

The Land Between

MINISTRIES

The mission of the LandBetween Ministries is to equip leaders to fulfill Christ's Great Commission of heart-focused discipleship in a broken world.

NEWSLETTER

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IDOLATRY & STARS

"You look up to the tent of Moloch and the star of your god, the images you made to worship; and I will send you into exile beyond Babylon." (Acts 7:43)

Have you wondered why famous Hollywood actors and actresses are called... "stars"? Why not call them movie...*trees*? Instead of music... "stars" why not call them music...*mountains*? Instead of star athletes, why not "cloud" athletes?

Actors, musicians, and athletes are called "stars" in part because stars have been related to that which is worshiped, powerful, and elevated above the common.

When someone is labeled a "star" it is a concept that goes back to the time Lucifer was a "Day Star" in the heavens. But, like the arrogant King of Babylon, he tried to exalt himself and take God's throne on high. He failed, fell from heaven and brought ruin to the nations (Isaiah 14:12-13).

Our world is saturated with idols, elite people are marketed as "stars." We are expected to worship them, buy their music, attend their movies, and watch their sports. It is an endless cycle of watch, listen, worship, wear their stuff, some even fantasize being with them; it never stops...

Idolization is a serious sin against God. Yet, our world seems addicted to it more than ever.

God's Word, from Genesis to Revelation, addresses the concept of idoliza-

tion. The apostle Paul makes clear idol worship is worship offered to demons (1 Cor. 10:14-21). You may think, "I'm a Christian; sealed by the Holy Spirit; I cannot be impacted by idols." However, the apostle Paul's letters in the Bible were written to *believers* in Christ who, in the first century, were living in a culture saturated with idols. The Holy Spirit would not have inspired Paul to write often about idols if believers were immune from them.



In Acts 7:43, Stephen was giving his final message on this earth after being seized and taken to the high priest. He knew the consequences of following Jesus could lead to death and he wasted no words in brilliantly laying out the history of God's people and revealing to them the grave results of refusing Jesus as Messiah and their ongoing worship of idols (images).

These images (idols) could take the form of a human or a sculpture in the shape of a person, animal, planet, or star, etc.

In Acts 7:43, the "...star of your god Rephan" meant worshiping the star (moon) of Rephan (Saturn). Worship

of Saturn and other planets was, and is, very common in the occult world.

God created planets like Saturn, all the stars, the moon and heavenly realm (Genesis 1:14-19). But, like any **good** thing God has created (e.g. food, sex, music) the fallen star, Lucifer, seeks to take good things and use them wrongly to destroy lives.

The fallen star knows the natural desires of humans for pleasure and escaping pain and will exploit these desires to bring about the self-destruction of one's life through idols.

A definition of the Greek word for idol is an "image" that represents a false god (Mounce, *Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*, p. 350). False gods (idols) can have different names, but they always have unclean spirits (demons) lurking behind them in the unseen realm.

Worshiping false gods, including ancestor worship, is very common around the world in contrast to worshiping the true and living God (1 Thessalonians 1:9; Mounce, p. 350).

Another human being, even a movie "star" can become an idol. If we worship them we reject God and sin by worshiping the *creature* rather than the *Creator* (Romans 1:24-25).

This is another definition of "idol": "A material object representing a deity to which religious worship is directed." (*International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, Vol. 2, p. 794).

The themes of these definitions are:

(1) An image in the form of a material object; and, (2) The Image represents a deity.

This is an important definition, as in our culture it is easy to see just the image of something or someone as an idol (e.g., a musician) but not recognize the spiritual entities at work in the unseen world *behind* the idol.

IDOL WORSHIP OF SELF

Idolization of *any* kind is so evil that those who do not turn away from it will not go to heaven. (1 Cor. 6:9). From the Old Covenant throughout the New Covenant God mixes no words when it comes to the sin of idolatry and all forms of witchcraft.

King Saul is an example of one who repeatedly committed the sin of idolatry. Saul became impatient when his army was deserting him in fear of the enemy, so the self-absorbed Saul idolized *himself* and built an altar *his* way instead of God's. (1 Samuel 13:8-13). We see this form of self-idolization today in many religions, or even atheism, where people try to make *themselves* the path to "self-realization." The truth is that *all* have sinned and fallen *short* of God's glory, and *everyone* needs the forgiveness of sin found only in Jesus Christ. Some idolaters claim to be a "god," born with a "divine spark" in *themselves* and see themselves as superior to others.

King Saul was a head taller than his rivals and very skilled. Today, he would be considered a "star" or "celebrity" or of the "elite" in society. Yet, with all of his God-given gifts, Saul refused to learn that God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble. Saul refused to learn that to do life "my way" is a highway to misery, emptiness, and sadness.

Saul repeatedly rejected God's Word and when he prayed to inquire of

God, the LORD would not respond to him. Saul sinned greatly by getting in disguise and taking two of his men to a medium (witch). He went in for a seance and asked for the medium to, "...Divine for me a spirit..." (1 Samuel 28:8). Saul did the very thing that he *knew* was an abomination to the LORD (Deut. 18:10).

Saul treated the medium as an idol. He exploited her as a channel to gain supernatural knowledge, which is called divination. This sin, divination, is still taking place today, whether in the United States, Israel, etc.



IS IT DAVID'S STAR?

The six-pointed star is a symbol used around the world. The modern State of Israel has a six-pointed star in the center of its flag. This symbol is called the "Star of David" but was David associated with this star? Scriptures teach David was a man after God's **heart** (1 Samuel 13:14) **not a pagan star**. There is no Scriptural or archeological evidence that David had a star in war or in his palace. In her book, "The Six-Pointed Star" (p.2), Dr. O.J. Graham states Dr. Shaki in Israel stated that the six-pointed star is pagan.

In Amos 5:26, the LORD firmly rebuked the people for leaving Him to worship the star of their god: Moloch. It was David's son Solomon, and Solomon's wives, who got into idolatry and witchcraft. God rebuked them for following the goddess Ashtoreth (star) and Moloch (1 Kings 11:5). In Egypt, Israel, and other Middle East

nations, graves and other stones are etched with six-pointed stars. Why all the stars? Because the worship of the planet Saturn, and its star, that Stephen taught against (Acts 7:43) has been going on long before and after the 1st century.

MOLOCH: FIRE & DEATH

In August of 2019, archeologists in Peru discovered the remains of over 225 children. The children's remains were from a sacrifice that took place over 600 years ago. There are other examples in more recent years, but the point is that child sacrifice is not something that only took place over 2,000 years ago in Bible times.

God makes it clear that He took a zero tolerance policy when it came to child sacrifice (Lev. 20:2-5). Ancient Israelites sinned by following the evil practice of seeking prosperity by trying to appease the false god Moloch through putting children to death.

The idol to Moloch was a hybrid statue with the head of a bull and body of a man. The child was burned to death in a section of Moloch's bronze idol. Likewise, in America, the culture has brazenly put up public displays of a satanic idol with the head of a goat, female breasts, and male genitalia.

The ancient temple to Baal was a site for both child sacrifice and sexually deviant activity. Today, abortion and sexual sins are both "shared values" of the US and the State of Israel.

Since the 1970s, as the US and Israel have supported abortion and sexual immorality, there has been increased division, violence, & financial debt.

It seems both nations are begging for God's judgment. — Both nations are following the Stars they worship. (Psalm 115:8).

"Seek the LORD & His Strength, seek His face continually." - 1 Chron. 16:11

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