

THE BACKGROUND TO THE WORSHIP OF ONE TRUE & LIVING GOD

(I) We can't help it, it's in our genes



Colossians 1:16

For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for

(II) Always going after substitutes

A) Genesis 3:6

*When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was **good for food** and **pleasing to the eye**, and also **desirable for gaining wisdom**, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.*

B) 1 John 2:15-16

*Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world--**the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**--is not of the Father but is of the world.*

(III) Abraham, the father of faith, an idol worshipping world

Joshua 24:2

And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Your fathers, including Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; and they served other gods.

(III) Gods and idols of the Old Testament world

A) BAAL (111 times)



Canaanite, Phoenician, Levant god) Storm god, fertility god. Local deity. Prosperity

B) MOLECH (8 times)



“King.” power. Sacrifice of children.

C) ASHTEROth (45 times)

sexuality. Will later morph to Aphrodite

D) Deuteronomy 4:19

And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the LORD your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage.

E) Romans 1:18-27

...the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

(IV) Same Old, Same Old

A) How does this play out in modern or postmodern society?

B) Psalm 115:5-7

They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell; They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat.