

PICTURE, PICTURED, PICTURES

When the Israelites crossed over the Jordan river into Canaan, God commanded them to destroy all the **pictures** that belonged to the inhabitants of the land. (This seems to have been related to idolatry.)

- **Numbers 33:52:** "Then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places:"

God is opposed to people making representations of His form (such as **pictures** or statutes).

- **Deuteronomy 4:15-16:** "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: Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female,"

In the song of Deborah, she **pictured** Sisera's mother looking through the window, wondering why his chariot was taking so long to return. (The answer is because Sisera was killed.)

- **Judges 5:28:** "The mother of Sisera looked out at a window, and cried through the lattice, Why is his chariot so long in coming? why tarry the wheels of his chariots?"

God provides water for the hills from His chambers. (The **picture** in this verse is that God is above, providing water for

the earth below.)

- **Psalms 104:13:** "He watereth the hills from his chambers: the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy works."

It's not wise to be overly cautious. We must never forget that we don't know what God is doing, which means we don't see the whole **picture**. There may be more going on than what we know.

- **Ecclesiastes 11:4-6:** "He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap. As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all. In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good."

In the day of the Lord (the tribulation), God will bring low all the pleasant **pictures**. (This may be a reference to art. All that is proud will be brought low, including works of art.)

- **Isaiah 2:12, 16:** "For the day of the Lord of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low: ... And upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures."

In the day of the Lord (the tribulation), only the Lord will be exalted. Everything else in the world (including trees, mountains, towers, walls, ships, and even **pictures**) will be

brought low.

- **Isaiah 2:17:** "And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day."

God was going to punish the Jews for their idolatry by teaching them one piece at a time (instead of showing them the whole **picture** at once). This would lead to their fall.

- **Isaiah 28:10, 13:** "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: ... But the word of the Lord was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken."

As soon as Aholibah (Jerusalem) saw **pictures** of the Chaldeans, she lusted after them. (In other words, the Jews wanted the Babylonians instead of God. They deliberately sought after the Babylonians instead of seeking after God. In the end this proved to be a terrible decision.)

- **Ezekiel 23:14, 16:** "And that she increased her whoredoms: for when she saw men portrayed upon the wall, the images of the Chaldeans portrayed with vermillion, ... And as soon as she saw them with her eyes, she doted upon them, and sent messengers unto them into Chaldea."

When Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, he was pointing to Christ. It was a **picture** of what the Messiah would

do. (Just as the Israelites had to look at the serpent to be saved from death by snakebite, so we must look to Christ to be saved from death by our sins. Salvation comes from looking to something *outside* of ourselves.)

- **John 3:14-15:** "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

Adam was a figure (a **picture**) of the Messiah.

- **Romans 5:14:** "Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come."

Baptism is a metaphor for the death and resurrection of Jesus. It's a **picture** of the sacrifice of Christ (which is what actually saves us.)

- **Romans 6:4:** "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

God's law is a set of commandments that teach us how to love one another. His law is a **picture** of love.

- **Romans 13:8:** "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law."

The gift of prophecy is a partial gift. Prophetic information

only reveals part of the **picture**. (The whole picture can be found in the Word of God.)

- **1 Corinthians 13:9-10:** "For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away."

Before that which is perfect came (the completed Bible), we only knew in part. We didn't yet have the whole **picture**.

- **1 Corinthians 13:12:** "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."

The **picture** of a seed being sown, and then transforming underground and becoming a plant, is a great description of the coming resurrection of the dead. Christians are buried, and then at the resurrection we're transformed into our final state. (The Bible *always* depicts cremation as a terrible thing. After all, cremation paints a picture of someone dying and then being cast into the fire. That's the fate of the wicked, not the righteous)

- **1 Corinthians 15:37, 42-44:** "And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: ... So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."

When the true gospel was preached to the Galatians (the

gospel of salvation by grace alone, not of works), Jesus Christ was set forth in front of them. The true gospel is a **picture** of Jesus.

- **Galatians 3:1:** "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?"

Baptism is a symbol and a public demonstration that we've put on Christ. It's a **picture** of what Christ has done for us.

- **Galatians 3:27:** "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

The relationship between a husband and his wife is intended to be a **picture** to the world of the relationship between Christ and the church. Marriage is intended to reveal a great mystery (a divine truth that God had kept hidden previously.)

- **Ephesians 5:31-32:** "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church."

None of the apostles ever painted a good **picture** of a false teacher. Instead the apostles warned about them and said they were both evil and dangerous, and were headed to everlasting destruction.

- **Philippians 3:19:** "Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)"

Paul painted a very bleak **picture** of what people would be like at the end of the church age. He warned about what people would be like, and told Christians to avoid such terrible and depraved individuals.

- **2 Timothy 3:1-5:** "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

God gave the commandment to love one another from the very beginning. (In fact, His commandments are a **picture** of what love looks like.)

- **1 John 3:11:** "For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another."

Jesus told John to come up to Heaven. (This is a **picture** of the rapture. When Jesus returns He will bring us to Heaven.)

- **Revelation 4:1:** "After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter."