be broken, and I will cause your slain ones to fall before your dungy idols. (**Ezekiel 6:4**)
- Even Levites were guilty of practicing idolatry.
- But as for the Levites who got far away from me when Israel, who wandered away from me, wandered after their dungy idols, they must also bear their error. (**Ezekiel 44:10**)
- For the reason that they kept ministering to them before their dungy idols and became to the house of Israel a stumbling block into error, that is why I have raised my hand against them, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah, and they must bear their error. (**Ezekiel 44:12**)
- And they will not approach to me to act as priest to me or to approach to any holy things of mine, to the most holy things, and they must bear their humiliation and their detestable things that they did. (**Ezekiel 44:13**)
- Ezekiel, transported in vision to Jerusalem's temple, there saw a detestable **idol**, **the symbol of jealousy**, and the veneration of representations of creeping things and loathsome beasts, as well as the according of reverence to the false god Tammuz and the sun.
- Then he thrust out the representation of a hand and took me by a tuft of hair of my head, and a spirit carried me between the earth and the heavens and brought me to Jerusalem in the visions of God, to the entrance of the inner gate that is facing northward,

where the dwelling place is of the symbol of jealousy that is inciting to jealousy. (**Ezekiel 8:3**)

- Accordingly he brought me to the entrance of the courtyard, and I began to see, and, look! A certain hole in the wall. (**Ezekiel 8:7**)
- He now said to me; Son of man, bore, please, through the wall. And I gradually bored through the wall, and, look! There was a certain entrance. (**Ezekiel 8:8**)
- And he further said to me; Go in and see the bad detestable things that they are doing here. (**Ezekiel 8:9**)
- 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 seventy men of the elderly ones of the house of Israel, with Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan standing in among them, were standing before them, each one with his censer in his hand, and the perfume of the cloud of the incense was ascending. (**Ezekiel 8:11**)
- And he proceeded to say to me; Have you seen, O son of man, what the elderly ones of the house of Israel are doing in the darkness, each one in the inner rooms of his showpiece? For they are saying; Yehowah is not seeing us. Yehowah has left the land. (**Ezekiel 8:12**)
- And he continued on to say to me; You will yet see again great detestable things that they are doing. (**Ezekiel 8:13**)
- So he brought me to the entrance of the gate of the house of Yehowah, which is toward the north, and, look! There the women were sitting, weeping over the god Tammuz. (**Ezekiel 8:14**)
- And he further said to me; Have you seen this, O son of man? You will yet see again great detestable things worse than these. (**Ezekiel 8:15**)
- So he brought me to the inner courtyard of the house of Yehowah, and, look! At the entrance of the temple of Yehowah,

between the porch and the altar, there were about twenty-five men with their backs to the temple of Yehowah and their faces to the east, and they were bowing down to the east, to the sun. (Ezekiel 8:16)

- Despite the fact that the Israelites adored idols to the point of sacrificing their own children, they carried on a semblance of worshipping Yehowah and reasoned that no calamity would befall them.
- Do not put your trust in fallacious words, saying; The temple of Yehowah, the temple of Yehowah, the temple of Yehowah they are! (Jeremiah 7:4)
- Here you are putting your trust in fallacious words, it will certainly be of no benefit at all. (Jeremiah 7:8)
- Can there be stealing, murdering and committing adultery and swearing falsely and making sacrificial smoke to Baal and walking after other gods whom you had not known. (Jeremiah 7:9)
- And must you come and stand before me in this house upon which my name has been called, and must you say; We shall certainly be delivered, in the face of doing all these detestable things? (Jeremiah 7:10)
- Has this house upon which my name has been called become a mere cave of robbers in your eyes? Here I myself also have seen it, is the utterance of Yehowah. (Jeremiah 7:11)
- However, go, now, to my place that was in Shiloh, where I caused my name to reside at first, and see what I did to it because of the badness of my people Israel. (Jeremiah 7:12)
- And Yehowah went on to say to me; Son of man, will you judge Oholah and Oholibah and tell them their detestable things? (Ezekiel 23:36)
- For they have committed adultery and there is blood on their hands, and with their dungy idols they have committed adultery. And, besides that, their sons whom they had borne to me they made pass through the fire to them as food. (Ezekiel 23:37)
- What is more, this is what they have done to me. They have

defiled my sanctuary in that day, and my Sabbaths they have profaned. ([Ezekiel 23:38](#))

- And when they had slaughtered their sons to their dungy idols they even proceeded to come into my sanctuary on that day to profane it, and, look! That is what they have done in the midst of my house. ([Ezekiel 23:39](#))
- So empty-headed had the people in general become by reason of their pursuit of idolatry that when calamity did come and Jerusalem was desolated by the Babylonians in **607 B.C.E**, in fulfillment of Yehowah's word, they attributed it to their failure to make sacrificial smoke and drink offerings to the queen of the heavens.
- And all the men who were knowing that their wives had been making sacrificial smoke to other gods, and all the wives who were standing as a great congregation, and all the people who were dwelling in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, proceeded to answer Jeremiah, saying; ([Jeremiah 44:15](#))
- As regards the word that you have spoken to us in the name of Yehowah, we are not listening to you. ([Jeremiah 44:16](#))
- But we shall positively do every word that has gone forth from our mouth, in order to make sacrificial smoke to the queen of the heavens and to pour out to her drink offerings, just as we ourselves and our forefathers, our kings and our princes did in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, when we used to be satisfied with bread and to be well off, and we did not see any calamity at all. ([Jeremiah 44:17](#))
- And from the time that we ceased to make sacrificial smoke to the queen of the heavens and pour out drink offerings to her we have lacked everything, and by the sword and by the famine we have come to our finish. ([Jeremiah 44:18](#))

See Also QUEEN OF THE HEAVENS

.. **Why Israel Turned To Idolatry**

- There were a number of factors that caused so many Israelites repeatedly to abandon true worship. Being one of the works of the flesh, **idolatry appealed to the desires of the flesh.**

- Now the works of the flesh are manifest, and they are fornication, uncleanness, loose conduct. (**Galatians 5:19**)
- **Idolatry**, practice of spiritism, enmities, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, contentions, divisions, sects. (**Galatians 5:20**)
- Envy, drunken bouts, revelries, and things like these. As to these things I am forewarning you, the same way as I did forewarn you, that those who practice such things will not inherit God's kingdom. (**Galatians 5:21**)
- **Once settled in the Promised Land, the Israelites may have observed their pagan neighbors, whom they had failed to drive out entirely, having good success with their crops by reason of longer experience in working the land.**
- **Likely many made inquiry and heeded the advice of their Canaanite neighbors as to what was needed to please the Baal, or owner, of each piece of land.**
- **They did not annihilate the peoples, as Yehowah had said to them. (**Psalms 106:34**)**
- **And they went mingling with the nations and took up learning their works. (**Psalms 106:35**)**
- **And they kept serving their idols, and these came to be a snare to them. (**Psalms 106:36**)**
- **And they would sacrifice their sons and their daughters to demons. (**Psalms 106:37**)**
- **So they kept spilling innocent blood, the blood of their sons and their daughters, whom they sacrificed to the **idols** of Canaan, and the land came to be polluted with bloodshed. (**Psalms 106:38**)**
- **And they got to be unclean by their works and kept having immoral intercourse by their dealings. (**Psalms 106:39**)**
- **Forming marriage alliances with **idolaters** was another inducement to apostatize.**
- **And the sons of Israel dwelt in among the Canaanites, the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and**

the Jebusites. (**Judges 3:5**)

- And they proceeded to take their daughters as wives for themselves, and their own daughters they gave to their sons, and they took up serving their gods. (**Judges 3:6**)
- The unrestrained sexual indulgence associated with **idolatry** proved to be no little temptation. At Shittim on the Plains of Moab, for instance, thousands of Israelites yielded to **immorality** and engaged in false worship.
- Then the sons of Israel pulled away and encamped on the desert plains of Moab across the Jordan from Jericho. (**Numbers 22:1**)
- Now Israel was dwelling in Shittim. Then the people started to have immoral relations with the daughters of Moab. (**Numbers 25:1**)
- And the women came calling the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people began to eat and to bow down to their gods. (**Numbers 25:2**)
- So Israel attached itself to the Baal of Peor, and the anger of Yehowah began to blaze against Israel. (**Numbers 25:3**)
- To some, being able to give way to unrestrained drinking at the sanctuaries of false gods may have been tempting.
- And on garments seized as a pledge they stretch themselves out beside every altar, and the wine of those who have been fined they drink at the house of their gods. (**Amos 2:8**)
- Then there was the attraction of supposedly learning what the future had in store, this stemming from a desire to be assured that all would go well. Examples of this are Saul's consulting a spirit medium and Ahaziah's sending to inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron.
- Although Saul would inquire of Yehowah, Yehowah never answered him, either by dreams or by the Urim or by the prophets. (**1 Samuel 28:6**)
- Finally Saul said to his servants; Seek for me a woman who is a mistress of spirit mediumship, and I will go to her and consult her. Then his servants said to him; Look! There is a woman who

- is a mistress of spirit mediumship in En-dor. (1 Samuel 28:7)
- So Saul disguised himself and clothed himself with other garments and went, he and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night. He now said; Employ divination, please, for me by spirit mediumship and bring up for me the one whom I shall designate to you. (1 Samuel 28:8)
 - However, the woman said to him; Here you yourself well know what Saul did, how he cut off the spirit mediums and the professional foretellers of events from the land. Why, then, are you acting like a trapper against my soul to have me put to death? (1 Samuel 28:9)
 - Immediately Saul swore to her by Yehowah, saying; As Yehowah is alive, guilt for error will not befall you in this matter! (1 Samuel 28:10)
 - At this the woman said; Whom shall I bring up for you? To this he said; Bring up Samuel for me. (1 Samuel 28:11)
 - Then Ahaziah fell down through the grating in his roof chamber that was in Samaria and got sick. So he sent messengers and said to them; Go, inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron whether I shall revive from this sickness. (2 Kings 1:2)
 - As for the angel of Yehowah, he spoke to Elijah the Tishbite; Rise up, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria and say to them; Is it because there is no God at all in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron? (2 Kings 1:3)

•• The Folly Of Idol Worship

- Time and again the Scriptures call attention to the foolishness of relying on gods of wood, stone, or metal. Isaiah describes the manufacture of **idols** and shows the stupidity of a person who uses part of the wood of a tree to cook his food and to warm himself and then makes the remainder into a god to whom he looks for aid.
- The formers of the **carved image** are all of them an unreality, and their darlings themselves will be of no benefit, and as their witnesses they see nothing and know nothing, in order, that they may be ashamed. (Isaiah 44:9)

- Who has **formed a god or cast a mere molten image?** Of no benefit at all has it been. (**Isaiah 44:10**)
- Look! All his partners themselves will be ashamed, and the craftsmen are from earthling men. They will all of them collect themselves together. They will stand still. They will be in dread. They will be ashamed at the same time. (**Isaiah 44:11**)
- As for the carver of iron with the billhook, he has been busy at it with the coals, and with the hammers he proceeds to form it, and he keeps busy at it with his powerful arm. Also, he has become hungry, and so without power. He has not drunk water, so he gets tired. (**Isaiah 44:12**)
- As for the wood carver, he has stretched out the measuring line, he traces it out with red chalk, he works it up with a wood scraper, and with a compass he keeps tracing it out, and gradually he makes it like the representation of a man, like the beauty of mankind, to sit in a house. (**Isaiah 44:13**)
- There is one whose business is to cut down cedars, and he takes a certain species of tree, even a massive tree, and he lets it become strong for himself among the trees of the forest. He planted the laurel tree, and the pouring rain itself keeps making it get big. (**Isaiah 44:14**)
- And it has become something for man to keep a fire burning. So he takes part of it that he may warm himself. In fact he builds a fire and actually bakes bread. He also works on a god to which he may bow down. He has made it into a carved image, and he prostrates himself to it. (**Isaiah 44:15**)
- Half of it he actually burns up in a fire. Upon half of it he roasts well the flesh that he eats, and he becomes satisfied. He also warms himself and says; Aha! I have warmed myself. I have seen the firelight. (**Isaiah 44:16**)
- But the remainder of it he actually makes into a god itself, into his carved image. He prostrates himself to it and bows down and prays to it and says; Deliver me, for you are my god. (**Isaiah 44:17**)
- They have not come to know, nor do they understand, because

- their eyes have been besmeared so as not to see, their heart so as to have no insight. (**Isaiah 44:18**)
- **And no one recalls to his heart or has knowledge or understanding, saying; The half of it I have burned up in a fire, and upon its coals I have also baked bread. I roast flesh and eat. But the rest of it shall I make into a mere detestable thing? To the dried-out wood of a tree shall I prostrate myself? (**Isaiah 44:19**)**
 - **He is feeding on ashes. His own heart that has been trifled with has led him astray. And he does not deliver his soul, nor does he say; Is there not a falsehood in my right hand? (**Isaiah 44:20**)**
 - **In the day of Yehowah's fury, wrote Isaiah, false worshipers would throw their **worthless idols** to the shrewmice and to the bats.**
 - **And people will enter into the caves of the rocks and into the holes of the dust because of the dreadfulness of Yehowah and from his splendid superiority, when he rises up for the earth to suffer shocks. (**Isaiah 2:19**)**
 - **In that day the earthling man will throw his **worthless gods** of silver and his **valueless gods** of gold that they had made for him to bow before to the shrewmice and to the bats. (**Isaiah 2:20**)**
 - **In order to enter into the holes in the rocks and into the clefts of the crags, because of the dreadfulness of Yehowah and from his splendid superiority, when he rises up for the earth to suffer shocks. (**Isaiah 2:21**)**
 - **Woe to the one saying to the piece of wood; O do awake! To a dumb stone; O wake up!**
 - **Woe to the one saying to the piece of wood; O do awake! to a dumb stone; O wake up! It itself will give instruction! Look! It is sheathed in gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in the midst of it. (**Habakkuk 2:19**)**
 - **Those making dumb idols will become just like them, that is, lifeless.**
 - **Their **idols** are silver and gold, the work of the hands of earthling man. (**Psalms 115:4**)**

- A mouth they have, but they cannot speak, eyes they have, but they cannot see. (**Psalms 115:5**)
- Ears they have, but they cannot hear. A nose they have, but they cannot smell. (**Psalms 115:6**)
- Hands are theirs, but they cannot feel. Feet are theirs, but they cannot walk, they utter no sound with their throat. (**Psalms 115:7**)
- Those making them will become just like them, **lifeless**, all those who are trusting in them. (**Psalms 115:8**)
- The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of the hands of earthling man. (**Psalms 135:15**)
- A mouth they have, but they can speak nothing, eyes they have, but they can see nothing. (**Psalms 135:16**)
- Ears they have, but they can give ear to nothing. Also there exists no spirit in their mouth. (**Psalms 135:17**)
- Those making them will become just like them, everyone who is trusting in them. (**Psalms 135:18**)
- But the rest of the men who were not killed by these plagues did not repent of the works of their hands, so that they should not worship the demons and the idols of gold and silver and copper and stone and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. (**Revelation 9:20**)

•• **Viewpoint Toward Idolatry**

- Faithful servants of Yehowah have always regarded **idols** with abhorrence. In Scripture, false gods and **idols** are repeatedly referred to in contemptible terms, as being **valueless**.
- For all the gods of the peoples are **valueless** gods. As for Yehowah, he made the heavens. (**1 Chronicles 16:26**)
- For all the gods of the peoples are **valueless** gods, but as for Yehowah, he has made the very heavens. (**Psalms 96:5**)

- Let all those serving any carved image be ashamed, those who are making their boast in **valueless** gods. Bow down to him, all you gods. (**Psalms 97:7**)
- **Horrible**
- As for even Maacah his grandmother, he went on to remove her from being lady, because she had made a **horrible** idol to the sacred pole, after which Asa cut down her **horrible idol** and burned it at the torrent valley of Kidron. (**1 Kings 15:13**)
- As for even Maacah his grandmother, Asa the king himself removed her from being lady, because she had made a **horrible** idol for the sacred pole, and then Asa cut down her **horrible idol** and pulverized it and burned it in the torrent valley of Kidron. (**2 Chronicles 15:16**)
- **Shameful**
- For your gods have become as many as your cities, O Judah, and as many altars as the streets of Jerusalem you people have placed for the **shameful thing**, altars to make sacrificial smoke to Baal. (**Jeremiah 11:13**)
- Like grapes in the wilderness I found Israel. Like the early fig on a fig tree in its beginning I saw the forefathers of you people. They themselves went in to Baal of Peor, and they proceeded to dedicate themselves to the **shameful thing**, and they came to be disgusting like the thing of their love. (**Hosea 9:10**)
- **Detestable**
- This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; For the reason that your lustfulness has been poured out and your private parts are uncovered in your acts of prostitution toward those passionately loving you and toward all your **detestable dungy idols**, even with the blood of your sons whom you gave to them. (**Ezekiel 16:36**)
- Therefore here I am collecting together all those passionately loving you toward whom you were pleasurable and all those whom you loved along with all those whom you hated, and I will collect them together against you from all around and uncover your private parts to them, and they must see all your private

parts. (Ezekiel 16:37)

- **Disgusting**
- And they will no longer defile themselves with their dungy idols and with their **disgusting things** and with all their transgressions, and I shall certainly save them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and I will cleanse them, and they must become my people, and I myself shall become their God. (Ezekiel 37:23)
- Often mention is made of **dungy idols**, this expression being a rendering of the Hebrew word *gil-lu-lim'*, which is related to a word meaning **dung**.
- For that reason here I am bringing calamity upon the house of Jeroboam, and I shall certainly cut off from Jeroboam anyone urinating against a wall, a helpless and worthless one in Israel, and I shall indeed make a clean sweep behind the house of Jeroboam, just as one clears away the **dung** until it is disposed of. (1 Kings 14:10)
- And I will cause distress to mankind, and they will certainly walk like blind men, because it is against Yehowah that they have sinned. And their blood will actually be poured out like dust, and their bowels like the dung. (Zephaniah 1:17)
- This term of contempt, first appearing at;
- And I shall certainly annihilate your sacred high places and cut off your incense stands and lay your own carcasses upon the carcasses of your **dungy idols**, and my soul will simply abhor you. (Leviticus 26:30)
- Is found nearly **40 times in the book of Ezekiel** alone, beginning with.
- And I will put the carcasses of the sons of Israel before their **dungy idols**, and I will scatter your bones all around your altars. (Ezekiel 6:5)
- Faithful Job recognized that even if his heart became enticed in secrecy at beholding heavenly bodies such as the moon and his hand proceeded to kiss his mouth, apparently alluding to throwing a kiss

with the hand in an **idolatrous** practice, this would have constituted a denial of God, hence **idolatry**.

- If I used to see the light when it would flash forth, or the precious moon walking along. (**Job 31:26**)
- And my heart began to be enticed in secrecy and my hand proceeded to kiss my mouth. (**Job 31:27**)
- That too would be an error for attention by the justices, for I should have denied the true God above. (**Job 31:28**)
- 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**)
- 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**)
- With reference to a practicer of righteousness, Yehowah said through the prophet Ezekiel, His eyes he did not raise to the **dungy idols** of the house of Israel, that is, to offer supplication to them or in expectation of help from them.
- And as regards a man, in case he happens to be righteous and he has executed justice and righteousness. (**Ezekiel 18:5**)
- On the mountains he did not eat and his eyes he did not raise to the **dungy idols** of the house of Israel, and his companion's wife he did not defile and to a woman in her impurity he would not go near. (**Ezekiel 18:6**)
- Another fine example of shunning **idolatry** was that of the three Hebrews, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who, although threatened with death in the fiery furnace, refused to bow before the image of gold erected by King Nebuchadnezzar in the Plain of Dura. (**Daniel Chapter 3**)
- The early Christians heeded the inspired counsel;
- Therefore, my beloved ones, **flee from idolatry!** (**1 Corinthians**

10:14)

- **And image makers viewed Christianity as a threat to their profitable business.**
- **At that particular time there arose no little disturbance concerning The Way. (Acts of Apostles 19:23)**
- **For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, by making silver shrines of Artemis furnished the craftsmen no little gain. (Acts of Apostles 19:24)**
- **And he gathered them and those who worked at such things and said; Men, you well know that from this business we have our prosperity. (Acts of Apostles 19:25)**
- **Also, you behold and hear how not only in Ephesus but in nearly all the district of Asia this Paul has persuaded a considerable crowd and turned them to another opinion, saying that the ones that are made by hands are not gods. (Acts of Apostles 19:26)**
- **Moreover, the danger exists not only that this occupation of ours will come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be esteemed as nothing and even her magnificence which the whole district of Asia and the inhabited earth worships is about to be brought down to nothing. (Acts of Apostles 19:27)**
- **As testified to by secular historians, remaining free from **idolatry** often placed Christians living in the Roman Empire in a position similar to that of the three Hebrews.**
- **Acknowledging the divine character of the emperor as head of the state by offering a pinch of incense could have spared such Christians from death, but few compromised. Those early Christians fully appreciated that once they turned away from **idols** to serve the true God**
- **For they themselves keep reporting about the way we first entered in among you and how you turned to God from your idols to slave for a living and true God. (1 Thessalonians 1:9)**
- **A return to **idolatry** would mean their being debarred from the New Jerusalem and their losing out on the prize of life.**

- **But as for the cowards and those without faith and those who are disgusting in their filth and murderers and fornicators and those practicing spiritism and idolaters and all the liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur. This means the second death. (Revelation 21:8)**
- **Happy are those who wash their robes, that the authority to go to the trees of life may be theirs and that they may gain entrance into the city by its gates. (Revelation 22:14)**
- **Outside are the dogs and those who practice spiritism and the fornicators and the murderers and the idolaters and everyone liking and carrying on a lie. (Revelation 22:15)**
- **Servants of Yehowah must guard themselves from idols.**
- **Little children, guard yourselves from idols. (1 John 5:21)**
- **Even today. It was foretold that great pressures would be brought to bear against all the inhabitants of the earth to worship the symbolic, wild beast, and its **image**.**
- **None who persist in such idolatrous worship will receive God's gift of life everlasting. Here is where it means endurance for the holy ones.**
- **And there was granted it to give breath to the image of the wild beast, so that the image of the wild beast should both speak and cause to be killed all those who would not in any way worship the **image** of the wild beast. (Revelation 13:15)**
- **And it puts under compulsion all persons, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the slaves, that they should give these a mark in their right hand or upon their forehead. (Revelation 13:16)**
- **And that nobody might be able to buy or sell except a person having the mark, the name of the wild beast or the number of its name. (Revelation 13:17)**
- **And another angel, a third, followed them, saying in a loud voice; If anyone worships the wild beast and its **image**, and receives a mark on his forehead or upon his hand. (Revelation 14:9)**

- **He will also drink of the wine of the anger of God that is poured out undiluted into the cup of his wrath, and he shall be tormented with fire and sulphur in the sight of the holy angels and in the sight of the Lamb. (Revelation 14:10)**
- **And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever, and day and night they have no rest, those who worship the wild beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name. (Revelation 14:11)**
- **Here is where it means endurance for the holy ones, those who observe the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. (Revelation 14:12)**

See Also DISGUSTING THING, LOATHSOME THING