

No Idol Worship Part 1

God created us in order to worship Him, to serve him and to do His will. But when man turn aside from God and start to give importance to other things and start to serve them, adore them, and live and bound with their requirements then that is idol worship. When you love things and occupy you more than God then they are your idols. Idol worship the meaning of it is that you start to worship idols and follow and serve demons and the devil.

The Bible speaks about lot of kinds of idols that we need to move away from them and go back to God to worship Him and serve Him.

When God brought out His people, the Israelites from Egypt into the wilderness He gave them His law at Mount Sinai and warned them against idol worship. *“1 And God spake all these words, saying, 2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.”* (Exodus 20:1-6 KJV) God here clearly told them that they should not have other gods before Him, and that was why He prohibited them to make for themselves any graven image or any likeness of anything whether in Heaven above or that is in the earth and in the water. So in such He included all images or idols of men, women, animals, plants, birds, fishes, angels, saints, even any image of anything that come in your mind. God told them very clearly and to us today, to worship Him we need to do it without having any images or statues of anything. Even Jesus that we worship because He is God the Creator we should not make images of Him, that we consider them holy that we adorn and worship. God is Spirit and we need to worship Him in spirit and in truth as Jesus declared and not having images or idols, *“23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”* (John 4:23-24 KJV)

Moses further warned the Israelites against idol worship when he reminded them that they saw no figure of anything when God spoke to them in Mount Sinai, therefore they should not corrupt themselves by making for themselves any graven image or a figure of anything, in the likeness of male or female, beast, bird, creeping things, fish, the sun, the moon, the stars, angels or demons, and worship them, *“15 Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day that the LORD spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire: 16 Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female, 17 The likeness of any beast that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged fowl that flieth in the air, 18 The likeness of any thing that creepeth on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the waters beneath the earth: 19 And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and*

serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.” (Deuteronomy 4:15-19 KJV) Idol worship is corruption before God.

Why God warned the Israelites against idol worship? Because the Israelites when they were in Egypt were worshipping idols, that they had learned from the Egyptians, and that was why when God took them out of Egypt, He warned them to come out from idol worship and gave them His Word and statutes to live by His decrees, *“5 And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day when I chose Israel, and lifted up mine hand unto the seed of the house of Jacob, and made myself known unto them in the land of Egypt, when I lifted up mine hand unto them, saying, I am the LORD your God; 6 In the day that I lifted up mine hand unto them, to bring them forth of the land of Egypt into a land that I had espied for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands: 7 Then said I unto them, Cast ye away every man the abominations of his eyes, and defile not yourselves with the idols of Egypt: I am the LORD your God. 8 But they rebelled against me, and would not hearken unto me: they did not every man cast away the abominations of their eyes, neither did they forsake the idols of Egypt: then I said, I will pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt. 9 But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, among whom they were, in whose sight I made myself known unto them, in bringing them forth out of the land of Egypt. 10 Wherefore I caused them to go forth out of the land of Egypt, and brought them into the wilderness. 11 And I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them. 12 Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them.”* (Ezekiel 20:5-12 KJV) Therefore God warned the Israelites to destroy all the idols of those nations that he would drive from before them so that God's blessing shall be there and His power would be directed against their enemies to protect His people from them, *“24 Thou shalt not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do after their works: but thou shalt utterly overthrow them, and quite break down their images. 25 And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. 26 There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil. 27 I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee. 28 And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee.”* (Exodus 23:24-28 KJV) *“4 Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am the LORD your God.”* (Leviticus 19:4 KJV) *“1 Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God.”* (Leviticus 26:1 KJV) And God warned them that He will destroy them and these idols and destroy their cities if they will make idols for them and worship them, *“30 And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your images, and cast your carcasses upon the carcasses of your idols, and my soul shall abhor you. 31 And I will make your cities waste, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation, and I will not smell the savour of your sweet odours. 32 And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it. 33 And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.”* (Leviticus 26:30-33 KJV) For God warned them about those idols as abominations that He hates much and wanted them to go away from such and that was why He warned them beforehand, *“16 (For ye know how we have dwelt in the land of Egypt; and how we came*

through the nations which ye passed by; 17 And ye have seen their abominations, and their idols, wood and stone, silver and gold, which were among them;) 18 Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood;” (Deuteronomy 29:16-18 KJV)

Not only from Egypt but even before that, the roots of that idol worship was from the idols that Rachel brought out from the house of her father as we can read in this Scriptures, *“30 And now, though thou wouldest needs be gone, because thou sore longedst after thy father's house, yet wherefore hast thou stolen my gods? 31 And Jacob answered and said to Laban, Because I was afraid: for I said, Peradventure thou wouldest take by force thy daughters from me. 32 With whomsoever thou findest thy gods, let him not live: before our brethren discern thou what is thine with me, and take it to thee. For Jacob knew not that Rachel had stolen them. 33 And Laban went into Jacob's tent, and into Leah's tent, and into the two maidservants' tents; but he found them not. Then went he out of Leah's tent, and entered into Rachel's tent. 34 Now Rachel had taken the images, and put them in the camel's furniture, and sat upon them. And Laban searched all the tent, but found them not. 35 And she said to her father, Let it not displease my lord that I cannot rise up before thee; for the custom of women is upon me. And he searched but found not the images.” (Genesis 31:30-35 KJV)* Rachel was one of the instruments that idols brought into the family of Jacob. Another evidence of idols in the family of Jacob is what we read when Jacob was forced to leave Shechem and went back to Bethel, *“1 And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother. 2 Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments: 3 And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went. 4 And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem. 5 And they journeyed: and the terror of God was upon the cities that were round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob. 6 So Jacob came to Luz, which is in the land of Canaan, that is, Bethel, he and all the people that were with him.” (Genesis 35:1-6 KJV)*

Not only through Moses God had prohibited the Israelites not to worship idols but even Joshua challenged them not to go back and worship idols, *“23 Now therefore put away, said he, the strange gods which are among you, and incline your heart unto the LORD God of Israel. 24 And the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey. 25 So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and set them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem.” (Joshua 24:23-25 KJV)* Even during the time of Judges God was sending them judges to push them out from idol worship, *“8 And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being an hundred and ten years old. 9 And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnathheres, in the mount of Ephraim, on the north side of the hill Gaash. 10 And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. 11 And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim: 12 And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people*

that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger. 13 And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth. 14 And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies. 15 Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed. 16 Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them. 17 And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; but they did not so. 18 And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them. 19 And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way. 20 And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and he said, Because that this people hath transgressed my covenant which I commanded their fathers, and have not hearkened unto my voice; 21 I also will not henceforth drive out any from before them of the nations which Joshua left when he died: 22 That through them I may prove Israel, whether they will keep the way of the LORD to walk therein, as their fathers did keep it, or not. 23 Therefore the LORD left those nations, without driving them out hastily; neither delivered he them into the hand of Joshua.” (Judges 2:8-23 KJV)

The Israelites and the people of God along their journey with God, even unto this day were liable and easily deviated to go back to idol worship because of their worldliness, their love for material things and their evil intent, that we can read in various Scriptures, *“19 The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains. 20 He that is so impoverished that he hath no oblation chooseth a tree that will not rot; he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, that shall not be moved.” (Isaiah 40:19-20 KJV)* **Idols they are useless because they are the works of man.** *“9 They that make a graven image are all of them vanity; and their delectable things shall not profit; and they are their own witnesses; they see not, nor know; that they may be ashamed. 10 Who hath formed a god, or molten a graven image that is profitable for nothing? 11 Behold, all his fellows shall be ashamed: and the workmen, they are of men: let them all be gathered together, let them stand up; yet they shall fear, and they shall be ashamed together. 12 The smith with the tongs both worketh in the coals, and fashioneth it with hammers, and worketh it with the strength of his arms: yea, he is hungry, and his strength faileth: he drinketh no water, and is faint. 13 The carpenter stretcheth out his rule; he marketh it out with a line; he fitteth it with planes, and he marketh it out with the compass, and maketh it after the figure of a man, according to the beauty of a man; that it may remain in the house. 14 He heweth him down cedars, and taketh the cypress and the oak, which he strengtheneth for himself among the trees of the forest: he planteth an ash, and the rain doth nourish it. 15 Then shall it be for a man to burn: for he will take thereof, and warm himself; yea, he kindleth it, and baketh bread; yea, he maketh a god, and worshippeth it; he maketh it a graven image, and falleth down thereto. 16 He burneth part thereof in the fire; with part thereof he eateth flesh; he roasteth roast, and is satisfied: yea,*

he warmeth himself, and saith, Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire: 17 And the residue thereof he maketh a god, even his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou art my god. 18 They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand. 19 And none considereth in his heart, neither is there knowledge nor understanding to say, I have burned part of it in the fire; yea, also I have baked bread upon the coals thereof; I have roasted flesh, and eaten it: and shall I make the residue thereof an abomination? shall I fall down to the stock of a tree? 20 He feedeth on ashes: a deceived heart hath turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, Is there not a lie in my right hand?" (Isaiah 44:9-20 KJV) **Idols are the lies of the devil in your life and you need to get rid of them.**

Also we can read about the detestable idol worship in the book of Jeremiah. "**1 Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel: 2 Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. 3 For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. 4 They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. 5 They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good. 6 Forasmuch as there is none like unto thee, O LORD; thou art great, and thy name is great in might. 7 Who would not fear thee, O King of nations? for to thee doth it appertain: forasmuch as among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like unto thee. 8 But they are altogether brutish and foolish: the stock is a doctrine of vanities. 9 Silver spread into plates is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz, the work of the workman, and of the hands of the founder: blue and purple is their clothing: they are all the work of cunning men. 10 But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.**" (Jeremiah 10:1-10 KJV) **Throw away all the idols and be not afraid of them; for they cannot do you evil, neither also it is in them to do good. "4 Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. 5 They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: 6 They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: 7 They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. 8 They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them."** (Psalm 115:4-8 KJV)

My Dear and Beloved: * Come now to the Lord, and be willing to throw away all your idols, in whatever form they are, and move away from your wrong doings and the evil practices that are coming from these idols and are taking you away from God. * Throw away also all your corruption, compromises and wrong practices that come from those idols. * The time for you now to move out from your previous religion and from your old corrupted religious practices. * The time had come now to start to read the Bible and understand the Word of God and what God wants from you. * The time for you now to leave the world and all its material things and cling to God and to start to have a new life and a relationship with Him through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His work on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins.

* Throw all your idols and secure God to be beside you and His blessings shall be abounding in you. * Through your idols, and secure the blessings of God upon your food and drink and

that He shall give you good health and strength to go on in this life and serve Him. * Throw your idols and secure the protection of God and that He will be the one who shall fight your enemies and those who rise up against you. * Fear not, throw your idols and be not afraid of them, for God shall rise up and fight your battles and subdue your enemies. * Throw your idols, commit yourself to God to live your life to serve Him and to do His will, and He shall bless you more, give you wisdom and perseverance to be a fruitful person and good example to the people around you to follow Christ.

Let us pray

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that teaches me not to worship idols and not to serve them. Lord thank you for all the rebukes, the corrections and the admonishments we received in this message.

Confess and renounce now all your sins. Confess and renounce your pride and ego, your worldliness and your love for money and material things. Confess and renounce your old religion, your other gods and all your idol worship. Confess and renounce all your corruptions and the worthless traditional practices that come from that religion. Confess and renounce your fear of man and your lack of the fear of God. Confess and renounce that you are doing your own will and plan and not the will nor the plan of God. Confess and renounce your lies, your lust and your immoralities. Renounce your yoked with non believers and many worldly friends, and your yoke with the Media, News and games. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to leave my old religion and tradition and will throw away all my idols. Lord I commit myself to start to read your Word in the Bible and to apply in my life. Lord I commit myself to start to serve you and worship you alone and do your will in my life. Lord I commit myself to live in holiness for you. Lord I trust you that you will provide all my needs, and that you will give me good health and the strength needed to serve you and that you will fight all my enemies and subdue them.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, threw their idols and committed their lives to serve you and worship you alone. Lord uphold them with your grace, provide their needs, answer their prayers and fight and subdue all their enemies. Lord make a way for them to be water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord give them the gifts of the Holy Spirit to go on and serve you. Lord make their lives good testimony to others to know you Lord Jesus and to go on and serve you.

Lord bless us as your church, and help us to continue to reach new groups of people, new languages, new ethnic groups and new places with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the needed spiritual gifts that we need in our life and ministry unto you. Lord lead us to go and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that

we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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