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# **False gods Why People Believe in Them**

and

## **Human god's**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

# False gods, Why People Believe in them, and Human gods.

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## Topics.

- Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?
  - Judges and human gods.
  - God is in the midst of the gods.
  - Ye are gods, and the living Bible and idols.
  - Reasons Israel had foreign gods in their possession.
  - Jews accuse Jesus of blaspheming, for saying, "I am the Son of God."
  - Human men are gods, and many gods in heaven and on earth.
  - Seven reasons why people believe in false gods.
  - The power of belief and Santa Clause.
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## THE OLD TESTAMENT

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### WHO IS LIKE YOU, O LORD, AMONG THE GODS?

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Moses and the people of Israel sang the following song to the LORD, saying:

- **Exodus 15:11:** Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

This verse implies that there are other gods in the world, but we know that the invisible, immortal Almighty God the creator of all things and source of all life is the only true God. In this context, the gods who dealt arrogantly with the people of Israel refer to Pharaoh the king of Egypt and the princes and taskmasters of Egypt who treated the people of Israel with cruel slavery. They are referred to as gods because of their power over people, and because of the great power the Pharaoh's had, the Egyptian people looked up to them as gods.

### THE TEN COMMANDMENTS AND OTHER GODS

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- **Exodus 20:3:** You shall have no other gods before me.

This clearly implies that there are other gods in the world that men and women can believe in and worship. These are of course gods created by the imagination of man, and not real gods at all, though they can have a powerful influence over those who believe in them.

### JUDGES AND HUMAN GODS

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- **Psalms 58:1:** Do you indeed decree what is right, you gods? Do you judge the children of man uprightly? <sup>2</sup>No, in your hearts you devise wrongs; your hands deal out violence on earth. (Psalm 58:1-2).

Idols and gods made of gold, silver, stone, and wood that cannot see, talk, or walk have no power to decree anything nor are they able to judge men and women. In the context of this verse, the gods refer to wicked men who have the power and authority to judge. They are referred to as gods because they have power to judge, as God the eternal Judge does.

Asaph wrote:

- God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment<sup>2</sup>"How long will you judge unjustly, and show partiality to the wicked? (Psalm 82:1).

The picture painted here is of a divine courtroom with a panel of human judges (called gods) sitting at a long bench in the courtroom with God the Almighty sitting at the head, holding all honest and righteous justice above all other judges. Neither gods of gold, silver, wood and stone or gods of the imagination have any power to judge righteously or wickedly. In the context of this verse the gods in focus here are human judges, they are given the title gods because they have the power to judge as God the true Judge does.

Asaph wrote:

- I said, "You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; <sup>7</sup>nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince." (Psalm 82:6-7).

The context of this Psalm shows that the gods, Asaph had in focus are men who have been appointed judges over the children of Israel who are robbing the weak and the fatherless, and the afflicted and destitute from honest justice.

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## GOD IS IN THE MIDST OF THE GODS

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- **Psalm 82:1:** God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment. (Psalm 82:1).

The words, "in the midst of the gods he holds judgment," means that God is amongst the priesthood, and those who are in powerful positions of religious of authority. They are called gods because they have the power to judge God's people. The picture is of the religious leaders of Israel sitting in council and judging the people of Israel. The expression, "In the midst of the gods he holds judgment," obviously does not mean that God sits amongst a council of gods and determines judgment since there is only one God. It means that God is amongst those who have been anointed and given the power and authority to judge the people of Israel, and sees all they do, and will judge them according to their judgment of others. Meaning if they judge honestly and without bias and favour God will exalt and favour them, but should they judge dishonestly and pervert justice for their own gain an advantage God will judge them accordingly.

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## YE ARE GODS

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- **Psalm 82:6-7:** I said, "You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; <sup>7</sup>nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince." (Psalm 82:6-7).

The god's Asaph refers to in this context, are men who have been anointed to judge the people of Israel. They are referred to as gods because they have been anointed, and given the honour, privilege, and authority to

judge God's people. Asaph is warning them, though they are exalted sons of the Most High, and exalted as princes, if they judge unjustly and with bias and favour toward those who can benefit them in some way, they will die like men, meaning like men who will not rise again to eternal life and everlasting happiness.

**SNAPSHOT:** this Psalm teaches us that it does not matter how great a Christians gift or ministry is, or how beautiful the church building appears, or whether there are thousands in the congregation and it is a global success, if the leader and the heads of that ministry do not show honest justice to all, especially the poor and needy God will not show them favour at judgment.

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## THE LIVING BIBLE AND IDOLS

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When speaking of idols, the Living Bible says:

- **Isaiah 44:19:** O foolish man you chop down a tree and use some of the wood to build your homes, some to cook your food, some to warm your hands and some you carve into an idol and bow down before it to worship it, can't you see it's just a block of wood.

The service of idols is so absurd and illogical that it is enormously difficult for a person with a sane mind to understand how anyone in their right mind chooses to believe in them and serve them, rather than believe in the true God and serve Him.

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## REASONS ISRAEL HAD FOREIGN GODS IN THEIR POSSESSION

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Following are three possible reasons the people of Israel had foreign gods, and idols in their possession:

- Foreign servants of Israel may have had them in their houses.
- Captive men and woman may have carried them with them when taken captive.
- When Israels soldiers plundered a city for its wealth, they may have taken their enemies gods with the spoil, either for their monetary value, since many idols and gods were made of gold and silver, or for religious reasons.

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## THE NEW TESTAMENT

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### JEW'S ACCUSE JESUS OF BLASPHEMING, FOR SAYING, "I AM THE SON OF GOD?"

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- **John 10:33-36:** The Jews answered Jesus, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God." <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods'? <sup>35</sup>If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken— <sup>36</sup>do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God?'"

The Jews accuse Jesus of blaspheming because he said, "I am the Son of God?" So, Jesus points out to them that is written in their Law that God said, "you are gods," when speaking to those who the word of the LORD came. (v34-36). The words, "You are gods" is cited from a Psalm of Asaph in which he wrote, "God has taken his place in the divine council; in the

midst of the gods he holds judgment (Psalm 82:1), and from another of Asaph Psalms in which he asks the Jewish judges, "how long will they judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked, though they are gods and all of them sons of the Most High they will die like men and fall like every other human prince" (Psalm 82:2, 6-7). The god's referred to in this context are the Hebrew Judges, that God appointed over the nation of Israel, they are called gods, because the word of God came to them, and they had the power to judge.

**NOTICE:** The Jews do not think Jesus is saying that he is God, they clearly understand that he is claiming to be the Son of God, and not God Himself, but by claiming to be God's Son they see Jesus as making himself equal to God, and for a human man to say he is one with God was absolute blasphemy to a Jew.

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## HUMAN MEN ARE GODS

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- **Acts 14:11:** When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!"

Here we see that people during the apostles' era, after seeing the miracle's they did, believed that human men with such powers could be gods.

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## MANY GODS IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH

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- **1 Corinthians 8:5:** Although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many gods and many lords.

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These statements do not mean that other god's exist, besides the LORD God of all creation; it refers to gods that are created by the imagination in the mind by a strong belief in them. The human nervous system does not have a mind of its own and therefore automatically responds to whatever is pictured on the imagination of the mind whether it is real or false.

The stronger the belief the greater effect the mental image on the imagination of the mind will have on the human nervous system. This, is why deception is so deceptive. It matters not if the god an individual believes in is real or not the nervous system responds accordingly. If the god an individual believes in is a wrathful, vengeful, and judgmental god they will feel emotions of guilt and fear in contrast to this, if the god an individual believes in is a god of love and compassion, they will feel emotions of love and comfort. The imaginary, but real images of the mind create a real entity that affects the emotions and feelings through the human nervous system. These feelings convince those that believe in idols that there are evil gods and spirits, but these evil gods and spirits do not actually exist, they are an entity created by a false belief of the mind, but to the individual believing in them they are to them, very real entities.

This, is why faith should be based upon the Scriptures of the Bible and never upon on emotions. This does not mean emotions should be denied, God gave them to us to enjoy (especially in worship and praise), it just means that they should not be the foundation of our faith and what we believe should not be based upon emotion. It is through reading the Bible that we learn who the one and only immortal, invisible, eternal God is, and His eternal will, plans and purposes for the world, the earth and for

eternity. Clearly, not one of these gods of the imagination has any power to create the heavens, the earth, and all that is in them, there is only one God who has such awesome power, and He is the invisible, Holy Almighty God of all creation and the source of all life, the great I AM, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and heavenly Father of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Many gods and many lords:** Paul acknowledges there are many gods in the world, this of course does not mean there are many real gods, but refers to all the gods people around the world believe in such as idols, and the gods man has created by his own imagination. Even though these gods are not real they do affect a person's emotions and behaviour according to the level of belief they are given. This is because the human nervous system does not have a brain of its own and therefore cannot tell the difference between a real image on the imagination of the mind or a fantasy one, and therefore responds to the image as though it is real. The image is given power by belief, the stronger the belief the greater the power the image has over the emotions and the mind, and the greater the power to influence behaviour.

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## SEVEN REASONS WHY PEOPLE BELIEVE IN FALSE GODS

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It is difficult to understand why people would believe in false gods and idols, following are seven possible reasons that may help give some insight and understanding:

1. They have a superstitious family attachment to them (much like people who believe in lucky charms).
2. They have been raised as a child under their parent's belief in such gods, and over the many years of growing up their undeveloped mind was influenced and indoctrinated with the teaching of them.
3. They had many times prayed with their family, and individually to their idols and gods, maybe even offered sacrifices.
4. Many in the Old Testament who had been raised under the true faith of Israel's God, added to their faith other gods. This was the greatest and one of the most common sins kings and the people of Israel committed before the LORD.
5. Though they still hold onto a superstitious belief in the god they had been raised up to believe in, does not always mean that they did not also acknowledge the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
6. Their belief in their parent's god would be reinforced by the fact their parents had authority over them, and as they grew over many years their minds would become heavily indoctrinated, and their belief their parent's god or gods, must be the true god or gods would be greatly strengthened.
7. Though at some level they believe in the true God, they also believe that they would increase their chances of success and prosperity if they held onto the god and certain doctrines, they were raised in.

With these seven facts in mind, it is a little easier to understand why such people never fully forsake their superstitious belief in their parent's gods. Even today many who have been raised as a child, and grown up under the influence of a false religion or false teaching, and receive the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ still find it hard to shake off all the erroneous doctrines they were taught as a child and grew up with.

Believers today, who confess to believe in the God of Abraham, and at the same time embrace other gods are like those in past times, who wish to serve both God and mammon. Great numbers will acknowledge the true God in words, but their hearts are far from Him. When a person gives themselves up to covetousness and greed their true god is the world and mammon (i.e., money, profit, and worldly possessions).

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## THE POWER OF BELIEF AND SANTA CLAUSE

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There is only one true God, the great I AM the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, all other gods are a figment of man's imagination, established in the mind by the power of misguided belief, and because of this they obviously have no power to do anything. These gods could be likened to a child's belief in Santa Claus, he is an imaginary figure yet many (very young) children believe he is real. This is the power of deception men and women can create by the imagination of the mind and the power of belief, a god to suit their own desires and lifestyle.

Clearly not one of these gods of the imagination have any power to create the heavens and the earth, and all that is in them, there is only one God who has such awesome power, and He is the immortal invisible, Holy Almighty God of all creation, the source of all life, and heavenly Father of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**The foolishness of believing in gods:** the foolishness of believing in a god that human men can steal, truly such a god is a most pathetic god. Enemies may steal our goods, but they can never steal our God. People will pretend to confess to believe in God, even when they have no love for Him in their hearts, if it is to their advantage to do so. (Matthew Henry).

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**NOTE:** it is not the intention of Scripture to go into detail concerning the different kinds of false worship and characteristics of the many idols and gods people believed in. For these reasons we know very little of such gods, except that they were valued and treasured by those who believed in them.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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