

# **BABYLON – VOL. III**

## **WHAT IS IDOLATRY?**

### **Part 6**

**By**

**ART MOKAROW**

## Copyright TXu 1679-106 – *What Is Idolatry?*

### Puzzles – Vol. I

God's Puzzle Solved

God's Puzzle Completed

The Mystery of God

Prophecy Is Cyclical

God's Mystery Fulfilled

### Image – Vol. II

Sons Of God

The Magi And Christ's Birth

Jesus, The Son Of Man

Testimony Of The Messiah

### Babylon – Vol. III

What Is Babylon?

What Is Slavery?

The Eighth Head Of The Beast

The Ten Lost Tribes

The Mark Of The Beast

What Is Idolatry?

### Testimony – Vol. IV

Is The Bible Inspired?

The Goodness Of God's Law

The True Churches Of God

### Temple – Vol. V

History Of God's Law

The Christian Sabbath

Who Is God?

The Temple Of God

### Deception – Vol. VI

God's Old And New Covenant

What's It All About?

Morality And Economics

The Times Of The Gentiles

Satan's Deception

### Worship – Vol. VII

God's Work

The Original Bible

Discovering God

Faith With Works

God's Plan Of Salvation

Spiritual Growth

Faith That Saves

### Prophecy – Vol. VIII

Revelation Uncovered

The Great Apostasy

God's Story

History Of Revelation

### Teaching – Vol. IX

The Wisdom Of Jesus And Solomon

God's School

God's Science Vs. Human Science

### Works – Vol. X

What Is Man?

Morality – Pathway To Economic Prosperity

Don't Bury Your Talents

God's Work Vs. Man's Work

### Other Books

Christ In You

The White Throne Judgment

God's Sabbath And Holy Days

God's Will

Satan's Image

God's Kingdom

The Wedding Feast

God's Two Priesthoods

Truths, Creeds And Doctrines

Who Is The Messiah?

Solomon's Temple Pillars

Paul's Religion

Who And What Is God's Word?

What Is A Marriage?

Lake Of Fire – The Judgment

Chronology Of Christ

The End Is The Beginning

Origin Of Baptism

Revelation And The Queen Of Heaven

Seeking God

The Jubilee

God's Three Covenants

God's Gift Of Inheritance

All rights reserved. No part of the material protected by this copyright notice may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any informational storage system without written permission from the copyright owner. Printed in The United States of America.

# WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

## CONTENTS

<i>PREFACE</i>	v
<i>INTRODUCTION</i>	vii
<b>THE PHYSICAL AND THE SPIRITUAL</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>THE CAUSE OF IDOLATRY</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>WHAT DOES IDOLATRY DO?</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>A SOUND MIND</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>WHAT IS GOD'S KINGDOM?</b>	<b>25</b>

## PREFACE

Why does God hate *idolatry* so intensely? “*Sin*” is stated as “*idolatry*” in *The Ten Commandments*. The first three commandments declare there is *One God* and He is *The Only One* to be *worshipped*. God hates *idolatry*, so deeply, that He doesn’t want you to make *an idol* of Him, either. He doesn’t want to be worshipped in any *man-made form*. *The sin of idolatry* is extremely dangerous to God’s people. This book will explore the reasons God despises idolatry.

Comments and criticisms are welcomed. No money is accepted for these books. All books are absolutely *free*. We are not a church and are non-denominational. Our job is to spread The Word of God (freely received - freely given). Please do not send any money. These books are gifts to you. God has blessed you with *some* of His mysteries, symbols and parables to further show you His path to Eternal Life. *Attempting* to put some of God’s puzzle together for you is a great honor for us. It is truly humbling to be able to send all these books, CD’s and downloads *free of charge* to you. We use The King James Version of *The Bible* in all our books. We now offer 3 new CD’s: 1) CD containing Vol. I – Vol. X, 2) CD containing all other books, and 3) CD containing articles on various subjects. All are in PDF format and can be read on your computer. We also have a DVD of Art giving a brief synopsis of several of the printed books.

Address: Art Mokarow, Box 1197, Montgomery, TX 77356  
E-mail: [art@mokarow.com](mailto:art@mokarow.com) (Comments and Questions)  
Websites: [www.GodsPuzzleSolved.com](http://www.GodsPuzzleSolved.com) (Books)  
[www.BibleStudyMadeEasy.net](http://www.BibleStudyMadeEasy.net) (Articles)

## INTRODUCTION

The world's three major religions claim to be against idolatry. Judaism, Islam and Christianity accept *The Ten Commandments*. One-third of *The Commandments* explain that *idolatry is a major sin*. Why is it so important to God that you do not corrupt yourselves with this sin?

Atheists and agnostics claim God is *jealous*. They claim He is in competition because of His *ego*. That's humorous because God has *no ego*. "*God is love*" (I John 4:8). This *agapé love* is so intense that any person blessed with it, will be willing to give their life for *the one they love*. *This Godly love* is not based upon *emotion, passion or erotica*. This *love* is *selfless*. It never considers *the self*. This love considers others. *Godly love is very great*. If God has to punish, it is always for *the benefit of the loved one*. God may hate *the sin* but never *the sinner*. When God punishes you, He only does it for *your profit*. "*Now no chastening [pain] for the present seems to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yields [produces] the peaceable fruit of righteousness to them which are exercised [trained] thereby*" (Hebrews 12:10-11).

This type of punishment can only come from those who do not have an ego. Their *love* becomes God's *love*. God's *love* desires *the good of others* above all else. Such *love* cannot have an *ego*. God *hates idolatry* for another reason. Idolatry produces *damage to the ones loved*. That is the reason God despises idolatry so intensely. Why is *idolatry* so *injurious* to God's *creation*? To understand this, you must, biblically, search for God's definition of "*idolatry*." Generally, many

cultures in the world have been worshipping *physical idols* or *physical images* (which is the definition of idolatry). You may tend to think of *idolatry* as some *pagan physical image*. This image may be *idolatry* if it meets *the biblical definition of sin*. If not, it is *not an idol* but merely *an image*. That is why some people believe any religious picture or any image, is *an idol*. As Christians, you must only depend upon God's *word* to reveal *the sin of idolatry*. A picture is only a picture; and an image is only an image, as long as it is *not an idol*. The Temple of God had many images, like *pomegranates* or *the two angelic seraphim's* over *The Ark of The Covenant*. God is not against pictures and images as long as they are *not idols* or *worshipped*. To define *idolatry*, you must *use God's definition*. At times, a person's human imagination can be *a form of idolatry*.

*The Bible* is quite clear in reference to what *idolatry* is. Once you discover *the biblical meaning*, you will know why God hates *the sin of idolatry*.

## CHAPTER 1

### THE PHYSICAL AND THE SPIRITUAL

Humans may find they, actually, have a multitude of idols. In Greek the word for “*idol*” is “*ikon*.” An “*icon*” is merely “*an image*.” But, what makes it an idol?

#### The Human Mind

At The Tower of Babel, mankind made an idol out of The Tower itself. Paul said, “*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness*” (Romans 1:18). Pretty clear! Anything humans do, as their way to *worship* God, may be considered *idolatry*. If you hold what is *real* or *the truth* in *an unprofitable way*, it does not do anything of *value*. It can be idolatry. It is only *good* when it leads to something productive. It must be *a useful asset* which gives *life* and *not death*.

Paul explains how the truth can be held in *an unrighteous way*. “*Who changed the truth of God into a lie and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen*” (Romans 1:25). This should not be too hard for you to understand.

Those at *The Tower of Babel* believed that The House of God in The Garden of Eden was built on top of

a hill (Psalm 24:1-5). To ascend that hill, there was *a circular path* which led to *The Temple of God*. It was considered Holy after God finished His *work* and rested on The Seventh Day. Everything God created *was very good* (Genesis 1:31).

Then, Adam and Eve disobeyed. As time went on, those at The Tower of Babel *worshipped “objects.”* They worshipped plants, trees, mountains, animals, rivers and, especially, *“the hill”* and *“the path”* (*the stairway to heaven*). It was *their pagan attempts* to get to The House of God. They began to worship the physical hill and the physical path. This was the origin of *all idolatry*. Paul was very clear about *this point*, *“Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man and to birds and fourfooted beasts and creeping things”* (Romans 1:22-23).

The most ancient people, The Sumerians, called this tower and place of worship *“Ziggurat.”* They considered *the temple* to be Holy. They worshipped everything in the temple. This was because God made it *Holy* on The Seventh Day and, then, rested. They held *this truth in unrighteousness* (idolatry).

## **Babylon, The Beast**

*“And the woman [Babylon] which you saw is that great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth”* (Revelation 17:18). The original Babylon was *Babel*, where The Tower of Babel was built. In history, there are many cities called Babylon, like Babylon in Nebu-

chadnezzar's day. (Read the book, *Satan's Image*). It all depends upon which *head of the beast* is being referred to (at any particular time). Nimrod ruled over his kingdom, the original Babylon, in Egypt and Babel (Genesis 10:8-10). God destroyed The Tower of Babel for a very good reason. They made *the tower* into an idol. God decided it was too soon for society to conjure up so many idols. God divided the people when He changed the language. Therefore, they formed groups who understood each other's language. This great city was likened to *a woman who is a whore* because she "*holds the truth in unrighteousness*" (Revelation 18:3 and Romans 1:18). Through her *religion*, she makes *the whole world drunk* with her wine. Her *holidays* produce *great riches* for *the merchants* with all their religious products (Christmas and Easter). This great mother *promotes idolatry*. Her religion is a *figment of her own imagination*. Read God's answer to what *the cause of Babylon or confusion really is*, "*And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do*" (Genesis 11:6).

The problem wasn't *the tower* that they built, but how they worshipped *the tower*. It became a place of *world worship by the imagination of the human mind*. This *Tower of Babel* was called "*Babylon*," which caused *confusion*. Everything in *this tower* was considered *Holy* and began to be worshipped. They thought the mountains, trees, rivers, animals, snakes and people in power were *gods* – worthy of *worship*. Polytheism (many gods) originated with Astrology, which looked

to the heavens for guidance. What is the basis for all this? *The human intellect or imagination* is a mixture of *good and evil*. They held *the truth in unrighteousness*. This Babylonian system has been *the religion of the earth* ever since.

God tells His people to, “*Come out of her*” (Revelation 18:4). God wants you to come out of *the world’s system* which covers every aspect of your *existence*. What is this system? This system is *human nature*, which never seems to include The One True God. It began in The Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve ate the fruit from *The Tree of The Knowledge of Good and Evil*. From that time on, all future generations decided *right and wrong* for themselves. That is *Babylon, The Great Whore*. Originally, God stopped this *natural human behavior* by confusing the languages. The Old World was caught up in this *bestly way of thinking*. The nations with the diverse languages had a chance to seek *The True God* and His *righteousness*.

## Two Choices

Just as in *The Garden of Eden*, the world has two choices. The right choice is *The Tree of Life*, which leads to *the truth* and *Salvation*. The second choice is *The Tree of The Knowledge of Good and Evil*. This tree leads to *Babylon* (confusion). *The Tree of Life* reveals *the truth*, which will give you *The Very Mind of God*. “*The Mind of God*” is “*a spiritual mind*.” God wants you to worship Him, *spiritually* (John 4). “*Your word is truth*” (John 17:17). God’s *word* comes from His *spiritual mind*. Your own *physical mind* is humanly *car-*

*nal.* Since you will *die*, your *mind* is *motivated* by your *ego* (your self esteem), which always protects you. If you *desire* anything, it is *motivated* by your *ego*. Since you are not *born* with *the real truth*, you are a *product of your genes* (*motivational desires*) and *environment*. Your *genes* tell you to *survive* like *any animal*. Your *environment* is a mixture of *human imagination* and is multiplied by other individuals. Since most humans are directed by their *egos*, they create countless *ideas of right and wrong*. But this leads to confusion. It is called "*Babylon*."

### Science And Error

Without God, mankind was left with an enormous number of possibilities. A method of sifting through *the possibilities* was invented. Science is the process of testing those possibilities. It cannot come to pure facts or *the truth*. It is a human method where scientist's do not *believe* in God. That is why the scientist's "*theories of life*" change every one hundred years or so.

Science is the best method humans can use to discern between *right* and *wrong*. Science will never be *100% accurate*; they come to their man-made conclusions which are only half-truths. Mankind can convince everyone that doctors are the experts for every minor or major ailment. All scientific *findings* have some *good* in them, but they also have some dangerous side effects. You'll notice the drugs advertised on TV always list numerous side effects which are sometimes worse than the initial problem. Science has replaced

**The One True God.** Ultimately, *personal doctors* or *the government* will control every aspect of your life. They will become your *High Priests* to save you from the result of everyone's sins.

*The choice* is always yours. You follow what you know in your *physical mind* or else you seek God's *spiritual mind*. Left to *yourself*, you tend to serve many *personal idols*. Humans can dream up or create many things to idolize. God hates *idolatry* because it can't *save you*. It *leads to death!* Only God has *the truth*.

## CHAPTER 2

### THE CAUSE OF IDOLATRY

Human nature is a guide to a person's character. There are so many options and possibilities to create idols. Multiply everyone's human thoughts and, "*Nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do*" (Genesis 11:6). The system of *confusion* (Babylon) can consume you. The question is, "What creates idolatry?" It is easy to understand how the human mind can create an abundance of ideas as to what is *right* or *wrong*. Everyone is so unique and different. Your genes and environmental influences allow you to come up with many conclusions of *good* and *evil*. Just look at how many religions exist today. Your conclusions, based upon a multitude of options, can be beyond number. How does a person create idols?

#### The Ten Commandments

God taught *The Ten Commandments* from the very beginning. Four hundred and thirty years passed between Abraham's time and Moses' time (Galatians 3:17). However, *the commandments* did not become a *law* until Moses received them (John 1:17). (Read the book, *History of God's Law*). In Abraham's day, *no*

*law* was needed because he was *faithful* and obeyed God's *voice*. Abraham had *no idols* because he had *faith* in God. (Read the book, *Faith That Saves*). Jesus was asked by *a rich man* how he could receive *Eternal Life*. Christ simply said, "*Keep the commandments*" (Matthew 19). The rich man asked, "*What do I lack?*" Jesus said, "*If you will be perfect, go and sell all that you have [everything] and give it to the poor*" (Matthew 19:21). Christ knew the rich man had *an idol* that he *worshipped*. What is *an idol*? Jesus tells you it is "*anything you worship instead of God.*" How could *the rich man* overcome worshipping a *false idol*? "*With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible*" (Matthew 19:26).

Do you get the full impact of Christ's answer? Mankind cannot overcome *idolatry* unless they have God's help. Human effort and logic can only create *more idol worship*. *The flesh is weak* and the real problem – *death*, can never be conquered. *Death* is the result of *sin* and in the end, everyone *dies*.

### God Can't Murder

One of *The Ten Commandments* forbids *killing* or *murder*. What is the difference between *killing* and *murder*? Jesus gives you the answer, "*And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul [life]: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell*" (Matthew 10:28). Only God has the power to *give life* (or take life). It is God's choice. Thankfully, your God is *The God of The Living* and *not of the dead*. When humans intentionally kill, it

is *murder*. It is murder because no human can restore life. If God *kills*, He is able to restore *that life* through a *resurrection*. God, therefore, cannot *murder* because, "*In Christ*," everyone shall be *saved* (resurrected) (I Corinthians 15:21-23). This is your promise from God's *word*. God can *kill*, but He cannot *murder*. That is why God compares a *human death* to being *asleep* (I Corinthians 15:18). You, indeed, have a *wonderful father*! Humans can *murder*, but no human can *resurrect* or *restore* life.

### Christ Is Life

When Lazarus died, what did Jesus say? "*I am the resurrection and the life: he that believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Believe you this?*" (John 11:25-26). "*That if you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and shall believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. For with the heart man believes [faith] to righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made to salvation*" (Romans 10:9-10). It can't be any clearer! Once you acknowledge and believe Jesus is Lord, The Christ, you will be *saved*. Besides being saved, because you believe in Jesus, you will *be made righteous* and receive *Salvation*. Does this happen to *everyone*?

At The White Throne Judgment, when everyone is resurrected and believes Jesus is The Lord, *The Bible* states, "*That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven [angels] and things in earth and things under the earth; And that every tongue*

*should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory [goodness] of God the Father”* (Philippians 2:10-11). This excludes *no one*. Everyone alive *on the earth* and everyone *under the earth* (dead) will be *resurrected*. When they see Jesus and see that He is alive, they will believe He is The Lord. They will all confess He is *The Word*. They will throw themselves upon *the mercy of the court and the witnesses* will come forth. Jesus will *save them* because they all believe (in their hearts) that He is *The Lord*. Christ must *save them* because He *gave them His promise*. Jesus came for one purpose and that was to Save The World (I John 4:14). (Read the book, *God’s Will*). Don’t allow *personal idols* to get in your way. Don’t deny yourself Eternal Life.

### **Idolatry Defined**

You may worship *some object* and *not even realize it*. It is *a state of mind*. It is, either, according to *your mind* or according to God’s *mind*. God claims He is *The One and Only True God*. God is *motivated* (in His heart) out of love and not by any *ego*. God gives you *a gift* based upon *faith*. No human knows *right* from *wrong*. The best you can do is *guess* and hope you’re right (most of the time). Only God knows how *all things* were created. God *created everything*, therefore, He knows *all truth*. All humans can do, *at best* (even with Science), is *guess*. They end with only *a theory*. Humans have *no absolutes*. You must understand why your human nature can cause *death* and *confusion*. “*Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence and covetousness, which is idolatry*” (Colossians 3:5).

**What is *idolatry*? A statue can represent *the heavens, the earth, mountains, trees, plants, insects or animals. Humans can, also, cause other individuals to be idolaters. This happens when others worship individuals in the public eye. Whatever you covet in place of God will be your idol.***

***Idolatry can be anything you covet. It can be anyone or anything you worship. When you cannot live without a certain “something,” whether it is a person or an object, you have created an idol. Fame, power, money, adulation or any excessive human desire can make you lose your rational thinking. You will not have the wisdom to think – logically (Proverbs 18:1-5). It is your human desire which covets anything to the point you cannot live without it. That is idolatry. The Word of God declares it is so (Colossians 2:5). You must mortify or put these thoughts to death. Excessive human desires can only lead to death. These excessive determined desires, when fulfilled, produce death as the natural outcome.***

**That is *idolatry* as defined in *The Bible*. *Why does God hate idolatry?***

## CHAPTER 3

### WHAT DOES IDOLATRY DO?

Israel was told how God felt when they followed *the ways of the heathen* (Jeremiah 10:1-8). *The heathens are people without The One True God.* They decide *right from wrong* on their own and choose *what or who* they wish to worship. God warns His people, Israel, “*For the customs of the people are vain: for one cuts a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs [to] be borne [carried], because they cannot go [move]. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good*” (Jeremiah 10:3-5). Today, it is The Christmas Tree. The world lights it up and, without realizing, they worship it. It has become a ritual each and every year.

#### Origin Of The Christmas Tree

Amazingly, many do not know how the tradition of *The Christmas Tree* started. It began in ancient *Sumeria* at The Time of The Tower of Babel. Everyone in Babel regarded almost everything in Eden and The

**Garden as divine.** All of *the trees* in The Garden were *very good* (Genesis 1:31). Enoch prophesied about *The Return of Christ* along with 10,000 of His saints (*angels*) (Jude 14). Enoch was *the seventh prophet* from Adam.

The Gospel of Jesus was known and preached in Adam's day. Christ said He came "*to save that which was lost*" (Matthew 18:11). The Tree of Life was *lost* in The Garden (Genesis 3:24). Jesus restored *the truth* by giving *grace and mercy* (the forgiveness of sin) (John 1:17).

When you repent and your *sins* are *forgiven*, God will *dwell* with you and "*In You*" through His *Holy Spirit*. This Holy Spirit will help you grow, spiritually, with added *truth* (John 14:16). They worship The Christmas Tree with its lights as Christ, The Light Bringer. *The Christmas Tree* is a feeble physical attempt to represent Christ as *The Light* or *The Truth Bringer* to *The World* (John 1:9). Society puts lights on the tree to show Christ is *The Light Bringer* to *The World*. That is why individuals regard December 25<sup>th</sup> as Christmas or *Christ's Mass*.

### Vanity Of Vanity

Who you revere or worship is very important. It is important because it might not have anything to do with worshipping The One True God. You might have some other idol you follow or honor. Idols are worshipped as though they have some *greatness*. God refers to The Christmas Tree and all other objects of

worship as *idols*. They are nothing more than a human form of *vanity*, “*But they are altogether brutish and foolish: the stock is a doctrine [teaching] of vanities*” (Jeremiah 10:8). “*Vanity*” in Hebrew is defined as “*meaningless*” or “*of no value.*” Thinking *any physical idol* is purposeful is complete *foolishness* in God’s mind. To *worship a physical idol* (as a god) is worthless. Why? There is not anything idols can do for you. *Idol worship is pure ignorance*. Is it becoming evident why God *hates idolatry*? These idols do *nothing*. Worshiping The One True God will always benefit everyone in the world. God is The Only One who knows everything (from the first step to the last step). Only God can give *life* and offer you Paradise.

Are there other *physical idols* which are *useless*? God gave Solomon *wisdom* and you *need to ask* God for that same *wisdom*. Solomon was wealthy, powerful and could have had anything he desired. After doing everything possible in his human life, Solomon’s conclusion was, “*Vanity of vanities, said the Preacher [teacher], vanity of vanities; all is vanity*” (Ecclesiastes 1:2). Do you understand *the impact* of these words? Solomon, in his *earthly wisdom*, came to this conclusion. As Solomon discovered, there is nothing worthwhile for you to *idolize*. After all of Solomon’s *life experiences* (having *power, celebrity* and *wealth*), *accomplishment* and *honor* he said, “*Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of the life of your vanity, which he has given you under the sun, all the days of your vanity*” (Ecclesiastes 9:9). In addition, he said, “*There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink and that he should make his soul*

[life] *enjoy good in his labor. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God*” (Ecclesiastes 2:24). This is *the best a human existence can give*. In the end, everyone dies (Ecclesiastes 12:7). Nothing in this life should ever be *coveted* or made into *an idol*. “*To covet*” is “*idolatry*.” Nothing in your earthly life should be so *important* that you *can’t live without it*. It is *idolatry* because you can do nothing about it. In the end, you *die* and everything you desired, wished for or gave honor to – is *for nothing*.

### Idolatry And Love

“*Vanity*” is “*prioritizing life for unprofitable reasons*.” You may be sinning or *missing the mark* because you want *a creative, successful life*. It may be unprofitable, not only in *this life*, but in *the life* to come.

“*Idolatry*” is “*a form of coveting which can do nothing for a person’s good*.” Loving The One True God profits *everything* – *prosperity, joy, peace, happiness, paradise and Eternal Life*. That is why *worshipping God* produces everything good. *The results will truly benefit you*.

Jesus told *the rich man* that if he wanted *life*, he must keep *The Commandments* (Matthew 19). Keeping *The Commandments* is foundational for a good human existence. Solomon said the same about *the human experience*, “*Let us hear the conclusion [human life] of the whole matter. Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man*” (Ecclesiastes 12:13). When you read *The Book of Ecclesiastes*, it

focuses on *life in this world* and not *eternity*. Solomon was granted *physical wisdom* to rule Israel. *Spiritual wisdom* or *spiritual truth* can only come from *Christ* (John 1:17). (Read the entire *Book of Ecclesiastes* for insight into the subject of idolatry).

After Jesus told *the rich man* to keep *The Commandments*, the man said he had always kept them. He wanted to know what he lacked to receive *Eternal Life*. Jesus added, “*If you will be perfect, go and sell all that you have and give it to the poor*” (Matthew 19:21). Why did Christ say this? He said this because *riches* were *this man’s idol*. Once you *give up everything*, only then, will you rely on God. Then, you love and worship The God who takes such good care of you. Christ told His Disciples that only God could change their *hearts* and *minds*, “*With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible*” (Matthew 19:26). *The rich man’s idol was wealth*. He had to keep his riches. He did not heed the calling and turned away from Jesus, *The Giver of Life*. Besides telling the rich man to give away his wealth, He told him to, “*Follow me*” (Matthew 19:21). The love for Christ and God, The Father, requires you to *give up all your idols*. Then, you can *follow God*. Any form of idolatry, whether *physical* or *spiritual*, *blinds you from The Love of God*.

You have to admit, it is getting *very clear, scripturally*, why God *hates idolatry*. Idolatry keeps you from loving God and, more importantly, doesn’t allow Him to give you all His love.

The great *commandment* is, “*You shall love the Lord*

*your God with all your heart and with all your soul [life] and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like to it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Matthew 22:37-40). The Law, The Prophets and The Bible all refer to idolatry. Loving anything besides God is idolatry. If anything comes before God and His word, you cannot be given Salvation. Are you beginning to understand why God hates idolatry? The Kingdom of God must be first in your life. God will not grant you The Kingdom of God if you idolize anyone or anything other than your Father. Any idol, physical or spiritual, can keep you from entering New Jerusalem with The Tree of Life (Eternal Life).*

## CHAPTER 4

### A SOUND MIND

*“For God has not given us the spirit [mind] of fear; but of power and of love and of a sound [disciplined] mind”* (II Timothy 1:7). A Christian will no longer have *fear* after God gives him/her His Holy Spirit. How do you receive power through God’s Holy Spirit? How does God give you a sound or disciplined mind? These questions must be answered. Why is it so important for Christians to have *a sound mind* and what can keep them from having a disciplined mind?

#### Solomon’s Wisdom

Remember, Solomon’s wisdom was *founded* upon wanting to rule the people *wisely*. He wrote *Proverbs*, *Ecclesiastes* and *Song of Solomon* because of his *wise* experiences. His father, King David, truly sought God. When he sinned, *he repented*, unlike his son, Solomon. (Read David’s prayer of repentance in Psalm 51). Besides pleading for God’s *mercy*, David wanted his *heart* and *mind* to be cleansed by God’s Holy Spirit. Notice what David wanted God to do for him, *“Behold, you desire truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part you shall make me to know wisdom”* (Psalm 51:6). This request was for *a spiritual change*.

This was *far beyond just living a wise human life*. He wanted to *be scourged, internally*. David was asking God to change his mind. God is *a spirit* and has a *spiritual mind*. Therefore, His thoughts are *superior* to the thoughts of mankind. Because of His *great love*, God will do *everything* to help you. David beseeched God because he wanted *a mind* like The Mind of God.

### No Idols

David wanted all of his *unrighteous human desires* to be *scourged* from his *thoughts* and *mind*. Christ has *the mind* and *heart* of God and David desired *the same mind* and *heart*, as well. David's *lust* or *idolatry* for Bathsheba caused him to *murder* her husband. David, as a human, had *a carnal heart* like the rest of society. His weakness, along with his son, Solomon, was *lusting after* and *coveting* women. Coveting different women is a form of idolatry (Colossians 3:5). King David *truly repented* and *sought* God's *heart*. You must *do the same* – *come out of Babylon*. All of your *idols* (physical and spiritual) must go. When you eliminate all *the strains of the flesh*, God can *give you a heart* and *a mind* like His. This is how David received *a heart* like God's. It can only come through God's Holy Spirit. You must, also, desire to have *a heart* like God's.

### Love Of God

To understand how God places *a right heart* “*In You*,” it is imperative to know *the power of God's love*. In Greek “*God's love*” is “*agapé*.” It is *so strong*, it is “*willing to give up everything for the one loved*.” This

type of *love never fails* (I Corinthians 13). It is *eternal* and is there for you, forever. God will never *stop* helping you find *agapé love*. That is why Peter said God is not slack in bringing His *kingdom*. He is willing to suffer with you until you repent (II Peter 3:8-9). That may be why *a day is like a thousand years* to God. His love for you is *so strong* that *human time* is not an issue. It gives God *pleasure* to bring you to *repentance* (Ephesians 1:9). You are His *pet project*. God wants you to be able to live forever. The more you follow your idol (whether power, money or possibly a celebrity), there is a good chance you will never be satisfied. You will try harder to attain what you desire. Your faith is misdirected. (Read the book, *Faith That Saves*).

### Difference In Love And Idolatry

At times, *love* and *idolatry* seem to be very much *alike*. There is, usually, no difference, but there is one exception. *An idol can do nothing*. To follow after it is *vain*. It is completely useless to *pursue*, “*Every man is brutish in his knowledge: every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten [man-made] image is falsehood and there is no breath in them. They are vanity and the work of errors [missing the mark]: in the time of their visitation they shall perish*” (Jeremiah 10:14-15). Pretty clear! Whether it is *a physical idol* or *a spiritual idol*, you will *die* in the end. These idols (physical and mental) are all man-made, whether in an animal form or in a human form. In the end, all disintegrate. They cannot do anything for you. That is the difference. “*They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs [to] be borne [carried], be-*

*cause they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil [hurt], neither also is it in them to do good. Forasmuch as there is none like to you, O LORD; you are great and your name is great in might. Who would not fear you, O King of nations [world]? For to you does it appertain [pertain]: forasmuch as among all the wise men of the nations and in all their kingdoms, there is none like to you”* (Jeremiah 10:5-7). My, what a difference! Whether it is a man-made idol or something you create as an idol, your heart’s desire will never benefit you. All end up dying. Only God is eternal. Who is *The True King*? “King” in Hebrew and Greek denotes “the creator,” “life sustainer” and “the giver of all good things.” That is God, *The Only One True God*. No one else. All of those idols are unprofitable. Can you understand, now, why God hates idolatry? Worshipping any idol or an intense desire to give up everything for something vain or useless is coveting.

Human life on this earth, ultimately, has no purpose. That is why Jesus said, “I have given them your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the [this] world, even as I am not of the [it/this] world” (John 17:14). Also, read John 17:12-17. You, also, should not be part of the world. All that exists in this human life is idolatry. God hates idolatry, not because of any ego (because He has none), but because it hinders you. You gain absolutely nothing. Idolatry harms you. God’s word is simple! Now, you know The Power of God and The Love of God (Romans 5:5). You must begin to fear God in order to be accepted by Him (Acts 10:35). When He gives you His Holy Spirit, you

will not have any fear (II Timothy 1:7). How does this work?

*The fear of God* (not feeling safe) motivates you to come to The Creator. God is the only answer; otherwise, the human existence would have *no purpose*. Atheists and Agnostics do not believe God exists. They have *no faith*. That is why God accepts them with *their carnal hearts*. When true repentance occurs, God gives His Holy Spirit. Then, those with a carnal heart will learn *a Godly love* (Romans 5:5). As your *faith* increases (growing in God's love), many of your *fears disappear*. The conclusion is this, "*There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear: because fear has torment. He that fears is not made perfect in love*" (I John 4:18). The Greek word for "*fear*," in this case, is "*phobos*" or what a psychologist would call "*a phobia*." It is a fear of *what is not real* – like a fear of heights or claustrophobia. These are *false fears* and *false worries*. How can you tell? It is very easy. *Fear* is grounded by a *false premise*. Death, without God, is *final* (Matthew 10:28). *Idols* cannot save you; they only *fool you*. *Faith "In God" saves you*. (Read the book, *Faith That Saves*).

*The torment* is what is so fearful about *idolatry*. Idols only produce *torment*. The word "*torment*" in Greek is "*kolasis*." The word "*colossal*" means "*overwhelming*." It causes such *stress* and will overwhelm you which causes you *torment*. There is *no escape*. It is *eternal* unless you *repent* and grow in God's Holy Spirit. Torment, in this case, brings you "*To Christ*." There is *no other solution*. *The ignorant are not inter-*

*ested and the foolish* refuse to change. These people have *The Mark of The Beast* and are *totally selfish*. They are their own idols. (Read about Job who had this problem). It is called “*self-righteousness*.” This does not mean *the ignorant and the foolish have no feelings*. Not at all! The problem is that they have no interest outside of their *lives*. That is *idolatry*. There is *no fear in love*. God’s *love is eternal* and, therefore, always *giving*. In faith, He can be *fully trusted*. All of the *false fears disappear*.

Once *faith is established*, with your full confidence in God, you will receive some of God’s *power*. Godly *power*, combined with God’s *love*, *grants you a sound* (logical) *mind and heart*. You no longer need *any idols* or *personal agendas*. You can think *straight* because God has *granted you His wisdom, mind and heart*.

The Greek word for “*a sound mind*” means “*a disciplined mind*.” If you have a sound mind, you have God’s *wisdom*. With *a sound mind*, you can discern *good from evil*. When you begin to gain God’s Holy Spirit, you will have, *symbolically, eaten of The Tree of Life* (God’s Holy Spirit). That is “*Christ – In You*.” (Read the book, *Christ In You*). You will no longer have these *false fears* or have the need for any *idols*.

God’s *love is “In You”* and will give you *the power of a sound mind*. You will begin to receive *a disciplined mind and heart* because you will have *godly wisdom*. You will begin to *think clearly* and all your *idols* or *personal agendas* will dissolve. You are ready to receive *the most treasured heavenly gift of all – Salvation*.

## CHAPTER 5

### WHAT IS GOD'S KINGDOM?

*“And when he [Jesus] was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God comes not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you”* (Luke 17:20-21). This is shocking! The Kingdom of God will be composed of humans who have become Sons of God. You will become like Jesus and in whom God will be well-pleased. *“Jesus”* was *“God’s kingdom on earth.”* Those who do not become Sons of God are not in The Kingdom of God. They cannot enter The City of God (New Jerusalem) until they become God’s Sons (Colossians 1:27).

#### The New Heaven And The New Earth

Everyone on the earth belongs to God. The Holy Temple of God is on *a hill*. Only those who are *clean* and have God’s *righteousness* can enter as a Son of God (Psalm 24:1-5).

The Kingdom of God will be located on The New Earth to come. *“And they shall see his [God’s] face; and his name shall be in their foreheads”* (Revelation

22:4). They have God's *mind!* Those in The Kingdom of God will look like Him (family) and *think* like Him. Paul said the exact same thing. The Kingdom of God is in New Jerusalem. The Kingdom, however, is only ruled by The Sons of God. In order to enter *New Jerusalem*, you have to grow to be a *Son of God*. "*And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said to me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And He said to me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcomes shall inherit all things; and I will be his God and he shall be my son*" (Revelation 21:5-7).

Do you understand? Under The New Heavens and on The New Earth, *spiritual growth* will continue (Ephesians 4). Those who kept *The Ten Commandments* will have a *right* to be in The Kingdom of God (Colossians 1:27). Those who rejected God's Holy Spirit will *not* be allowed into The City of New Jerusalem. They will be in *outer darkness*. However, it will only be *until they choose to drink the healing waters coming from the throne of God and the Lamb* (Revelation 22:1).

The Kingdom of God will be in New Jerusalem and, as Sons of God, you will have a right to eat of The Tree of Life. The guests who are *saved* will be able to enter The Kingdom of God. But, year by year, they must drink of the waters to keep growing in God's *glory*. Spiritual growth occurs as, "*And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that hears say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will,*

*let him take the water of life freely*" (Revelation 22:17).

At that time, the whole world will have free choice to drink the waters with the healing leaves (Revelation 22:1-2). Wow! Do you understand the thought of The Kingdom of God not being a physical government? It is *a spiritual condition*. Only through *a spiritual condition* can you become a Son of God. As Sons, you will inherit all things. It is *a gift* from God. Then, His Sons will enter The Rest of God (Hebrews 4:9).

### Sabbath Rest

God's *rest* has been accomplished through His *works* and *not through any works of man*. Human effort or human righteousness cannot do the job. God will *do the work in that rest*. *All idolatry or human desires must die*. Then, and only then, can God grant you *The Gift of Salvation*.

How can God guarantee such a promise? How can you know that you will live in *Paradise* forever? God judges through His *wisdom* and *mind*. God is *serious* about changing your *very heart* and *mind* (after you have made your free choice to follow God).

You will know God's *guarantee* for an Eternal Paradise because you will have *the very heart* and *mind* of God. "*Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*" (Amos 3:3). You are ready to be *baptized* (to the death) when you have *no personal agendas* or *idols* standing in your way. If you aren't truthful (with God or yourself), you *will be tested in outer darkness* (Jude 12-13).

**Only The Sons of God can worship The True God. *Personal idols* will have to disappear. These idols have been *put to death*, forever. Then, you will be *at liberty* to do whatever you choose.**

**Now, you are exactly like God and He will be “*All In All*.” Jesus is *glorified* and you, too, will be *glorified* in *The Resurrection*. You will not be like *The One and Only God*, but you will be in *The Family of God*. You will have God’s *very mind (wisdom) without any ego*. All idols or *personal goals* are *gone*. Your love of God and His creation is so *intense*, you are willing to give your life for God. Idols have *no place* in The Kingdom of God. You have God’s *full assurance* that you will  *dwell in His Holy House*.**

## **God And Idolatry**

**God hates idolatry simply because of His great love for mankind. No *ego* is involved because God does not have to prove Himself. Idols cannot do anything, so *the worship* of idols is *useless*. Even *images* of God do nothing. For humans to *invent* their so-called “*holy images*” is folly. They are *not wise*. *Images* or *representations* of *The One True God* will not do *anything* for you. Idols, conjured up by man’s imaginations or *agendas*, are *ridiculous*. Coveting anything in this life – *wealth, power, celebrity* or *oneself* – is *completely unprofitable*. Why? Everyone is *corrupt* and ends up *dying*. “*Vanity of vanities...all is vanity* [for nothing].” Some (The Jews) idolize God’s Law but are, also, blinded by *that Law* (II Corinthians 3). Truth can, only, come through Christ (John 1:17). God *hates idol-***

*atry* because it does not do anything for anyone. It can't *save you*. If you think they make you *feel better*, you have been misinformed. What is worse is the fact that you have been fooled into thinking you are doing something worthwhile.

God and Christ are not only *worthy*, but they *diligently work to save you* (John 5:17 and I John 4:14). All God's *promises* are *faithful* because God *will* fulfill all of His *promises*. He gave *everything* to His Son (who proved worthy) and will do the same for you (as His heir).

God hates *idolatry* because it *distracts* you from *The Truth*. Idols may make you feel good, but no *idol* can make you *righteous* or give you *Paradise*. Only God can make you righteous (John 14). Throw away your metal, wood, ceramic, paper or your mental idols. Give up your man-made idols whether they are singers, actors, heads of businesses or sports figures. Don't idolize money or be desirous of filthy lucre. Don't look with admiration to a person's power or wealth. In the end, it will all be for nothing. They will all die and you will find yourself in the same predicament.

Look to God and *ask forgiveness* for all your sins. He is very generous with His forgiveness. Little by little, with His Holy Spirit, you can grow to be a Son of God. It is the only way *Paradise* can be *guaranteed for you*.

Idolatry is hated because it is *deceptive*. It leads you away from *The Truth of God*. Instead, it leads you to *false teachings*. Idolatry doesn't lead you to *the truth* and it can never represent God. Only God can give

you *The Very Mind of God*. Then, God can be “*All In All*” (I Corinthians 15:28). *Your faith guarantees you to be in Paradise*. Here is God’s promise, “*And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle [house/temple] of God is with men and he will dwell with them and they shall be his people and God himself shall be with them and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away*” (Revelation 21:3-4). God will give you a new name on your forehead (*The Very Mind of God*). In *The Kingdom of God*, there will be no *useless idol worship*.

Idols keep you from your *inheritance*. Idolatry may be your *stumbling block*. Study, repent and pray for God’s Holy Spirit. Pray your name is written in God’s *will*. Be ready, so your Loving God and Father can give you *The Gift Of Eternal Life*. You may not deserve it, but it’s God’s gift because He loves you. Nothing will stop God, His Son or *the angels* from helping you find *The Truth to Eternal Life*. You have your invitation. It behooves you to accept. Then, you will have God’s family name and you will be *blessed*. Can you begin to imagine the wonderful and beautiful life you will have? Then, don’t miss out on the chance of a lifetime – an *Eternal Lifetime*.