

No Other Gods

Idolatry is a major spiritual issue in the Bible, but few in the Western world know recognize how extensive it is today. We don't bow down to stone idols, or have feasts around a tall pole to insure the harvest. Yet, as Calvin said, the human heart is an idol factory, and the basic themes of idolatry transcend time. Looking at the 7 archetypes of Idols found in 2 Kings 23 we will explore how those idolatry expresses today, and how to spot and remove idols in your own life. Since idols can hide and even end up in the temple, identifying them and cleansing them can bring profound and unexpected blessing into your life. Discover what Asherah, Baal, Molech, Ashtoreth, Chemosh, and other gods looked like then, and how you can lead yourself and others to freedom today.

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“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

I. How to Spot an Idol

“Now Rachel had taken the household gods and put them in the camel’s saddle and sat on them. Laban felt all about the tent, but did not find them. And she said to her father, ‘Let not my lord be angry that I cannot rise before you....’ So he searched but did not find the household gods.” Gen 31:34-36

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?” Jeremiah 17:9

A. Since you will both **consciously** and **unconsciously** hide your idols, how can they be found and exposed?

B. Jeremiah 17 – learning the skill of idol detection

1. The nature of idolatry – 1-2

1. It is deeply stubborn – engraved on your heart. (vs 1)
2. It is mixed with your worship – on the horns of your altar. (vs 1)
3. It is part of your family patterns – even the children remember. (vs 2)

2. Seven signs of idolatry– 3-6, 9

- a. The experience of being cursed – vs 5
- b. Dependence on the flesh for strength – vs 5
- c. A heart that turns away from God – vs 5
- d. Dryness – vs 6
- e. Inability to see prosperity when it comes – vs 6
- f. Lack of life and connection with others vs 6
- g. Self-deception – vs 9

“We always pay dearly for chasing after what is cheap.”
— ALEKSANDR SOLZHENITSYN

II. Josiah’s inventory of Idols – 2 Kings 23

Seven archetypes of false gods

A. **Baal**– Storm god (Baal means “owner”, “master”, “lord”) 2 Kings 23:4-5

1. What does he give me?

Protection, power or control

2. What does Baal look like today?

Examples:

B. **Asherah** – Goddess of fertility 2 Kings 23:4-7, 15

1. What does she give me?

Fruitfulness or prosperity

2. What does Asherah look like today?

Examples:

C. **The starry hosts, sun and moon and constellations** – gods of the heavens - 2 Kings 23:5

1. What do they give me?

Stability or security

2. What does the they look like today?

Examples:

D. **Molech – god of destruction** – gods of fear – 2 Kings 23:7

1. What does Molech give me?

Safety or relief from fear

2. What does the worship of Molech look like today?

Examples:

E. **Ashtoreth** – Goddess of love – comfort gods – 2 Kings 23:13

1. What does Ashtoreth give me?

Pleasure or comfort

2. What does the worship of Ashtoreth look like today?

Examples:

F. **Chemosh**– War god - 2 Kings 23:13

1. What does he give me?

Victory or release from oppression

2. What the worship of Chemoth look like today?

Examples:

G. Mediums, spiritists, household gods – Family gods – 2 Kings 23:24

1. What do they give me?

Identity and direction

2. What does the worship of Mediums, Spiritists and family gods look like today?

Examples:

III. Remove and replace - True worship of the one true God – Yahweh

2 Kings 23 – repentance and faith