

# A Strange God

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So the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him. (Deuteronomy 32:12)

2114. zuwr, zoor; a prim. root; to turn aside (espec. for lodging); hence to be a foreigner, strange, profane; spec. (act. part.) to commit adultery:--(come from) another (man, place).

STRANGE, a. [L.]

1. Foreign; belonging to another country.
2. Not domestic; belonging to others.
3. New; not before known, heard or seen. The former custom was familiar; the latter was new and strange to them. Hence,
4. Wonderful; causing surprise; exciting curiosity
5. Odd; unusual; irregular; not according to the common way.
7. Uncommon; unusual.
8. Unacquainted.

- I. A strange god is always perceived the same as the God of Heaven by the casual observer or the careless professor.
  - A. No one who serves a strange god will declare that they are doing so.
  - B. They will sometimes be fervent and zealous in their worship of the strange god.
  - C. Baal was the most well known strange god in the Old Testament. Here are some things about him:

Baal was versatile – he could be whatever you wanted him to be.

Each town or village had a different Baal – named for their location.

The noun comes from a verb which means to marry or rule over.

Baal Worship in Canaan Baal worship revolved around two themes that represented the conception of Baal his worshipers held. Baal was both the sun-god and storm-god. He was worshiped as sun-god when the people wished to express thanks and gratitude for light and warmth and fertility. Worship of Baal as storm-god took place to appease the destructive nature of Baal, demonstrated by drought and storms that devastated the vegetation of the worshipers. The efforts to appease Baal whenever adverse conditions prevailed culminated in the sacrifice of human beings, usually the firstborn of the one offering the sacrifice. The victims were burnt alive, a practice in the Old Testament termed "to pass through the fire" (2 Kings 16:3; 21:6). Baal worship was as diverse as the communities in which he was worshiped. Each locality had its own Baal, who was named after the city or place to which he belonged. Baal was considered the owner or possessor of the land on which his followers lived.

Those who worshipped Baal always looked for good news and good prophecies from the prophets of Baal. (Ahab) Baal worship was the same as the prosperity gospel of our day.

*ελοη*□/ψμ, a name common to the true God AND to false gods, and used by believers AND by idolators: the name YAHWEH, by which He is known especially to the people who are in covenant with Him.

D. Worshipping a strange god makes the true God seem strange to you.

Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection. (Acts 17:18)

E. The idea that there is a strange and false god who seduces people away from the true God is clearly laid out in the Bible.

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him. (2 Corinthians 11:2-4)

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. (Galatians 1:6-9)

For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. (Mat 24:5)

II. A strange god ...

- A. Does not answer prayer.
- B. Does not deliver from sin and its guilt.
- C. Does not require holiness in the lives of his followers.
- D. Does not love those who serve him.
- E. Is angry and demands appeasement through sacrifice, suffering, and revenge.
- F. A strange god is always about self-exaltation, pleasure, and indulgence.
- G. A strange god is profane and full of pollution and uncleanness – and so are those who worship him.

Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments: (Gen 35:2)

1. Does anything in these verses sound familiar to modern contemporary worship?

And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which *were* in their hand, and *all their* earrings which *were* in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which *was* by Shechem. (Gen. 35:4)

They provoked him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they him to anger. They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not. Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee. (Deuteronomy 32:16-18)

III. A strange god is like an adulterous relationship ...

Not domestic; belonging to others. – Webster

Judah hath dealt treacherously (unfaithfully), and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the LORD which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god. (Mal 2:11)

They joined themselves also unto Baalpeor, and ate the sacrifices of the dead. (Psa 106:28)

They provoked him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they him to anger. (Deu 32:16)

And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the LORD am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine. (Lev 20:26)

- A. Someone involved in adultery will be cold toward their true mate and yet very excited and passionate toward their inordinate companion in iniquity.
- B. They are looking for something new and exciting.
  - 1. Instead of the security and safety and provision provided by the one who has committed himself to them.
- C. They must forsake and betray the one who truly loves them for one who is simply using them for selfish reasons, also.

IV. Do you have a strange god?

- A. If the god you worship is not holy and does not own you lock, stock, and barrel you are serving a strange god – because the God of the Bible is not like that.
- B. If the god you worship doesn't mind profane and lewd talk, actions, and living, then you have a strange god.
- C. If the god you worship and serve has not delivered you from sin you have a strange god.
- D. If the god you worship doesn't cause you to care more about others and less about your own comfort, pleasure and welfare then you have a strange god.

V. God will not play second fiddle to a strange god.

- A. ...any more than a husband would settle for being a part-time husband to a wife, while she spent her time with other men and left him at home.

There shall no strange god be in thee; neither shalt thou worship any strange god. (Psa 81:9)

And he took away the strange gods, and the idol out of the house of the LORD, and all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the LORD, and in Jerusalem, and cast them out of the city. (Manasseh) (2 Chr 33:15)

VI. Put away the strange gods that are among you.

- A. God told them to, Jacob told them, Moses told them, Joshua told them, Samuel told them, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and other prophets talked about the strange gods they were serving and warned of judgment to come because of it.
- B. To put away means to withdraw, to get away from, to abandon, to leave alone and pay no attention to.
- C. For those who will not put away the strange gods and serve God only this is what God himself promises:

They provoked him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they him to anger. They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not. Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee. ¶ And when the LORD saw it, he

abhorred them, because of the provoking of his sons, and of his daughters. And he said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith. They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation. For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains. I will heap mischiefs upon them; I will spend mine arrows upon them. They shall be burnt with hunger, and devoured with burning heat, and with bitter destruction: I will also send the teeth of beasts upon them, with the poison of serpents of the dust. The sword without, and terror within, shall destroy both the young man and the virgin, the suckling also with the man of gray hairs.  
(Deuteronomy 32:16-25)