

FALSE GODS

The ten plagues which God sent upon Egypt were judgments against the **false gods** that the Egyptians worshiped.

- **Exodus 12:12:** "For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD."

God told the Israelites that if they made a covenant with the inhabitants of Canaan, they would be tempted to partake of sacrifices to **false gods**.

- **Exodus 34:15:** "Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and one call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice;"

After God didn't allow Balaam to curse Israel (on behalf of Moab), the Israelites began worshiping the **false gods** of the Moabites (the very nation that just tried to curse them).

- **Numbers 25:1-2:** "And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods."

The Israelites were commanded to destroy all the places under every green tree of Canaan where the nations served their **false gods**.

- **Deuteronomy 12:2:** "Ye shall utterly destroy all the places, wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their gods, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree:"

Moses commanded the Israelites to take heed that they didn't worship the **false gods** that the Canaanites worshiped.

- **Deuteronomy 12:29-31:** "When the LORD thy God shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land; Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods."

Moses warned the Israelites that God might test the Israelites by sending wicked prophets among them who would do amazing things and then tell people to worship **false gods**.

- **Deuteronomy 13:1-3:** "If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God

with all your heart and with all your soul."

The Israelites were forbidden from bowing down to **false gods**.

- **Joshua 23:7:** "That ye come not among these nations, these that remain among you; neither make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause to swear by them, neither serve them, nor bow yourselves unto them:"

The Israelites were forbidden from even mentioning the name of **false gods**.

- Joshua 23:7: "That ye come not among these nations, these that remain among you; neither make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause to swear by them, neither serve them, nor bow yourselves unto them:"

The Israelites were commanded to put away the **false gods** their ancestors worshiped in Egypt.

- **Joshua 24:14:** "Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD."

The Amorites worshiped **false gods**.

- **Joshua 24:15:** "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will

serve the LORD."

- **Judges 6:10:** "And I said unto you, I am the LORD your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but ye have not obeyed my voice."

Joshua commanded the Israelites to make a choice. If they thought it was evil to serve the Lord, then they should serve the **false gods** of their ancestors or the false gods of the Amorites.

- **Joshua 24:15:** "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Joshua told the Israelites that if they served **false gods**, the Lord would consume them. Instead of blessing them He would hurt them.

- **Joshua 24:20:** "If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good."

When Joshua warned the Israelites that God was holy and just, and would surely punish them if they left Him and worshiped **false gods**, the people said they would serve the Lord. (In spite of this promise, they quickly abandoned God and worshiped idols.)

- **Joshua 24:21:** "And the people said unto Joshua, Nay; but we will serve the LORD."

We must remove all idols and **false gods** from our lives, and serve God with all our heart.

- **Joshua 24:23:** "Now therefore put away, said he, the strange gods which are among you, and incline your heart unto the LORD God of Israel."

False gods are a snare.

- **Judges 2:3:** "Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you."

Those who worship **false gods** are forsaking the Lord.

- **Judges 2:12:** "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."

Worshiping **false gods** makes the Lord angry.

- **Judges 2:12:** "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."

The Israelites worshiped the **false gods** of the people who lived around them in the land of Canaan.

- **Judges 2:12:** "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."

The reason the hand of God was against the Israelites for evil was because they forsook Him and worshiped **false gods**.

- **Judges 2:13-15:** "And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth. 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. 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."

It was evil for Israel to serve **false gods**.

- **Judges 3:7:** "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgat the LORD their God, and served Baalim and the groves."
- **Judges 10:6:** "And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth, and the gods of Syria, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines, and forsook the LORD, and served not him."

Because the Israelites served **false gods**, the Lord delivered them into the hand of Chushanrishathaim (the king of Mesopotamia).

- **Judges 3:7-8:** "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgot the LORD their God, and served Baalim and the groves. Therefore the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia: and the children of Israel served Chushanrishathaim eight years."

In the days of Deborah, the Israelites worshiped **false gods**.

- **Judges 5:7-8:** "The inhabitants of the villages ceased, they ceased in Israel, until that Deborah arose, that I arose a mother in Israel. They chose new gods; then was war in the gates: was there a shield or spear seen among forty thousand in Israel?"

In the days of Gideon, the Israelites didn't obey God. Instead they worshiped the **false gods** of the Amorites.

- **Judges 6:10:** "And I said unto you, I am the LORD your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but ye have not obeyed my voice."

When the Israelites cried out to God, He told them to ask the **false gods** they were worshiping to deliver them.

- **Judges 10:13-14:** "Yet ye have forsaken me, and served other gods: wherefore I will deliver you no more. Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation."

Goliath cursed David by the **false gods** he worshiped.

- **1 Samuel 17:43:** "And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods."

Solomon didn't fully seek God. (He worshiped **false gods**.)

- **1 Kings 11:6-7:** "And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father. Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon."

The pagan wives of Solomon sacrificed to their **false gods**.

- **1 Kings 11:8:** "And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods."

After Solomon worshiped **false gods**, the Lord stirred up adversaries against him.

- **1 Kings 11:14:** "And the LORD stirred up an adversary unto Solomon, Hadad the Edomite: he was of the king's seed in Edom."
- **1 Kings 11:23:** "And God stirred him up another adversary, Rezon the son of Eliadah, which fled from his lord Hadadezer king of Zobah:"

Solomon led the Israelites away from God and encouraged them to worship **false gods** (by building high places for them). That's why God took ten of the tribes of Israel away from him and his descendants, and gave them to Jeroboam to rule over.

- **1 Kings 11:31, 33:** "And he said to Jeroboam, Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee: ... Because that they have forsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways, to do that which is right in mine eyes, and to keep my statutes and my judgments, as did David his father."

During the reign of Rehoboam, the tribe of Judah built places to worship **false gods** on every high hill and under every green tree.

- **1 Kings 14:23:** "For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree."

Adrammelech and Anammelech were some of the **false gods** of Sepharvaim.

- **2 Kings 17:31:** "And the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvites burnt their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim."

The half of the tribe of Manasseh that lived east of the Jordan river went after the **false gods** of the people of the land.

- **1 Chronicles 5:23, 25:** "And the children of the half tribe of Manasseh dwelt in the land: they increased from Bashan unto Baalhermon and Senir, and unto mount Hermon. ... And they transgressed against the God of their fathers, and went a whoring after the gods of the people of the land, whom God destroyed before them."

When the Philistines found Saul's body, they put his armor in the house of their **false gods**.

- **1 Chronicles 10:8, 10:** "And it came to pass on the morrow, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his sons fallen in mount Gilboa. ... And they put his armour in the house of their gods, and fastened his head in the temple of Dagon."

David said that all of the gods of the people were idols. (In other words, they were **false gods**.)

- **1 Chronicles 16:26:** "For all the gods of the people are idols: but the LORD made the heavens."

God held Jehoram accountable for leading the inhabitants of Jerusalem to worship **false gods**.

- **2 Chronicles 21:11, 13:** "Moreover he made high places in the mountains of Judah and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to commit fornication, and compelled Judah thereto. ... But hast walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and hast made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to go a whoring, like to the whoredoms of the

house of Ahab, and also hast slain thy brethren of thy father's house, which were better than thyself:"

Right after the **false gods** of the Edomites failed to save them, Amaziah bowed down before those same false gods and worshiped them.

- **2 Chronicles 25:14-15:** "Now it came to pass, after that Amaziah was come from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the children of Seir, and set them up to be his gods, and bowed down himself before them, and burned incense unto them. Wherefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against Amaziah, and he sent unto him a prophet, which said unto him, Why hast thou sought after the gods of the people, which could not deliver their own people out of thine hand?"
- **2 Chronicles 25:20:** "But Amaziah would not hear; for it came of God, that he might deliver them into the hand of their enemies, because they sought after the gods of Edom."

The **false gods** the Edomites worshiped were unable to save them from Amaziah.

- **2 Chronicles 25:15:** "Wherefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against Amaziah, and he sent unto him a prophet, which said unto him, Why hast thou sought after the gods of the people, which could not deliver their own people out of thine hand?"

When Amaziah worshiped the **false gods** of the Edomites, the anger of God was kindled against him.

- **2 Chronicles 25:15:** "Wherefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against Amaziah, and he sent unto him a prophet, which said unto him, Why hast thou sought after the gods of the people, which could not deliver their own people out of thine hand?"

The reason God wanted to deliver Amaziah into the hand of his enemies was because he had sought after the **false gods** of Edom.

- **2 Chronicles 25:20:** "But Amaziah would not hear; for it came of God, that he might deliver them into the hand of their enemies, because they sought after the gods of Edom."

The **false gods** of Damascus didn't help Ahaz. Instead they ruined Israel.

- **2 Chronicles 28:23:** "For he sacrificed unto the gods of Damascus, which smote him: and he said, Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, therefore will I sacrifice to them, that they may help me. But they were the ruin of him, and of all Israel."

Burning incense to **false gods** provokes God to anger.

- **2 Chronicles 28:25:** "And in every several city of Judah he made high places to burn incense unto other gods, and provoked to anger the LORD God of his fathers."

The psalmist wouldn't even speak the names of other gods. (Under the Mosaic Law, speaking the name of **false gods** was

forbidden.)

- **Psalms 16:4:** "Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god: their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take up their names into my lips."

The nations that the kings of Assyria had conquered worshiped **false gods**.

- **Isaiah 37:18-19:** "Of a truth, LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the nations, and their countries, And have cast their gods into the fire: for they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone: therefore they have destroyed them."

In the days of Jeremiah the Jews worshiped many **false gods**.

- **Jeremiah 11:13:** "For according to the number of thy cities were thy gods, O Judah; and according to the number of the streets of Jerusalem have ye set up altars to that shameful thing, even altars to burn incense unto Baal."

God wanted His people to say that He was the one who lived (instead of swearing by **false gods**).

- **Jeremiah 12:16:** "And it shall come to pass, if they will diligently learn the ways of my people, to swear by my name, The LORD liveth; as they taught my people to swear by Baal; then shall they be built in the midst of my people."

In Jeremiah's day, the Jews worshiped **false gods**.

- **Jeremiah 13:10:** "This evil people, which refuse to hear my words, which walk in the imagination of their heart, and walk after other gods, to serve them, and to worship them, shall even be as this girdle, which is good for nothing."
- **Jeremiah 17:2:** "Whilst their children remember their altars and their groves by the green trees upon the high hills."

The reason the land of Judah mourned was because the people within it were swearing. (This seems to be a reference to swearing by **false gods**.)

- **Jeremiah 23:10:** "For the land is full of adulterers; for because of swearing the land mourneth; the pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up, and their course is evil, and their force is not right."

The false gods that the nations worship can't save them.

- **Jeremiah 48:13:** "And Moab shall be ashamed of Chemosh, as the house of Israel was ashamed of Bethel their confidence."

When God spoke against Moab, He said that He would cause those who offered burnt incense to **false gods** in the high places to stop.

- **Jeremiah 48:35:** "Moreover I will cause to cease in Moab, saith the LORD, him that offereth in the high places, and him that burneth incense to his gods."

When God spoke against Babylon, He said that molten images were falsehoods. (They were **false gods**.)

- **Jeremiah 51:17:** "Every man is brutish by his knowledge; every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image is falsehood, and there is no breath in them."

When God spoke against Babylon, He said that He was going to punish Bel in Babylon. (Bel was one of the **false gods** of the Babylonians.)

- **Jeremiah 51:44:** "And I will punish Bel in Babylon, and I will bring forth out of his mouth that which he hath swallowed up: and the nations shall not flow together any more unto him: yea, the wall of Babylon shall fall."

God said that the heart of the Jews had departed from Him and had sought after **false gods**.

- **Ezekiel 6:9:** "And they that escape of you shall remember me among the nations whither they shall be carried captives, because I am broken with their whorish heart, which hath departed from me, and with their eyes, which go a whoring after their idols: and they shall lothe themselves for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations."

Not only were the Jews worshiping idols in secret, but they were worshiping **false gods** at the temple itself.

- **Ezekiel 8:14:** "Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD's house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz."

- **Ezekiel 8:16:** "And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD's house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east."

The fact that the Jews were using God's temple to worship **false gods** made the Lord angry.

- **Ezekiel 8:17:** "Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose."

Since the Jews were guilty of worshiping **false gods** in the temple itself, and filled the land with violence, God was going to deal with them in His fury.

- **Ezekiel 8:18:** "Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them."

One day the Israelites will return to God. This is because He will prevent them from finding the **false gods** that they once served. (This seems to be a reference to the end times.)

- **Hosea 2:7:** "And she shall follow after her lovers, but she shall not overtake them; and she shall seek them, but shall not find them: then shall she say, I will go and return

to my first husband; for then was it better with me than now."

None of Israel's **false gods** would be able to save them from God's judgment. The Lord was going to punish them and they wouldn't be able to escape.

- **Hosea 2:10:** "And now will I discover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and none shall deliver her out of mine hand."

The Israelites dressed themselves up to chase after **false gods** and worship them.

- **Hosea 2:13:** "And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgot me, saith the LORD."

The children of Israel were guilty of spiritual adultery. They left God and loved **false gods**.

- **Hosea 3:1:** "Then said the LORD unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine."

The Israelites sought counsel from their idols. They asked **false gods** for guidance instead of the Lord.

- **Hosea 4:12:** "My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declareth unto them: for the spirit of whoredoms hath caused them to err, and they have gone

a whoring from under their God."

Since the Israelites worshiped **false gods** (which was a form of spiritual adultery), the Lord was going to punish them by giving their wives and daughters over to sexual immorality. (In other words, sexual immorality is a judgment upon a nation.)

- **Hosea 4:13:** "They sacrifice upon the tops of the mountains, and burn incense upon the hills, under oaks and poplars and elms, because the shadow thereof is good: therefore your daughters shall commit whoredom, and your spouses shall commit adultery."

The tribe of Ephraim joined itself to idols. (It worshiped **false gods**, which was a form of spiritual adultery.)

- **Hosea 4:17:** "Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone."
- **Hosea 5:3:** "I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me: for now, O Ephraim, thou committest whoredom, and Israel is defiled."

The Israelites had dealt treacherously with the Lord. (They had broken their covenant with Him and sought after **false gods**.)

- **Hosea 5:7:** "They have dealt treacherously against the LORD: for they have begotten strange children: now shall a month devour them with their portions."

God compared Ephraim to a dove that had no heart. (Ephraim had no heart for God. The tribe chased after **false gods**, and

looked to other nations to save them instead of to the Lord.)

- **Hosea 7:11:** "Ephraim also is like a silly dove without heart: they call to Egypt, they go to Assyria."

Ephraim made many pagan altars, which were used to worship **false gods**.

- **Hosea 8:11:** "Because Ephraim hath made many altars to sin, altars shall be unto him to sin."

The reason God commanded Israel not to rejoice was because they were guilty of idolatry. They had rebelled against Him and worshiped **false gods**.

- **Hosea 9:1:** "Rejoice not, O Israel, for joy, as other people: for thou hast gone a whoring from thy God, thou hast loved a reward upon every cornfloor."

The people of Israel pledged themselves to **false gods**.

- **Amos 2:8:** "And they lay themselves down upon clothes laid to pledge by every altar, and they drink the wine of the condemned in the house of their god."

The **false gods** that the Israelites worshiped wouldn't save them in the coming judgment. Those who worshiped them would fall and never rise again.

- **Amos 8:14:** "They that swear by the sin of Samaria, and say, Thy god, O Dan, liveth; and, The manner of Beersheba liveth; even they shall fall, and never rise up again."

The **false gods** of the sailors didn't help them.

- **Jonah 1:5:** "Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep."

God becomes angry when people give glory to **false gods** instead of to Him. (This even applies to pagans.)

- **Habakkuk 1:11:** "Then shall his mind change, and he shall pass over, and offend, imputing this his power unto his god."

Habakkuk said that once the Chaldeans were victorious and gained much spoil, they would use it to praise and worship their **false gods**.

- **Habakkuk 1:16:** "Therefore they sacrifice unto their net, and burn incense unto their drag; because by them their portion is fat, and their meat plenteous."

The reason God was going to pour out His wrath upon Judah was because He is a jealous God, and the Jews had been worshiping **false gods**. (This seems to be a reference to the tribulation.)

- **Zephaniah 1:14, 18:** "The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. ... Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver

them in the day of the LORD's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land."

Judah had a covenant with God. However, they treacherously violated that covenant and sought after **false gods**.

- **Malachi 2:11:** "Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the LORD which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god."

Judah was said to have married the daughter of a strange god. Her idolatrous relationship with **false gods** was compared to a marriage.

- **Malachi 2:11:** "Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the LORD which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god."

God said He would cut off anyone who sought after **false gods**. This included both the master and the scholar.

- **Malachi 2:11-12:** "Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the LORD which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god. The LORD will cut off the man that doeth this, the master and the scholar, out of the tabernacles of Jacob, and him that offereth an offering unto the LORD of hosts."

Paul rebuked the people of Lystra for worshiping their false gods.

- **Acts 14:13, 15:** "Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people. ... And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:"

There are many **false gods**.

- **1 Corinthians 8:5:** "For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,)"

Before we were saved we served **false gods**.

- **Galatians 4:8:** "Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods."