

Exod 20:4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. 5 "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,

What is an idol and what is worship to an idol?

Isa 44.14 Surely he cuts cedars for himself, and takes a cypress or an oak, and raises it for himself among the trees of the forest. He plants a fir, and the rain makes it grow. 15 Then it becomes something for a man to burn, so he takes one of them and warms himself; he also makes a fire to bake bread. He also makes a god and worships it; he makes it a graven image, and falls down before it. 16 Half of it he burns in the fire; over this half he eats meat as he roasts a roast, and is satisfied. He also warms himself and says, "Aha! I am warm, I have seen the fire."

17 But the rest of it he makes into a god, his graven image. He falls down before it and worships; he also prays to it and says, "Deliver me, for thou art my god."

18 They do not know, nor do they understand, for He has smeared over their eyes so that they cannot see and their hearts so that they cannot comprehend. 19

And no one recalls, nor is there knowledge or understanding to say, "I have burned half of it in the fire, and also have baked bread over its coals. I roast meat and eat it. Then I make the rest of it into an abomination, I fall down before a block of wood!" 20

He feeds on ashes; a deceived heart has turned him aside. And he cannot deliver himself, nor say, "Is there not a lie in my right hand?"

In this passage, the man falls down before the image and confesses, "'Deliver me, for thou art my god.'

But there is more to the idol worship.

When someone believes that the idol represents their god, they worship the idol!

Often people will explain, "that's not my god, it just represents my god, so when I pray before the image, I do not pray to the image, but to god"

Exo 32:1-4 Now when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people assembled about Aaron and said to him, "Come, make us a god who will go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." (2) Aaron said to them, "Tear off the gold rings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." (3) Then all the people tore off the gold rings which were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. (4) He took this from their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool and made it into a molten calf; and they said, "This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt."

"This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up
from the land of Egypt."

They were already outside the land of Egypt.

So the golden calf which had just been made
represented their god.

Exo 32:6 So the next day they rose early and
offered burnt offerings, and brought peace
offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to
drink, and rose up to play.

The idol represents what brought good fortune to someone, whether they think the wooden/golden item itself brought good fortune or whether it represents what brought good fortune.

The Baltimore Catechism was used by Catholic schools from 1885 to the late 1960s to teach Roman Catholic doctrine to students. It had the imprimatur (approval) of the Roman Catholic church. It is a collection of questions and answers.

Under the question of
“What are the ten commandments, the
Baltimore Catechism differs from the Bible as it
omits Ex 20:4-5.

To make ten commandments and leave this one out it breaks down the tenth and separates the house from other things you might covet.

Exod 20:17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

This should tell Catholics that their practice of worshiping idols is an abomination to the Lord, but it is a church where most of the teachings are doctrines of men

Matt 15:8 'This people honors Me with their lips,
but their heart is far away from me. 9 'But in vain
do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the
precepts of men.'"

The Jews from the time of the giving of the ten
commandments to the time of the Babylonian
captivity had the same problem as the Roman
Catholic Church, the Hindus, the pagans and a lot
of people who call themselves Christians today.
They worship idols!

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God can know the future.

Isa 44:7 'And who is like me? Let him proclaim and declare it; yes, let him recount it to me in order, from the time that I established the ancient nation. And let them declare to them the things that are coming and the events that are going to take place.

Isa 41:22 Let them bring forth and declare to us what is going to take place; as for the former events, declare what they were, that we may consider them, and know their outcome; or announce to us what is coming. 23 Declare the things that are going to come afterward, that we may know that you are gods; indeed, do good or evil, that we may anxiously look about us and fear together. 24 Behold, you are of no account, and your work amounts to nothing; He who chooses you is an abomination.

Jesus foretold the destruction of the temple

Matt 24:2 And He answered and said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here shall be left upon another, which will not be torn down."

It happened in 70 AD.

Although Titus had commanded that the temple not be burned, it caught fire and the gold of the roof ran into the cracks in the walls. Every stone was torn down and the ground plowed in order to retrieve the gold. It was the end of the Jewish religion. They could no longer offer sacrifices in the temple nor once each year have the high priest go into the Holy of Holies and cast the sins of the people on the goat to be released in the wilderness.

Jesus foretold the destruction of Jerusalem over 50 years before it would occur.

Matt 24:15 "Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains; 17 let him who is on the housetop not go down to get the things out that are in his house; 18 and let him who is in the field not turn back to get his cloak. ... ; 21 for then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall. 22 "And unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days shall be cut short.

Why were Christians warned to flee? For the elect's sake.

Although we cannot be sure, it is said that there were no Christians lost in the siege of Jerusalem as the Roman armies drew back and the Christians in Jerusalem fled as a result of the prophecy Jesus made.

Why then, would people continue to believe in idols.
Why would they believe that something they made
would bring honor to God?

Acts 17:24 "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; 25 neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things; 26 and He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation,

There are people like my neighbor with statues of Mary in the garden who dishonor the God of heaven.

There are people like my cousin who appeal to the spirits of the trees to honor the religion of our Indian ancestors. They too dishonor God.

There are people who track their Zodiac signs,
honoring the divining of the future by
horoscopes based on whether they are Capricorn
or Taurus. They dishonor God.

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Who can deliver you from the sin that covers all
men?

The only one that can deliver you from sin is
Jesus who overcame death that you might be
redeemed.

Heb 10:10 By this will we have been sanctified
through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ
once for all. ... 12 but He, having offered one
sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right
hand of God,

Act 22:16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'