

YT Video-The Roots of Idolatry

By Yirmeyah Tan, Shabbat, 16 October 2021

Text [KJV unless otherwise indicated]

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.

Rom 1:19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

Rom 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Rom 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Rom 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

Rom 1:23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.

I. Rejection of the Creator

Adam and Eve rejected the Word of YAHWEH regarding not eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thereby rejecting Him as Creator.

Charles Darwin tried to gather evidence from biology to prove that humans came through evolution, not the result of creation by God.

II. Covetousness is Idolatry

Col 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and **covetousness, which is idolatry:**

Col 3:6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

Eve coveted wisdom-the knowledge of good and evil: to be like God

Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and **a tree to be desired to make one wise**, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

III. Stubbornness

1Sa 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and **stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.** **Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.**

ESV 1Sa 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and **presumption is as iniquity and idolatry.** Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king."

Stubbornness arises from pride resulting in presumptuousness like iniquity and idolatry.

IV. Origin of Idolatry: Garden of Eden

- a. Eve rejected YAHWEH's word and coveted the knowledge of good and evil
- b. Adam chose to follow his wife rather than YAHWEH: worshipping the creature rather than the Creator

V. Idolatry Before the Flood

a. Book of Jasher

“And the sons of men went and they served other gods, and they forgot the Lord who had created them in the earth: and in those days the sons of men made images of brass and iron, wood and stone, and they bowed down and served them. And every man made his god and they bowed down to them, and the sons of men forsook the Lord all the days of Enosh [Enos] and his children;”

Jasher 2:4-5

Note: Enos[h] was the son of Seth, hence the grandson of Adam:

Gen 4:26 *And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the LORD.*

b. The Book of Enoch, by R.H. Charles, [1917], Chapter Xcix 14

*“Woe to them who reject the measure and eternal heritage of their fathers
And **whose souls follow after idols.**
For they shall have no rest.”*

c. 2 Enoch:

10: *“.....And I said, “Woe, woe! How very frightful this place is!” And those men said to me, “This place, Enoch, has been prepared for those who do not glorify God, who practice on the earth the sin [which is against nature, which is child corruption in the anus in the manner of Sodom], of witchcraft, enchantments, divinations, trafficking with demons, who boast about their evil deeds – [stealing, lying, insulting, coveting, resentment, fornication, murder] – •and who steal the souls of men secretly, seizing the poor by the throat, taking away their possessions, enriching themselves from the possessions of others, defrauding them; who, when they are able to provide sustenance, bring about the death of the hungry by starvation; and, when they are able to provide clothing, take away the last garment of the naked; •who do not acknowledge their Creator, but **bow down to idols which have no souls, which can neither see nor hear, vain gods; constructing images, and bowing down to vile things made by hands – for all these this place has been prepared as an eternal reward.**”*

VI. Idolatry Before the Flood: Sons of God

Gen 6:12 And God looked upon the earth, and behold, it was **corrupt**; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

Deu 4:15 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:

Deu 4:16 Lest ye **corrupt** yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female,

Note: the same Hebrew word [H7843 Shachath] is used in both passages. The Deu passage links the word to idolatry and informs us of the idolatry of Gen 6:12. As recorded in Enoch's books, the Sons of God [angelic beings] extended the scope of idolatry to include worship of the heavenly hosts and sun, moon and stars.

VII. Post-Flood: Worshipping The Hosts of Heaven

Deu 4:15 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:

Deu 4:16 **Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female,**

Deu 4:17 The likeness of any beast that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged fowl that flieth in the air,

Deu 4:18 The likeness of anything that creepeth on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the waters beneath the earth:

Deu 4:19 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.

Deu 4:20 But the LORD hath taken you, and brought you forth out of the iron furnace, even out of Egypt, to be unto him a people of inheritance, as ye are this day.

VIII. Abraham Came out of Idolatry

Jos 24:2 And Joshua said unto all the people, thus saith the LORD God of Israel, your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and **they served other gods.**

IX. Rachel took her Father's Idols

Gen 31:19 And Laban went to shear his sheep: and Rachel had stolen the images that were her father's.

X. Strange Gods & Devils

Deu 32:16 They provoked him to jealousy with **strange gods**, with abominations provoked they him to anger.

Deu 32:17 They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not.

Septuagint: Psa 96:4 For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised: he is terrible above all gods.

Psa 96:5 For all the gods of the heathen are devils: but the Lord made the heavens.

1Co 10:19 What say I then? that the idol is anything, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is anything?

1Co 10:20 But I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, **they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.**

1Co 10:21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

XI. Utterly Destroyed

Exo 22:20 He that sacrificeth unto any god, save unto the LORD only, he shall be utterly destroyed.

Rev 9:17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.

Rev 9:18 By these three was the **third part of men killed**, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.

Rev 9:19 For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.

Rev 9:20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

Rev 9:21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

XII. Like the Idols

Psa 115:3 But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

Psa 115:4 Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands.

Psa 115:5 They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not:

Psa 115:6 They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not:

Psa 115:7 They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat.

Psa 115:8 They that make them are like unto them; so is everyone that trusteth in them.

Gen 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Do not debase the image of God via making/worshipping idols.