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YouTube Prayer Link

Why did the Old Testament Israelites like to worship other gods so much?

Judges

10:10:6 And the Israelites did evil in the sight of Yahweh, and went to serve Baal, and Ashtoreth, and the gods of Syria, and Sidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines, and forsaken Yahweh, and did not serve him

10:7 And the anger of Jehohua was directed against the Israelites, and he gave them into the hand of the Philistines and Ammonites.

The Old Testament records the Israelites' constant worship of other gods. There could be several reasons for this. First, these deities may have offered promises and blessings that were different from what they knew to be God, appealing to them. Certain deities may be believed to be able to help in specific areas, such as agriculture, warfare, fertility, etc. When the Israelites were struggling, they might seek help from other gods.

Second, sometimes these worship of other gods may be motivated by cultural exchange or Xi. During the Old Testament period, many surrounding cultures had their own gods and ways of worship. The Israelites came into contact with these cultures and may have been drawn to their myths, ways of worship, or religious practices.

Another reason may be that the Israelites' faith has been shaken many times throughout history. They have experienced many difficulties and challenges, which can make them feel disappointed or lost, leading them to seek other religious avenues for comfort or guidance.

Finally, in the Old Testament, the Israelites were often condemned for turning away from the true God through idolatry. This may be a reflection of the challenges and trials in society at that time, as well as the challenges and temptations to follow the one true God.

These reasons may have combined to cause the Israelites to seek the worship or belief of other gods during the Old Testament period.

Why is the idol of the god touched more attractive than the Lord?

It's a complex issue that involves how people respond to their senses and emotions. There are several factors that may explain why some people may be more attracted to physical idols:
Perceived concreteness: Statues of deities are tangible and can be seen, touched, and even sometimes smelled. This concreteness can make beliefs more realistic and tangible to a certain extent. In contrast, faith in an ethereal god may require more spiritual effort.

Emotions and emotional connections: Idol images tend to trigger more immediate emotional and emotional responses. They may represent the relationship between the believer and the object of faith, bringing comfort and comfort. This kind of intimacy and connection may be easier to establish than it is for an abstract God.

Culture and Xi: In some cultures, belief and worship of idols are very deep-rooted. These traditions may have been deeply imprinted in people's minds for a long time, making the idol more attractive than the abstract god.

Simplification of perception: Some people may have an easier time understanding and accepting tangible representations because it makes it easier to match their senses and cognition. For an abstract God, understanding and accepting may require more thought and faith.

Whatever the reason, this attraction to physical idols can vary between cultures and individuals. It is important to note that this attraction does not necessarily mean that the worship of the idol is more appropriate or pleasing to the gods than the abstract gods. These are just people's personal experiences and feelings about the way of faith.

There are many passages in the Bible that call people to serve Jehovah. Here are some of them:
Exodus 20:3-6: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not carve an image for thyself, nor be any likeness of an animal in heaven or on the earth, or in the waters under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down to them, nor serve them, for my God is a jealous God. I will pay homage to those who hate me from father to son to three or four generations, and to those who love me and keep my commandments to them to a thousand generations. 』

Deuteronomy 6:13-15: "Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and swear by his name. Thou shalt not follow another god, the God of the nations round about you, for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a jealous God, lest the LORD your God be angry with you and destroy you from the face of the earth. 』

Joshua 24:14-15: Now fear the LORD, and serve him with all your heart and with all your heart, and destroy the gods that your fathers served on the other side of the River, and in Egypt. If it is not good for you to serve the LORD, then choose today whom you will serve: the gods of your fathers on the other side of the River, the gods of the Amorites, where you dwell, and we will serve the LORD as for me and my household. 』

Matthew 4:10: "Jesus said to them, 'Stand away, Satan!' for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only." ” 』』

These verses emphasize the importance of serving Jehovah only, not imitating other gods or idols, and devoting oneself to the fear and service of the one true God. These verses are a reminder of Jehovah's devotion and honor.

Let's pray together:

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for giving us this opportunity to come to You and pray for this person who seeks to serve You with all his heart. Watch over our hearts, knowing that we have a sincere desire to serve You all our lives. Ask You to give us wisdom and guidance to guide us on Your path in every choice and decision.

Lord, let our hearts be steadfast in our hearts open to You, and let Your Word be the light and guide of our lives. Ask You to give us the strength to help us
Serve You with love, patience, and wisdom in your daily life, demonstrating Your glory and love. Give us the courage to stand firm in our faith in the face of challenges and trials, and not to let the temptations or difficulties of the world shake our hearts. May Your grace be abundantly poured into our lives every day, so that we can be witnesses to those around us, and guide more people to know and love You.

Thank You for being the God who has been promised to us, and may Your promises be fulfilled in our lives. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray, amen.

Judges Chapter 10

Ju. 10:1 After the time of Abimelech a man of Issachar, Tola son of Puah, the son of Dodo, rose to save Israel. He lived in Shamir, in the hill country of Ephraim.

Ju. 10:2 He led Israel for twenty-three years; then he died, and was buried in Shamir.

Ju. 10:3 He was followed by Jair of Gilead, who led Israel for twenty two years. Ju. 10:4 He had thirty sons, who rode thirty donkeys. They controlled thirty towns in Gilead, which to this day are called Havvoth

Jair.

Ju. 10:5 When Jair died, he was buried in Kamon.

Ju. 10:6 Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD. They served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, and the gods of Aram, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the

Ammonites and the gods of the Philistines. And because the

Israelites forsook the LORD and no longer served him,

Ju. 10:7 he became angry with them. He sold them into the hands of the Philistines and the Ammonites,

Ju. 10:8 who that year shattered and crushed them. For eighteen years they oppressed all the Israelites on the east side of the Jordan in Gilead, the land of the Amorites.

Ju. 10:9 The Ammonites also crossed the Jordan to fight against Judah, Benjamin and the house of Ephraim; and Israel was in great distress.

Ju. 10:10 Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD, "We have sinned against you, forsaking our God and serving the Baals."

Ju. 10:11 The LORD replied, “When the Egyptians, the Amorites, the Ammonites, the Philistines,

Ju. 10:12 the Sidonians, the Amalekites and the Maonites oppressed you and you cried to me for help, did I not save you from their hands?

Ju. 10:13 But you have forsaken me and served other gods, so I will no longer save you.

Ju. 10:14 Go and cry out to the gods you have chosen. Let them save you when you are in trouble!”

Ju. 10:15 But the Israelites said to the LORD, “We have sinned. Do with us whatever you think best, but please rescue us now.”

Ju. 10:16 Then they got rid of the foreign gods among them and served the LORD. And he could bear Israel’s misery no longer. Ju. 10:17 When the Ammonites were called to arms and camped in Gilead, the Israelites assembled and camped at Mizpah.

Ju. 10:18 The leaders of the people of Gilead said to each other, “Whoever will launch the attack against the Ammonites will be the head of all those living in Gilead.”

The Book of Judges, Chapter 10 in the Christian Bible talks about the reign of two minor judges, Tola and Jair, who judged Israel for a total of forty-five years. However, the chapter primarily focuses on the continued cycle of sin and repentance among the Israelites.

The chapter begins by describing how the Israelites again turned away from God and began worshipping other gods. As a result, God allowed them to be oppressed by the Philistines and the Ammonites for eighteen years. The Israelites cried out to God for help, and God rebuked them for their unfaithfulness, but also had compassion on them and raised up a new judge, Jephthah, to lead them.

Jephthah was a skilled warrior, but he had a tragic personal history. He had been banished from his home by his half-brothers and had become the leader of a group of outcasts and raiders. However, when the Israelites asked him to lead them against the Ammonites, he agreed on the condition that he would become their permanent leader if he were victorious.

Jephthah then made a vow to God that if He gave him victory over the Ammonites, he would offer as a burnt offering whatever or whoever came out of his house to meet him upon his return. Jephthah was successful in battle, but upon his return, his only child, a daughter, came out to meet him. Jephthah was grief-stricken, but he fulfilled his vow and offered his daughter as a burnt offering to God.

The chapter ends with a brief mention of three more judges who led Israel after Jephthah's death.

The story of Jephthah in Chapter 10 of The Book of Judges is a sobering reminder of the dangers of making rash vows and promises to God. It also highlights the ongoing struggle of the Israelites to remain faithful to God and avoid the consequences of their sin.

Here are some key verses from Judges chapter 10 in the English Standard Version (ESV) of the Christian Bible:

- "And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites, and the gods of the Philistines. And they forsook the Lord and did not serve him." (Judges 10:6)
- "And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of the Philistines and into the hand of the Ammonites" (Judges 10:7)
- "And the people of Israel cried out to the Lord, saying, 'We have sinned against you, because we have forsaken our God and have served the Baals.'" (Judges 10:10)
- "And the Lord said to the people of Israel, 'Did I not save you from the Egyptians and from the Amorites, from the Ammonites and from the Philistines?'" (Judges 10:11)
- "Yet you have forsaken me and served other gods; therefore I will save you no more." (Judges 10:13)
- "And he [God] was grieved by the misery of Israel." (Judges 10:16)

Judges chapter 10 provides a reflection on the cycle of disobedience and repentance that the Israelites find themselves trapped in. It highlights the consequences of their idolatry and the mercy of God in response to their repentance.

The chapter begins by introducing two judges, Tola and Jair, who ruled over Israel for a combined period of 45 years. Following their deaths, the Israelites once again turned away from God and began worshiping foreign gods, particularly the gods of the surrounding nations.

As a result of their disobedience, God allowed the Philistines and the Ammonites to oppress the Israelites. The Israelites were in great distress and cried out to God for help, confessing their sin and acknowledging their need for deliverance.

In response to their cries, God reminds the Israelites of their pattern of rebellion. He confronts them by stating that they have forsaken Him and served other gods, and as a consequence, He will no longer save them. The Israelites' suffering is seen as a direct consequence of their disobedience.

However, despite their disobedience, the Israelites sincerely repent and remove the foreign gods from among them. They turn back to God, and their repentance moves Him to compassion. God sees their genuine remorse and distress, and He is moved to deliver them once again.

The reflection in Judges chapter 10 emphasizes the cyclical nature of the Israelites' relationship with God. It reveals the pattern of their disobedience, oppression, repentance, and God's mercy. It serves as a reminder of the consequences of turning away from God and the necessity of sincere repentance to restore their relationship with Him.

The chapter also reflects God's willingness to show mercy and extend grace to those who genuinely repent. Despite the Israelites' repeated failures, God responds to their cries and delivers them from their oppressors. It demonstrates God's faithfulness and His desire for His people to return to Him.

Overall, Judges chapter 10 provides a reflection on the need for repentance, the consequences of disobedience, and the mercy and faithfulness of God. It encourages believers to examine their own hearts, turn away from idolatry and sin, and seek God's forgiveness and restoration. It also reminds us of God's willingness to hear our cries and respond with compassion when we genuinely repent and turn back to Him.