

Real Life WhatsApp Group



THE EPIC OF EDEN:

ISAIAH

Our Lesson Today: The Book of
Isaiah & The Idol



The Blues2Joy Ministry Project

“This Lesson + Summary Worldview of a 2nd Temple Jew”

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Isaiah 44:6-20

The Deceptive Path of Idolatry

A Biblical Perspective on Visible Worship and Invisible Powers

1. The Idol

A handmade lifeless object of stone or wood with no power
(Psalm 115:4-7)

*A specific depiction of a Canaanite Baal idol

2. The Act of Worship

The whole family's dedication through prayer and ritual offering toward the object.

3. The Spiritual Being (Deceptive Power)

Not a true god, but a demonic/fallen angelic entity that masquerades behind the idol to receive worship intended for the Creator (1 Corinthians 10:20)



THE REPEATED TEMPTATION: ISRAEL'S JOURNEY TO SYNCRETISM

THE FOUNDATION: COVENANT WITH YAHWEH



EXCLUSIVITY



NO IDOLS



COVENANTAL FAITHFULNESS

THE IDEAL

THE REPEATED TEMPTATIONS

SOCIAL PRESSURE
(TO BE LIKE OTHER NATIONS)

POLITICAL
CONVENIENCE

FERTILITY &
PROSPERITY

CULTURAL
BLENDING

THE DEITIES INVOLVED

השומר

YAHWEH
(GOD OF ISRAEL)



BAAL
(CANAANITE STORM & FERTILITY GOD)



ASHERAH
(CANAANITE GODDESS & CONSORT)

THE METAPHOR & CONSEQUENCE

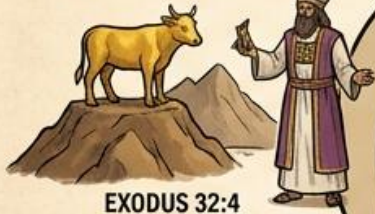


SPIRITUAL ADULTERY
(HOSEA 2)



DIVINE JUDGMENT & EXILE
(2 KINGS 17:7-18)

GOLDEN CALF
AT MOUNT SINAI



EXODUS 32:4
"THESE ARE YOUR
GODS, O ISRAEL..."

PATH OF PURE WORSHIP

PATH OF SYNCRETISM



JOSIAH'S REFORMS
(2 Kings 23)

POLITICAL &
CONVENIENCE

PATH OF SYNCRETISM (BLENDING)

KING AHAB & JEZEBEL
(1 Kings 16:31-33)



STATE SPONSORSHIP
OF BAAL & ASHERAH

JOSIAH'S REFORMS
(2 Kings 23)



JOSIAH'S REFORMS
(2 Kings 23)



TEMPLE PURIFICATION,
TEMPLE JOIN, DESTROY OF IDOLS,
BAAL, ASHERAH AND HOST OF HEAVEN

KING SOLOMON
(1 Kings 11:4-8)



HIS HEART TURNED
AFTER OTHERS.

KING JEROBOAM
(1 Kings 12:28-30)



DAN AND BETHEL
SET UP ALTERNATIVE
WORSHIP

TEMPLE PURIFICATION

Core Message of the Week...

- Isaiah presents a dramatic contrast between **Yahweh, the true Servant-King**, and **the idol**, the false hero Israel trusted. Idolatry is not merely bowing to statues—it is trusting anything other than Yahweh for identity, security, fertility, prosperity, or salvation.



De Kinderen in't Dal TOPHETH, aan den MOLECH ter Verbrandinge overgegeven.

WHAT IDOLATRY LOOKED LIKE: The Tophet

Deuteronomy 32:8-9, perhaps more than meets the eye when it is first read..

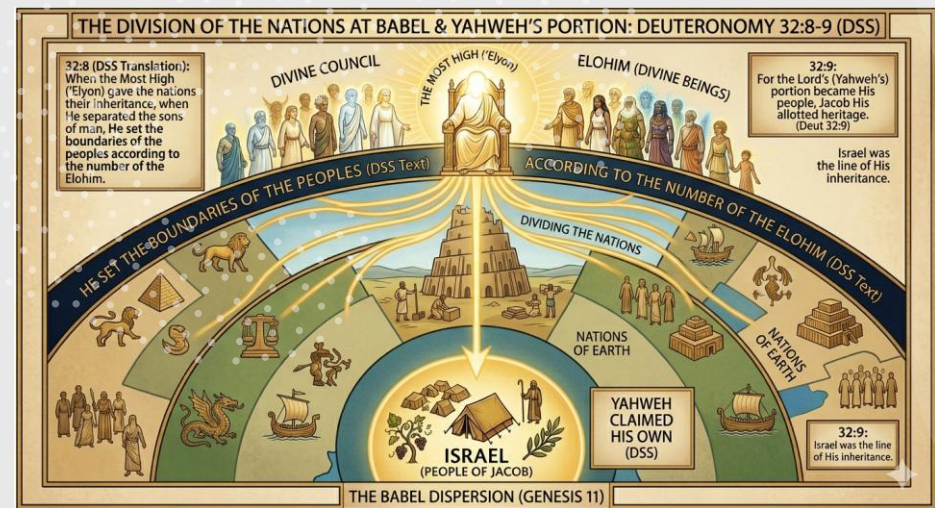
Dead Sea Scrolls: “When Elyon gave the nations as an inheritance, when he separated the sons of man, he set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God (*bene elohim*). For Yahweh’s portion was his people; Jacob was the lot of his inheritance”.

Septuagint (LXX): “When the Most High divided the nations, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the boundaries of the nations according to the number of the angels of God (*aggelón theou*). And his people Jacob became the portion of the Lord, Israel was the line of his inheritance”.

Masoretic Text (MT): “When Elyon gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided all the sons of man, he set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel (*bene yisrael*). For Yahweh’s portion was his people, Jacob was the lot of his inheritance”.

At Babel...

Deuteronomy 32:8-9



Verse 8

Text Tradition	Wording	Key Difference
DSS (4QDeut ^f)	"according to the number of the sons of God "	Oldest reading; matches ancient divine council worldview
MT (Masoretic)	"according to the number of the sons of Israel "	Later change; removes divine beings and makes it ethnic
LXX (Greek)	"according to the number of the angels of God "	Greek translators preserve the divine-beings reading

Verse 9

Text Tradition	Wording	Key Difference
DSS	"Yahweh's portion is His people; Jacob His allotted inheritance."	Same as MT; no major variation
MT	"Yahweh's portion is His people; Jacob His allotted inheritance."	Same
LXX	"The Lord's portion became His people; Jacob the measure of His inheritance."	Slight stylistic difference, same meaning

. Isaiah himself acknowledges the spiritual powers behind the nations

Isaiah 24:21 is the smoking gun:

“The LORD will punish the host of heaven in heaven, and the kings of the earth on the earth.”

Isaiah sees:

- **earthly rulers**
- **heavenly rulers**

Both being judged.

That is the Deut. 32 worldview in Isaiah’s own words.

Interpretation

These passages are often interpreted as a divine council scene where God, as the Most High, delegates authority over other nations, yet maintains personal control over “Not Yet” Israel. It is used to explain the biblical view that other nations were under the influence of lesser divine beings, while Israel was under the direct guidance of Yahweh.

YOU CAN'T HAVE IT BOTH WAYS: You have to believe which translation to accept...

Key Details of Deuteronomy 32:8-9 (written apx.1400-1200 BC)

- **The Division (v. 8):** When "the Most High" divided the nations after the flood/Babel (apx.2200-2000 BC), he set boundaries for humanity ("sons of Adam").
- **"Sons of God" vs. "Sons of Israel":**
 - **"Sons of God" (*bene ha-elohim*):**

Found in the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Septuagint, this reading suggests God assigned other nations to lesser divine beings or angels.

- **"Sons of Israel" (*bene yisrael*):** Found in the traditional **Masoretic Text (MT 600-1000 AD)**, this reading is used in the KJV & other Bibles, suggesting boundaries were set based on the number of the tribes of Israel.
- **The LORD's Portion (v. 9):** Regardless of the "sons" debate, both versions highlight that the Lord (Yahweh) retained Israel as his own direct "allotted heritage" or "portion".
- **Context:** This passage is part of the "Song of Moses" (Deuteronomy 32) and serves to highlight Israel's unique, direct relationship with God, distinguishing them from other nations.

My belief is that these boundaries or territories were assigned by Yahweh to lesser Elohim. Here's why: (RE: Deuteronomy 32)

>Masoretic Text (MT) (600-1000 AD)

בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל

“sons of Israel”

This is the reading in most modern Jewish Bibles and many Christian translations. PROBABLY YOUR BIBLE...

An Analysis per many theologians:

- . This reading cannot be original.**
- . Israel did not exist when the nations were divided at Babel (Genesis 10–11).**
- . It breaks the logic of the passage.**
- . It appears to be a later scribal change to avoid the idea of “other gods.”**

My Analogy of the situation: Kinda dumb but I think it works 😊

MAFIA/COSA NOSTRA:

Godfather (Head of the Families) – Crime Bosses – The Wise Guts

THE FALLEN SPRITURAL REALM:

Satan (Head of the Rebellious Ones) – Fallen Elohim of Deut.32/Ps.82 –Demons

(The powers behind Idolatry and Chaos) Then & Now...

The Deceptive Path of Modern Idolatry

The Powers Have Changed Their Packaging, Not Their Mission

The Act of Worship

The heart's devotion expressed through endless time, attention, money, loyalty, anger, fear, and identity — scrolling, consuming, demanding, demanding, fearing, and sacrificing peace, relationships, and truth for these new forms.



1. Modern Idols

Radical self-autonomy • Sexual self-creation • Political absolutism • Consumerism • Identity without God • Technology as salvation • Fear as a guiding force • Violence as power. Lifeless objects, ideas, and systems with no real power (Colossians 3:5; 1 John 5:21)

3. The Spiritual Being (Deceptive Power). The ancient elohim are still active today, but in new forms. Not true gods, but demonic/fallen angelic entities that masquerade behind modern idols to receive the worship, time, and devotion intended for the Creator (1 Corinthians 10:20, Ephesians 6:12)

The Deceptive Reality: The smartphone, ideology, brand, or pursuit itself is lifeless matter or code with no power. Yet real spiritual forces stand behind them — the same powers that once appeared as Baal or Asherah have simply changed their packaging. They still intercept devotion meant for the one true God.

The Idol of Self

“The great crime of humanity... is that we move ourselves into the center of our own universe.”

Modern idolatry is:

- self-rule,
- self-definition,
- self-worship,
- self-sovereignty.

The Idol of Blended Faith

Just as Israel blended Yahweh with Baal and Asherah, today people blend:

- Christianity + New Age
- Christianity + Islam (“same God” confusion)
- Christianity + secular moralism
- Christianity + political identity
- Christianity + prosperity gospel

This creates a god who is no longer the God of Scripture.

The Idol of Cultural Pressure

Ancient Israel compromised to “fit in” with Canaan.

Today Christians compromise to fit in with:

- sexual ethics,
- materialism,
- expressive individualism,
- political tribalism,
- entertainment-driven spirituality.

The Idol of Security

Ancient people trusted Baal for rain and crops.

Today people trust:

- money,
- career,
- government,
- relationships,
- technology,
- personal autonomy.

Idolatry is anything we trust more than God.

SCRIPTURAL WAYS CHRISTIANS CAN FIGHT THIS SPIRITUAL WARFARE

1. Remember Who God Is (Isaiah 44:6–8)

2. Destroy the Idols (Deut. 12:1–5)

3. Love God With All Your Heart (Deut. 6:4–5)

The Shema is the antidote to idolatry:

“Hear, O Israel... You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart...”

Idolatry thrives where love for God grows cold.

Practice:

Worship, prayer, Scripture meditation, and obedience.

4. Expose the Lies (Isaiah 41:21–24)

5. Remember the Gospel (Acts 4:12)

“There is salvation in no one else...”

Jesus is *the true Servant* Isaiah promised.

He rescues us from the idols that enslave us.

Practice:

Preach the gospel to yourself daily.

6. Walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16–17)

Idolatry is a work of the flesh.

Victory comes through the Spirit’s power.

Practice:

Ask the Spirit to reveal hidden idols and empower obedience.

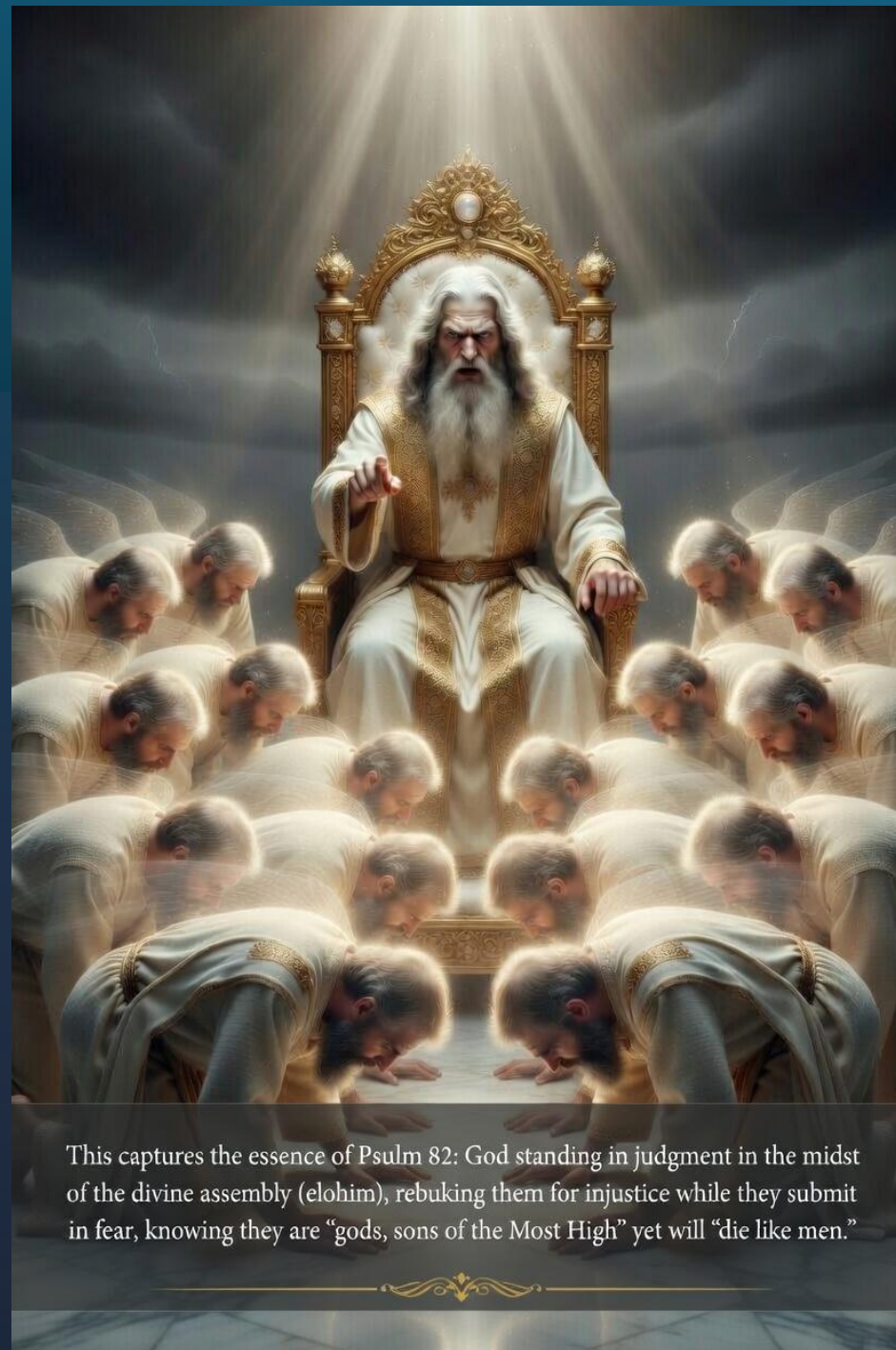
7. Engage in Community (Heb. 3:12–13)

Idolatry grows in isolation.

Community exposes deception.

So What is to Become of These
“Elohim”? Psalm 82:1-7

- 1 God presides in the great assembly;
he renders judgment^p among the “gods”:^q
- 2 “How long will you^a defend the unjust
and show partiality^r to the wicked?^{b s}
- 3 Defend the weak and the fatherless;^t
uphold the cause of the poor^u and the oppressed.
- 4 Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.



This captures the essence of Psalm 82: God standing in judgment in the midst of the divine assembly (elohim), rebuking them for injustice while they submit in fear, knowing they are “gods, sons of the Most High” yet will “die like men.”

- 5 “The ‘gods’ know nothing,
they understand nothing.^v
They walk about in
darkness;^w
all the foundations^x of the
earth are shaken.
- 6 “I said, ‘You are “gods”;^y
you are all sons of the Most
High.’
- 7 But you will die^z like mere
mortals;
you will fall like every other
ruler.”

**Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy,
it does not boast, it is not proud.
It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking,
it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.
Love does not delight in evil but
rejoices with the truth.
It always protects, always trusts, always hopes,
always perseveres.**

LOVE . NEVER . FAILS

