

## **IMAGE of NATIONS**

**Exo 23:20-24** *Behold, I send an Angel [Messenger] before you to keep and guard you on the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared. Give heed to Him, listen to and obey His voice; be not rebellious before Him or provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgression; for My Name is in Him. But if you will indeed listen to and obey His voice and all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. When My Angel [Messenger] goes before you and brings you to the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, and I reject them and blot them out, You shall not bow down to their gods or serve them or do after their works; but you shall utterly overthrow them and break down their pillars and images.*

**Rev 2:1, 8, 12, 18, 3:1,7,14** *TO THE angel (messenger) of the assembly (church) in Ephesus/Smyrna/Pergamum/Thyatira/Sardis/Philadelphia/ Laodicea write:*

- God promised Moses that He would send an angel [messenger] to go before him/them, guard his/their way in the wilderness and in their warfare with the enemy nations.
- The letters to the seven Churches in revelation are addressed to the angels (messengers) of each Church.
- I believe the references indicate that there are messengers whom God sets/positions to convey the vision of His purpose and plan to His Ekklesia.

**Num 33:50-56** *And the Lord said to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho, Tell the Israelites, When you have passed over the Jordan into the land of Canaan, Then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land before you and destroy all their figured stones and all their molten images and completely demolish all their [idolatrous] high places, And you shall take possession of the land and dwell in it, for to you I have given the land to possess it. You shall inherit the land by lot according to your families; to the large tribe you shall give a larger inheritance, and to the small tribe you shall give a smaller inheritance. Wherever the lot falls to any man, that shall be his. According to the tribes of your fathers you shall inherit. But if you will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then those you let remain of them shall be as pricks in your eyes and as thorns in your sides, and they shall vex you in the land in which you dwell. And as I thought to do to them, so will I do to you.*

- The gods of the neighbouring nations were represented by the images they set up.
- God was very specific in His instructions to Moses. The first thing God's people must do before they could possess the land .... was to destroy all the false pictures and images in "high places".
- In doing so they erase from their minds the pictures and thoughts of these false gods and eradicate the temptation to bow down to them.

**Deut 31:16-21** *And the Lord said to Moses, Behold, you shall sleep with your fathers, and this people will rise up and play the harlot after the strange gods of the land where they go to be among them; and they will forsake Me and break My covenant which I have made with them. Then My anger will be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them and hide My face from them. And they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them, so that they will say in that day, Have not these evils come upon us because our God is not among us? And I will surely hide My face in that day because of all the evil which they have done in turning to other gods.*

*And now write this song for yourselves and teach it to the Israelites; put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for Me against the Israelites. For when I have brought them into the land which I swore to their fathers, a land flowing with milk and honey, and they have eaten and filled themselves and become fat, then they will turn to other gods and serve them, and despise and scorn Me and break My covenant. And when many evils and troubles have befallen them, this [sacred] song will confront them as a witness, for it will never be forgotten from the mouths of their*

*descendants. For I know their imagination [strong desire and the purpose which they are forming even now], before I have brought them into the land which I swore to give them.*

- Even though God instructed Moses to destroy the false images and high places God knew His people would turn to other Gods.
  - God knew this because He knew their imagination, the unhealthy mental images and pictures that were out of [God's] character.
  - He knew that their imagination [mental pictures] would form what they would become and that would disqualify them from possessing the land.
  - Our imaginations will either qualify or disqualify us to possess the land.
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- God's appraisal [judgement] of the reign of kings was largely determined by how they dealt with the high places.
  - We are kings and will be judged according to how we deal with the high places, the thoughts and images in our minds.

***1Kgs 3:2*** *But the people sacrificed [to God] in the high places [as the heathen did to their idols], for there was no house yet built to the Name of the Lord.*

***2 Kgs 17:9, 29*** *The Israelites did secretly against the Lord their God things not right. They built for themselves high places in all their towns, from [lonely] watchtower to [populous] fortified city..... But every nationality still made gods of their own and put them in the shrines of the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nationality in the city in which they dwelt.*

***2 Kgs 18:4*** *Hezekiah removed the high places, broke the images, cut down the Asherim, and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until then the Israelites had burned incense to it; but he called it Nehushtan [a bronze trifle].*

***2 Kgs 23:8*** *And [Josiah] brought all the [idolatrous] priests out of the city of Judah and defiled the high places, where the priests had burned incense, from Geba to Beersheba [north to south], and broke down the high places both at the entrance of the Gate of Joshua the governor of the city and that which was on one's left at the city's gate.*

***2 Chron 11:15*** *And Rehoboam appointed his own priests for the high places and for the [idols of demon] he-goats, and calves he had made.*

***2 Chron 34:3*** *For in the eighth year of his reign, while Josiah was yet young [sixteen], he began to seek after and yearn for the God of David his father [forefather]; and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, and the carved and molten images.*

***Eph 6:12*** *For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in high places [the heavenly (supernatural) sphere].*

• In the KJV of the scriptures the words "high places" are mentioned 91x, 43x in the books ***1 & 2 Kings*** and ***1 & 2 Chronicles***.

- The high places, whether constructed on an elevation or not were places of worship, specifically idolatrous worship. The high place could be as simple as a stone or tree or it could be very elaborate. The order of worship could be rather benign or outlandishly obscene, purely heathenistic or mixed with O.T worship.
- Our high places are comprised of both simple [thoughts] and elaborate [philosophies]. Whether we know it or acknowledge it our thoughts and philosophies comprise our worship [worthship] because we honor them and they lord over us. Most of our thoughts are a mixture of the carnal mind and mind of Christ.

## One Mind, One Heart

**Gen 11:1-9** *AND THE whole earth was of one language and of one accent and mode of expression.*

*And as they journeyed eastward, they found a plain (valley) in the land of Shinar, and they settled and dwelt there. And they said one to another, Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly. So they had brick for stone, and slime (bitumen) for mortar. And they said, Come, let us build us a city and a tower whose top reaches into the sky, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered over the whole earth.*

*And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. And the Lord said, Behold, they are one people and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do, and now nothing they have imagined they can do will be impossible for them. Come, let Us go down and there confound (mix up, confuse) their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.*

*So the Lord scattered them abroad from that place upon the face of the whole earth, and they gave up building the city.*

*Therefore the name of it was called Babel--because there the Lord confounded the language of all the earth; and from that place the Lord scattered them abroad upon the face of the whole earth*

**Jas 1:6-8** *For the one who wavers (hesitates, doubts) is like the billowing surge out at sea that is blown hither and thither and tossed by the wind. For truly, let not such a person imagine [be of the opinion, suppose, think] that he will receive anything [he asks for] from the Lord, [For being as he is] a man of two minds (hesitating, dubious, irresolute), [he is] unstable and unreliable and uncertain about everything [he thinks, feels, decides].*

- The word imagined is from a Hebrew word “zaman” which means to have, fix a thought upon, plan, - consider, devise, plot, purpose, think: usually in a bad sense.
- God knew that nothing is impossible to people who are of one mind, speaking the same thing.
- Confound is the Hebrew word “ balal “ which means to confuse, confound, to mix oneself, mingle.
- At this point their mental images became “mixed” and they could no longer hold the picture/image of their desired outcome in mind. They literally became “double minded” and thus unstable in all their ways and the work ceased.

**2 Cor 13:11** *Finally, brethren, farewell (rejoice)! Be strengthened (perfected, completed, made what you ought to be); be encouraged and consoled and comforted; be of the same [agreeable] mind one with another; live in peace, and [then] the God of love [Who is the Source of affection, goodwill, love, and benevolence toward men] and the Author and Promoter of peace will be with you.*

**Eph 4:12-14** *His intention was the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), [that they should do] the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church), [That it might develop] until we all attain oneness in the faith and in the comprehension of the [full and accurate] knowledge of the Son of God, that [we might arrive] at really mature manhood (the completeness of personality which is nothing less than the standard height of Christ's own perfection), the measure of the stature of the fullness of the Christ and the completeness found in Him. So then, we may no longer be children, tossed [like ships] to and fro between chance gusts of teaching and wavering with every changing wind of doctrine, [the prey of] the cunning and cleverness of unscrupulous men, [gamblers engaged] in every shifting form of trickery in inventing errors to mislead.*

- If people who have wrong, evil intentions could build something so threatening to mankind through the power of their imagination, what can God accomplish through a people who hear and move in obedience to God’s Word.

**Prov 23:7** *For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.*

***Ezek 11:19*** And I will give them one heart [a new heart] and I will put a new spirit within them; and I will take the stony [unnaturally hardened] heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh [sensitive and responsive to the touch of their God],

***2 Cor 10:4-5*** For the weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood], but they are mighty before God for the casting down [overthrow and destruction] of imaginations, proud obstacles, intellectual arrogance, warped philosophies, strongholds, arguments, theories, reasonings and every proud and high thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One),

- It is impossible to hold two contradictory sentiments in one's heart or think contradictory thoughts at the same time. The sentiments of our hearts dictate what thoughts and images are formed in our minds.
- In Christ we have a new heart and spirit and because of that Paul declared emphatically that we have the authority and ability to cast down any and all *imaginations, proud obstacles, intellectual arrogance, warped philosophies, strongholds, arguments, theories, reasonings and every proud and lofty thing* that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.
- The dictionary defines the word imagination as the means, the faculty or action of forming ideas or images in the mind. Imagination describes the process of forming an image which is a representation of an external form of a person or thing.
- Any external form is but a reflection or representation of one's internal thoughts and imaginations. We reflect externally that which we consistently see internally.
- Imagining is seeing.
- The imagination gives us the ability to see God and His kingdom in the proper light.

***Num 33:50-53*** And the Lord said to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho, Tell the Israelites, When you have passed over the Jordan into the land of Canaan, Then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land before you and destroy all their figured stones and all their molten images and completely demolish all their [idolatrous] high places, And you shall take possession of the land and dwell in it, for to you I have given the land to possess it.

- Any thought, idea, image or perception that misrepresents God or His kingdom is a result of false and misleading images in our mind [soul]. False images, misrepresentations establish mental images that must be torn down or we will eventually bow down to them.
- In order to be free we must break down any and all misleading internal images. Any thought [image or picture] within our minds that does not truly represent God or His kingdom must be annihilated

***Matt 4:17*** From that time Jesus began to preach, crying out, Repent (change your mind for the better, heartily amend your ways, with abhorrence of your past sins), for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

- It is very significant that the very first word Jesus used in His ministry was *repent*. Repent means to change the way you've been conditioned to think.
- An image is a representation or depiction of something or someone. A representation is presented by a representative. We all present something to the nations and world.

## **Being A First Nations People**

**Exo 19:5-6** *Now therefore, if you will obey My voice in truth and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own peculiar possession and treasure from among and above all peoples; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation [consecrated, set apart to the worship of God]. These are the words you shall speak to the Israelites.*

**1Pe 2:9** *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy [dedicated] nation, [God's] own purchased, special people, that you may set forth the wonderful deeds and display the virtues and perfections of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*

**Matt 28:19** *Go then and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

- God's heart has always been to have a people who would firstly themselves be a holy nation and who would reproduce after their kind in all the nations of the earth.
- The first nations to be discipled and batized are within:

abombination, alienation, alternation, assassination

bombination,

condemnation, contamination, crimination

damnation, denomination, discrimination, disinclination, divination, domination

elimination ,extermination

fractionation, fulmination

hallucination

impersonation, incrimination, indignation, indoctrination, insubordination

lunation

margination

ordination

procrastination, profanation

re crimination, reincarnation, resignation, ruination,

stagnation

termination

urination

vaticination,

zonation

## **In Whose Sight**

**Num 13:25-33** *And they returned from scouting out the land after forty days. They came to Moses and Aaron and to all the Israelite congregation in the Wilderness of Paran at Kadesh, and brought them word, and showed them the land's fruit.*

*They told Moses, We came to the land to which you sent us; surely it flows with milk and honey. This is its fruit. But the people who dwell there are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large; moreover, there we saw the sons of Anak [of great stature and courage]. Amalek dwells in the land of the South (the Negeb); the Hittite, the Jebusite, and the Amorite dwell in the hill country; and the Canaanite dwells by the sea and along by the side of the Jordan [River]. Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once and possess it; we are well able to conquer it.*

*But his fellow scouts said, We are not able to go up against the people [of Canaan], for they are stronger than we are. So they brought the Israelites an evil report of the land which they had scouted out, saying, The land through which we went to spy it out is a land that devours its inhabitants. And all the people that we saw in it are men of great stature. There we saw the*

*Nephilim [or giants], the sons of Anak, who come from the giants; and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.*

- God had previously declared that the land belonged to them before they ever set foot in it.
- The ten spies failed to agree with God's word and chose instead to bow to the images that had formed in their minds. The ten spies chose to live by their own sight, instead of God's and to lean on their own understanding.
- As a result not hearing and seeing the land was not subdued, the inhabitants were not driven out and they lost their inheritance.

***Josh 6:1-2*** NOW JERICHO [a fenced town with high walls] was tightly closed because of the Israelites; no one went out or came in. And the Lord said to Joshua, *See, I have given Jericho, its king and mighty men of valor, into your hands.*

- God did not tell Joshua to become invincible, fight or raid Jericho.
- God told Joshua to "SEE".
- Joshua had to first see the victory in his imagination and then through his eyes of understanding. God's word firmly established an image in Joshua's mind and he responded in faith to defeat Jericho.
- Nothing is impossible to the person who imagines himself/herself as God does.

***Isa 43:18-19*** Do not [earnestly] remember the former things; neither consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs forth; do you not perceive and know it and will you not give heed to it? I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

- Remember is the Hebrew word "zakar" which means call, come, keep, put to mind, make mention (of), be mindful, recount, record, remember, to think upon or to make a memorial.
- Behold means to observe or see.
- We're not to remember, consider or oat attention to the things of old, including our old thinking. We're to behold, observe, see the new thing God is doing and enter into it.

***Hos 6:1-2*** COME AND let us return to the Lord, for He has torn so that He may heal us; He has stricken so that He may bind us up. After two days He will revive us (quicken us, give us life); on the third day He will raise us up that we may live in His sight [before Him].

- God is raising up a people who will live in His sight, a people who see things from His perspective.
- It is this people who will possess the land, disciple the nations and go into the world with the good news of God's kingdom.

- **In whose sight do I/you/we live?**