

High Places In The Bible

TRANSCRIPT

Finding the Ancient Path

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_bnXKZjSSSI&t=193s

Chapter 1: Understanding high places

tearing down the high places of your faith as I said moments ago sometimes when you read words like this it's difficult to know exactly what you're talking about because you know we want to be in a high place we in our faith we want to have high faith and so sometimes this looks counterintuitive but there's something that I wanted to show you uh this morning for Shabbat I want I wanted you to understand what a Biblical high place is and how um they can hinder our growth spiritually high places a study of idolatry building from our discussion of two weeks ago when we looked at knowing thy enemy we briefly covered the broader meaning of the biblical usage of the word world you guys recall that uh what it meant to be worldly or to be in the world world we learned that it meant an ordered system of which the enemy has spent the last 6,000 years building in an effort to turn the hearts and minds of humanity away from their creator today we'll explore how sentimentality develops in people's hearts for various things people and places and events that still exist within this organized system we also examine how idolatry starts by taking root in the heart and then slowly moves the focus and loyalty away from God and toward created things or false gods by the way let me just makeer before I go any further um I'm going to ask a challenging question today one that might get me in trouble little bit controversial but that's okay it's just for the purpose of discussion um so when that slide comes up I'll let you know it's here so I want to begin this morning with three little words what possible three little words could I be meaning could I want to talk about three little words is Walt Disney World what in the world Walt Disney World yes Walt Disney World Walt Disney World Disneyland and they're kind of the same thing at any

Chapter 2: Disney world illustration

Disney facility it is a well-known fact that each of these facilities regardless of where it's at was built to be quote the happiest place on Earth right we know this in order to be as such everything about Disneyland or Disney World is intentionally and masterfully orchestrated to ensure that as long as that you stay as long long as 3 minutes possible eat as often as you want to and never see trash on the sidewalks bathrooms strategically placed and providing a solution to every possible need even what you smell see and read when you smell it see it and read it is intentional the distance from the parking lot to the park is intentional so walking back is the last thing you want to do until it's absolutely positively necessary fireworks in the evening to keep you looking forward to a finale shops that sell sweatshirts because it gets cold in California at night in an underground world one story below you everywhere you go where workers are working tirelessly to make sure that you are in a happy place there's actually a documentary online about how everything in Walt Disney World everywhere you go everything that you look at every experience that you have has been masterfully orchestrated to make sure that you feel that you are in the happiest place on Earth and my question is does that sound familiar when you think about it spiritually when you think about the ordered system that the enemy has created it's very much so like this right everything in our world is aimed at getting us to love the world it's built to make sure that we love the world and the things in the world it's orchestrated in such a way that we feel that our life is the happiest place on Earth and we don't need no stinking Messiah Disney World serves as an ideal illustration of the structured system prevalent in our current world similar to the sentimentality one feels towards memories of a Disney park visit and that's true for us we love Disney I'm not I'm not a Disney hater my wife loves Disney more than me and we have nostalgic memories of our time at those Parks but similar to the sentimentality one feels towards memories of a Disney park visit reminiscing fondly cherishing those moments as treasured memories and longing to relive them so our attachment to this world evokes comparable mental and emotional responses in us all this ordered system creates an environment 6 minutes

in which Humanity can get emotionally attached to its ways and practices high places then as we will see represent those entrenched customs and practices that for various reasons individuals may cling to or hesitate to relinquish in their quest for God now that doesn't make quite enough sense now but once we begin looking at the scripture you'll understand a little bit more of what I'm talking about so high places these are three

Chapter 3: Defining biblical high places

images of ancient high places that still stand in Israel today some of them are more extravagant than others as you can see but they're all constructed with Rock and brick there's an altar uh not you can't always see the altar in these old pictures but um these are this is what a high place would have looked like you can see in the one on the left the green trees that still stand in these uh back in the day uh there these all would have had green trees uh surrounding them like little Park areas so to speak and they're used for Pagan worship the high places in Scripture is a short-hand term for places of pagan worship usually on Hills or mountains to bring them closer to their false gods they were centers of idolatry the greatest time of compromise for God's people in the Old Testament Israel was when in addition to worshipping yahovah the only true God they also worshiped false gods these high places became associated with syncretism and we're going to look at that word in a second syncretism and idolatry the Israelites would adopt the religious practices of the surrounding Nations and worship foreign Gods alongside or instead of Jehovah at these sites these syncretic worship or this syncretic worship was condemned by the prophets as a violation of the Covenant with yehovah so what is syncretism syncretism is the combination of different forms of belief or practice the fusion that's a key word the fusion of two or more originally different inflectional forms so we're going to remember that word syncretism because it basically means you're holding to two different gods 9 minutes you are simultaneously worshiping and sometimes interchanging two separate gods and that's what they did in these days uh between B and yehovah but let's explore this a little bit more and here

Chapter 4: Greek vs Hebrew Messiah

comes the controversial part we're going to jump right into it this is Jesus
this is the Greek Messiah that came to free us from God's law this is the Greek Messiah that broke
the Sabbath and eight BLTs this is
Yeshua this is the Hebrew Messiah that championed God's law this is the Lamb of God who called
people back to the ways of the Lord I found that passage in Isaiah 53 that
said speaking of Yeshua speaking of when he came that he had no form or Majesty that we should
look at him and no beauty
that we should desire him remember when the first king of Israel was chosen it was
Saul and he was chosen because he was Head and Shoulders Above the Rest he was a handsome
good-looking
guy and yet the Messiah the Messiah that was to come would not have any form or Majesty he was
not a handsome guy that
we would look at him and go oh he's a good-look guy he must be the Messiah now I I mean this isn't
obvious
this is obviously an artistic rendition but sometimes I wonder if Yeshua didn't look like a bearded
long-haired Adam
Sandler he was Jewish after all right he was a Hebrew he wasn't pale white blonde
her so this person has never
existed and and sometimes that it's a hard pill to swallow for some people to
think that a person named Jesus never existed there was never a
time in Hebrew in in Israel's history where a Jesus was
born so here's the controversial question is worshipping this
Jesus idolatry now before we go on I I just wanted to have you unmute
yourselves and give me your thoughts a little bit when you see these slides when you see this
question when you see this
contrast between the Greek Messiah and the Hebrew Messiah the fact that the Greek Messiah
12 minutes
never existed and answer the question honestly just for the sake of
discussion is worshipping the Greek Jesus idolatry give me your thoughts on
that he's a false Christ okay
yeah yeah we it's an adulter because we we make
up the ideal person you know that we want to worship and that we agree
with okay somebody else I think um gotta unmute yourself I
have I think now that we are studying this out and understand it better I would say yes yes that is
idolatry I
think at the time I I didn't know that um and the ability to be able to change
my view uh I think makes makes the difference for

[Music]

me uh I would agree with you Joe um you know it's only been what seven
eight years now since I've I began my my journey and I can honestly say that the 25 years before
that if you it wasn't my heart to worship an
idol uh I didn't know I just didn't know that the the Jesus that I was I was
following was this Greek personification of the Messiah I just
didn't know I my heart was pure if I could say that my my intentions were pure like somebody else
so so I wouldn't go and and tell somebody in the Christian church that their Messiah is a pagan and
Idol I would never do
that um and I would never fault somebody for uh pursuing this Jesus the trouble
is once we've come into knowledge of the truth once we understand the truth then we're talking a
different ball of wax then we're talking about
about knowledge of

[Music]

something uh coming into the picture and playing a part in our understanding so I guess the
broader question would be if
we know who the real Messiah is if we know that the Greek Jesus never
existed then as Believers can we get into spiritual
trouble and I'm trying to use ver very basic terminology here to help us wrap our brains around
this can we get into
trouble if we try to worship them both now in our mind we're not saying
we're worshipping two Messias but sometimes we can do and
embrace certain things where they become interchangeable you know based on our
feelings or opinions and that's the syncretism remember remember the syncretism that
Israel did and don't forget these things that Israel got caught up in are there for a
reason God God was is trying to teach us something very important about Israel and their history
with
syncretism combining or fusing
together two gods as we're as we're worshipping instead of completely and utterly submitting to one
or the other right to worship them both is at the very least
syncretism but could it be more than that and when you take another look at the very first
commandment in
the Ten Commandments then it kind of takes it kind of has a a different feel
you shall have no other gods before me well what about a different version of
you what about someone that's almost like you but not quite well that would be
another God right that would be another version of him you shall not make for yourself a carved
image or any
likeness of anything that is in heaven above or is the Earth beneath or that is the water under the
Earth shall bow down

to them or serve them for I the Lord your God am a jealous God so if he's a jealous God and this is a Godly jealousy

Paul makes the distinction in his letters between sinful jealousy and godly jealousy if he is a jealous God then what does that mean that that means if if we continue to chase after in any way shape or form emotionally or otherwise this bastardized version of the true

Messiah the this milk toast version this sinful version because remember a lot of people in the Christian World believe that Jesus broke the Sabbath in in the Book of John and that he add Advocates eating BLTs in Mark

7 so if we are combining the two then I think we fall

into we we we we get into trouble with this very first commandment and yes ma'am oh so I I have a thought about this um and I like God God knows our hearts and I feel like

it maybe comes down to a heart issue and I don't know if I'm jumping ahead because I know you have a whole study to go but I mean even just thinking about

marriage like when I married Eric and I had this idea of who he was and as you get to know each other you you fall into

more you know kind of truth about who he is um and misunderstandings Fall by the wayside or whatever and and that's a

simplistic comparison because we're talking about our you know our

19 minutes

Messiah but to I guess add a a component here of Grace that God knows our hearts

and if we are genuinely willing to know who God is and we seeking with our whole heart that

over time that will become um revealed to us I guess which is exactly what happened with us and

with each of us here I'm in a Bible study with a woman who who very much holds to this you know that I don't want to fall under the law again like I don't

want that burden to be put on me again and I've been praying that you know she has a real heart to seek God that I can

trust that God will show himself to her because of that heart stance instead of

um I I don't know if that made sense it makes total sense and I agree with you 100% yes I absolutely do believe you

have God does know our hearts and sometimes and I'm just going to throw this out there I'm not saying this is

you laurian I'm just saying sometimes I've done this but sometimes people hide behind

that yeah oh God knows my heart uh and and but the reality is yes does and that

should scare you oh yeah sometimes we hide behind that statement not realizing just how true that is that he

really does know what's in your heart and and yes I would agree with you 100% that if you are truly searching him

then then he knows the difference this slide isn't for those people per se this

this slide is more for people who want to somehow hold on to both deities yes I believe that Jesus was a Jew and yes I believe that you know we should um observe the sabbath but what about this I mean food thing really I mean should we really do do we really have to eat the way he says we have to eat and you know they they want to they want to have both they want to have their cake and eat it too no pun intended when it comes to their faith and they're not they're not willing to completely bow the knee to one or the other or they at one time bowed the knee to the Jesus and struggling to fully bow the knee to Yeshua you know so I think that's why I wanted to approach this topic not because I'm blaming anybody here or accusing anybody here or anybody that's listening by the way on YouTube I I wanted to I wanted to uh um to get your your mind thinking I wanted you to toss this around in your heart a little bit uh as we move forward in the study

Chapter 5: Historical syncretism

so okay amen let's move on systemic confus saying to laian like I think about the going through the holidays these last couple months and then heading into Passover Easter how appropriate this is in terms of how you practice this you know where do you bow and E how do you how do you worship your Messiah yeah exactly amen uh Joy said yes that's a good point you can't always hear her because she's sitting far away from me but okay a systemic confusion of who is who joining two Gods worshiping both as if they're one and this is what we're going to see here in scripture uh the tradition of allowing the high places to exist where both Bal and yehovah were worshiped together and often mistaken for one another lasted for more than 150 years and I just copied and pasted this from my book by the way um in fact B wor worship became so prevalent that people 23 minutes began to name their children after the false god so that's when you know when syncretism is really set in the hearts of in the minds of people and you start naming your children after false gods not just any people but David the greatest king of Israel amongst other high-profile biblical figures we see here in 1 Chronicles 14 that one of his children was named Bela and Bel is ball NOS in Hebrew this is King David So how just how deep just how

sentimental just how emotionally embedded was this idolatry if King David is naming his daughter after Baal and it wasn't just David there's others biblically we have Saul and Jonathan had children named after Baal in 1 Chronicles 8 Ash Baal and Merib Baal were um Saul and Jonathan's children children one means man of Baal one means advocate of Baal so this is pretty enlightening this is pretty scary what does this tell us well it tells us of the deep rooted sentimentality that existed in the hearts of Israel for their tradition they didn't want to let it go so much so that they wanted to name a child after it they began to share in the worship practices of the Canaanites from the moment they entered the land from the moment they came out of the desert and entered the land of Canaan that was already preoccupied they began to share in those worship practices it shows us why Yehovah was so angered at their attempts to worship because he had become just one of their gods and we've already looked at the passage that talked about him being jealous of this that he is a jealous God he doesn't want to be just one of our Gods he just he doesn't want to be that God that we serve on Shabbat and then serve another God on Sunday or Monday or Tuesday or or

Chapter 6: Prophecy and violation

Wednesday so high places a study of idolatry this whole highplace business was actually prophesied and it might interest you to know that as Israel was coming into the promised land a lot of stuff was prophesied about their future uh we see in the book of Deuteronomy that um God casting the house of Israel into the Nations was prophesied we see here in Leviticus that them embracing the high places as forms of worship was prophesied and I don't know about you but if I'm an Israelite back then and I'm listening to these Prophets phes I I I want to say that I'm going to do the darrest my darrest to to to not do these things that was prophesied and yet they did Leviticus 26 after all of this if you do not obey me but walk contrary to me then I also will walk contrary to you in Fury and I even I will chastise you seven times for your sins you shall eat the flesh of your sons and they 27 minutes did and you shall eat the Flesh of your daughters and they did I will destroy your high places cut down your incense altars and cast your carcasses in on the lifeless forms of your idols and my soul shall abhor you my soul shall hate you why because this is adultery this is spiritual adultery

right and yet they walked right into it so these high places already existed uh when they entered the land due to the Canaanites already living in the land when they arrived Israel would adopt this worship style then and then begin to build for themselves their own high places during the reign of Jeroboam First Kings 12 therefore the king asked advice make two calves of gold and said to the people it's too much for you to go up to Jerusalem to sacrifice it's too much for you to go it's too far to go all the way up to the temple to do your business here are your Gods oh Israel which brought you up from the land of Egypt and he set one up in Bethel and the other he put up in Dan this thing became a sin for the people went to worship there they worship before the one as far as Dan if you look on a map Dan is in distance from Israel is pretty far he made shrines on the high places and made priests from every class of people who were not of the sons of Levi now if you recall the only people who can be a Levite are the sons of Aaron right so Jeroboam not only built these shrines on high places but anybody who wanted to be a priest came along and he said oh yeah sure from every class of people he made priests so he was going off the wild end there first Kings or 2 Kings 17 for so it was that the children of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh the king of Egypt and they had fear other gods and had walked in the statute of the Nations whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel and the Kings of Israel which they had made also the children of Israel secretly did against the Lord their God things that were not right and they built for themselves high places in all their cities so they're continuing this tradition handed down by a rebellious King from Watchtower to fortified City they set up for themselves sacred pillars and wooden images on every high hill and under every Green Tree we looked at that phrase several months ago there they burned incense on all the high places like who like the Nations whom the Lord had carried away before them and they did Wicked things to provoke provoke the Lord to anger for they served Idols which the Lord had said to them you shall not do this thing so we can see here that the tradition of high places had become rooted in their hearts so that now they weren't just using the ones previously made by Canaanites but they're building their own just like the Nations around them so Israel's syncretism caused them to worship God in the same way that they had learned to worship Baal now why is that important God was very specific about how he wanted the people of Israel to worship

him very specific and we all know the story of Aaron's sons who brought Strange Fire into their worship and the Bible says they were struck down because it wasn't God's fire they brought a Strange Fire and so there we see a depiction even though it's historical it's of depiction for us of how God feels about how we worship

32 minutes

Him and here because of Israel's syncretism had caused them to blend their worship of ball with their worship of God and I don't have this written down but it makes me want to ask the question how do we do that do we do that do we bring in worldly worship patterns or practices to our own worship of the one true God and if so what does that look like how would you articulate it maybe that's something that we can discuss later on Jeremiah 7:30 for the children of Judah have done evil in my sight says the Lord they have set up their Abominations in the house which is by is called by my name what's Happening Here now they're bringing in their Idols into the temple now they're bringing the things that they learned from ball into the temple they have built the high places of toet which is in the Valley of the son of hen to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire which I did not command nor did it come into my heart why is he saying that but because they're bringing this stuff into his camp and if someone who didn't know the difference was looking into that camp and seeing what was going on they think they would think that it was Israel's God who who who commanded this and so so extreme was their attachment their emotional attachment to these practices that they were sacrificing their children in the in the name of

Chapter 7: Generational idolatry

God high places an incomplete Reformation so what is this slide about well there was an attempt by some Kings to eradicate or to call Israel to repentance uh in time if you look at a list of the Kings and by the way I have a list of said kings in the book If you haven't uh read that part that shows whether or not they were good or evil and the majority of them were evil but there were a handful of kings that tried to make some Reformation with the people of Israel but we see something very interesting here before we go into that I want to ask a question reading these two passages

Genesis chapter 31:19 and Matthew 24:17 what is the similarity in the two let's look at them now
laan had gone to
Shear his sheep and Rachel had stolen the household Idols that were her fathers Matthew
24:17 let him who was this is Jesus talking about when the abomination of desolation happens what
to happen he
need to run and it says let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his
house what's the
similarity in these two passages what makes r steal an idol and why would one
take something from a house before fleeing what's your answer to that
question because they love it they love it what's another they consider their protector I
think okay let's drill this down a little bit more though Rachel has stolen an idol and Jesus says don't
go down and
get anything when you have to leave why would someone go down and get something well the
answer is really simple I put
it on both sides of the page so that we could see it
sentimentality that's right Joy says it's something we value we're sentimental about this thing that's
why
Rachel took this Idol from her father's house that's why we would want to run into a burning
building to save
something pictures of our kids or some type of valuable thing it's sentimentality sentimentality is
what is
behind these things and sentimentality is behind the high places
let's talk about that first Kings 15 in the 20th year of Jeroboam king of Israel
also became king of Judah also did what was right in the eyes of the Lord as did his father David
and he banished the
perverted persons from the land and removed all the idols that his fathers had made he removed
MAA his grandmother
from being queen mother because she had made an obscene image of Asherah a pornographic image
of
Asherah and Asa cut down her obscene image and burned it by the Brook
Kidron but the high places were not removed nevertheless O's heart was loyal
to the Lord all his days what do you see
here he was sentimental about the high place what
else you jeopardise going deeper with God because of holding on to holding on to that
yes it's very interesting to me when I look at this that in the same sentence
almost well the you know adjoining sentences the high places were not removed we already
see how much God hates high places in the very next sentence nevertheless O's heart was loyal to
the
Lord all his days so what are we seeing here we're seeing syncretism we're we're

seeing that these things were allowed to live together Assa a committed believer
a committed follower who did great things who did great things Joy
says still had this anchor this sentimental
anchor that I believe held him back the high places were were not
removed again First Kings 22 Jehoshaphat who by the way is one of my favorite people in the Bible
the son
of Assa had become king over Judah in the fourth year of Ahab king of Israel so this is asa's son the
guy we just
looked at Jehoshaphat was 35 years old when he became king and he reigned 25
years in Jerusalem his mother's name was azuba the daughter of shile and he walked in all the
ways of his father
also that's a good thing he did not turn aside from them doing what was right in the eyes of the
Lord
nevertheless the high places were not taken away for the people offered sacrifices
and burned incense on the high places and again I ask what do you see it's a
repeat this time it's not just a repeat of what Assa did this time it's generational
so we see this toleration of idolatry due to
sentimentality not just existing in the heart of one king but passed down to his son and just like his
son or just like
his dad Jehoshaphat allowed these high places to
exist 2 Chronicles 20:33 there's a very interesting this is
this is one of the parallel passages that talk about these events and there's something that I I I I just
jumped out at me as I was reading nevertheless the
high places were not taken away and then this next statement is chilling for as yet the people had
not directed their
hearts to the god of their fathers and that therein
lies the reason why the high places
remained because it says something about our hearts being totally directed
to and devoted to the god of our fathers Second Kings
14 in the second year of joash the son of jehoahaz king of Israel mesiah the
king of joash king of Judah became king he was 25 years old when he became king and he reigned
29 years in Jerusalem his
mother's name was joim of Jerusalem and he did what was right in the sight of the Lord yet not like
his father David
he did everything as his father joash had done however the high places were not taken away and
the people still sacrificed and
burned incense on the high places so it continues 2 Kings
15 in the 207th year of jeroboam king of Israel Azariah the son of amiah the king

of Judah became king and he did what was right in the sight of the Lord according to all that his father Amaziah had done except that the high places were not removed the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places in the second year of Pekah the son of Ramoth king of Israel Jotham the son of Uzziah king of Judah began to reign and he did what was right in the sight of the Lord he did according to all that his father Uzziah had done however the high places were not removed the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places one must ask when we see this repeated over and over and over again as it does describes these Kings why does the Holy Spirit keep saying however these high places were not taken away why because I think and you guys could pipe in here anytime you like I think the Holy Spirit God is trying to tell us that our repentance can sometimes be incomplete that our devotion to him can sometimes be lacking because these people these Kings as you all just read did according to the things their fathers did he did what was right in the sight of the Lord those things that he did except this one thing and it was a thorn in their flesh it was an obstacle in their heart it was something that kept them from truly truly embracing God in his ways and we're going to see the contrast to that here in a second so king after King came and went but the high places remained why and I think we just described that we just explained that and then Along Comes Hezekiah

Chapter 8: Hezekiah's reformation

Hezekiah's complete repentance let's read about him 2 Kings 18 now it came to pass in the third year and before we finish this scripture pay attention to the complete contrast difference between the things that we just read and what we're about to read it came to pass in the third year of Hosiah the son of Elah king of Israel but Hezekiah the son of Ahaz King of Judah began to reign and he did what was right in the sight of the Lord according to all that his father David had done he removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made you guys remember that right from The Exodus when the people complained God sent

snakes to kill them and they begged for mercy for some
for Moses to do something and God told Moses to make a bronze serpent so that when they look at
it they'll be
healed why is Hezekiah destroying that bronze
serpent well simple they began to worship it as an
idol so he destroyed into pieces this bronze serpent that Moses had made for until those days the
children of God
burned incense to it and called it neahusan he Hezekiah trusted in the Lord the god
of Israel so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah nor who
were before him him for he held fast to the Lord he did not depart from following him but kept his
Commandments
which the Lord had commanded Moses and then look the Lord was with him and he
prospered wherever he went and he rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him he
subdued
the Philistines as far as Gaza and its territory from watched Tower to fortif IED
City so here we see a striking difference between the Kings that we mentioned before and this
one who had a complete repentance and the Bible says he prospered compare that
to the previous Kings jeroboam ended up becoming Israel's most notorious
King by which every other rebellious King was measured he was by far the
worst even Assa who did the things that were right in the eyes of the Lord but allowed
these things to remain died of a terrible disease in his feet I have no idea what that looked like
gout I've had gout I I guarantee you it's much worse uh I'm sure whatever Assa had was much
worse and then and
Jehoshaphat one of my one of my spiritual Heroes ends up being allied with a
wicked person named aesia and G and God cursed him
so I think when we tolerate things to to live and remain in our
heart as it pertains to our worship of God and why we do the things that we do and the syncretism
I think it opens the door for even worse things as we see here with these three
kings so the conclusion of the matter presence of high places in Israel throughout their
history underscores the Nations struggle with idolatry and syncretism combining elements of their
relationship with yehovah with Pagan worship practices despite occasional efforts by righteous
leaders to remove them the Allure of foreign gods and the influence of neighboring
cultures led to a persistent compromise of Israel's Faith read that again and instead of thinking
about
Israel's history think about our modern day despite the occasional efforts by
righteous leaders to remove them the all of foreign gods and the influence of
neighboring cultures led to a persistent compromise of our

faith the syncretism ultimately contributed to their spiritual Decline and divine judgment highlighting the ongoing tension between Fidelity to God's commands and the temptation to adopt worldly Customs

Chapter 9: Modern application

so tearing down the high places so the remaining question is the big question of the day
50 minutes

is what high places do you still have in

your life I put these two passages from First Corinthians in first John to

remind us that even under the New Covenant idolatry was a very serious and remains a very serious thing Brothers

flee from idolatry children keep yourself from Idols so I don't know if we want to take

this moment to answer this question maybe you feel compelled to answer yourself how you may have high places in your faith how you may

have um continued to worship the Greek Jesus or have sentimental emotional

attachments to the Greek Jesus that are that have been difficult for you to let go

of um I don't know I'm just tossing things out there um wondering if if any of this stuff hits you and maybe it's

not going to hit you now maybe after you leave to tomorrow later on this week something hits you and you go wow

I all all we're trying to do in this group obviously is to call people back to the ways of the Lord

um but you are going to find yourself wrestling with a lot of things that you

you held to for a lot of years uh and that's normal don't run from

that um I think being uncomfortable in that regard is a good

thing because it's going to force you to re-evaluate and to think through everything that that you believe and

compare it to scripture and you'll find like I found

that that doesn't stop even today a seven eight years after I kind of came to an understanding on on these

things I'm still amazed at how I'm I'm

unlearning so when you've been in the system the ordered system for a long long

time you don't just snap out of it in one day or one week or one month you you have to unpack yourself

from it for weeks days months and years you have to constantly uh remind yourself of who you serve and and and who you don't serve uh

so I know it's a lot but but baby steps I've always told people

in in in their Journeys baby steps don't get overwhelmed by everything that you feel

like you're learning and not learning or or have to repent of or all you know don't that's just another trick to get you to fail instead just one one week at a time one day at a time one Bible study at a time where you are are constantly comparing yourself to the things that you see God calling you to and that's that's all what that's all we're called to do anyways biblically to seek him out and to be little children in that process and like little children you absorb and you grow and you change slowly a child doesn't become an adult in a day or a week or a month child becomes an adult in years does that make sense anybody else this reminded me a lot of of the teaching in Matthew 7 on the two foundations um the teaching that you did but I guess the the hard thing for me this year is is Easter because you know because I come from a Catholic background and we have a lot of family I'm actually going to my son's house who is also tour observant for Passover but it hasn't been a a good thing in my in my household now because my husband's still kind of leaning on Easter which makes it difficult and uh you know we grew up with it and our families and you hear it everywhere you go happy Easter but I don't I don't want any part of it this year I don't want to even acknowledge it so I'm kind of in a tough spot that's a great example Sandra of what it's like to be um trying to set yourself apart from an ordered system our the ordered system that we live in says Easter is good Christmas is good all these holidays are good but they all they are all obviously we looked at that I don't need to rehash it but they're all part of this ordered system and it's going to be strange to people that you don't want to be a part of it anymore Peter even said that you know people are going to look at us like we're the ones that are weird when we don't in this ordered system and I know it's difficult I know

Chapter 10: Group discussion and prayer

it's difficult especially for those of you who are alone or some somewhat alone family members um but in my experience when you hold to it with humility and love not casting judgment and those people still following that ordered system you win them over and and eventually they're going to look at you and go I need to give Sandra another thought talk to her a little bit more about this stuff that she's into and and learn and and I think that's that's how we win people over I if I may share a little bit because I've been on this journey for the last three years and uh for

Christmas what I decided to do was I put the ol tree and I put the scriptures along on the side in my home because my kids were like no Christmas what are we going to do and we were celebrating at my house and I say you know I don't have no Christmas tree so we did it on the dining room table we're going to have gifts you know God gave us a lot of gifts so we did that so we had it on the table but I had that manura and the Olive Tree on it and then a scripture why I don't observe Christmas and um and you know but I was celebrating lights right uh the FES light so I'm thinking I'm going to do the same thing for uh Easter just put the scripture that one that we just saw there you know and uh that's what I want to put there next to my ol tree you know and in my home right I can do whatever so I I'm not getting your house yes so I I don't get to anybody you know why you whatever you know I'm not CH chastising them they going to get there but if they come to my house this is what I celebrate and this is why you have questions and I had a few people that you know I was able to share because they asked me you know and uh so I'm opening the door if they ask me here I I'm G to share my thoughts you know in my heart but I am not going to you know kill everybody you doing wrong and you know so uh we all get there on our own time so amen something that stood out to me from your lesson and thank you this was really great um was the incomplete repentance that the king had and his name is escaping me at the moment um I don't have my Bible in front of me aome yeah um and I think the the scripture where David you know he says create in me a clean heart renew a right Spirit within me like having a heart that after hearing these things you know I imagine myself just like sitting down by a stream with God and genuinely being willing to lay it all out you know that I I want to have a clean heart before God show me the areas in my life that are not right and it's you know it can't be a turnaround that all of it happens you know in one day because these things are so ingrained in our culture like I mean I was thinking even just about um I was telling Eric I had a dream last night about Little Women the movie Little Women um but I was in a play and Christmas is a huge part of that um that book and it's so cozy I mean there's kittens and there's food and there's ice skating and there's snow and there's Shaws and there's all of these things that we associate

with goodness and you know I feel like the enemy has been really clever and bringing alongside of those emotions

that are God given in US these things that we replace

with we replace God things and and we don't even really know how to do it I feel like our culture is so far removed

from the Faith of Our Fathers this is a great opportunity to ask God like how can I be part of a movement or you know maybe that's a little bit too Noble but um part of the word is Awakening I like to use the word Awakening not a mov because God is Awakening people's eyes and hearts all over the world apart from

any one group or or movement as we would associate it with but continue well and I I love that word

Awakening because it's very appropriate for Eric and I and and what we've processed um but it's I feel like it

starts in the heart like a true willingness to have God show us what it is that needs to change because he's the

only one that can know like if we look at our own lives and and say well I'm going to change this and this and this and this like we're still trying to control it God is the one that knows how we can go from where we are to where we need to be and I think submitting to

God laying it out you know rep fully repenting um really needs to happen it's

a heart issue it's a true submission to whatever God wants to do and then responding to it um in humility like humility has to be a part of this but repentance really stuck

out to me from what you said I think that that really touches on how this how

it could happen to tear down the high places yeah I I wanted to the thing there's this this kind of the word kept

coming back to me in this laston thank you again was appropriate cretion how much this helenistic Jesus appropriated

what Yeshua was and how much seeing like I didn't grow up in the church but I grew up every year going to Disney World

I I didn't see you coming up with those three World words when we started this lesson but it hit me pretty profoundly

um because we kind of have this curated world where things have been appropriated and and the Allure that word Allure to things that are nostal

and and like that's the conflict and the tension that we're dealing with every day around family around holidays around

even Sabbath I mean we still like have kind of a a life that we're surrounded by people who look at us as if we have

three eyes um but there there's something in all this that really hit home and made Lor and I very uncomfortable and a bit disturbed and that's a good place to be well amen

amen yes Joe you're you're there you go well when you were talking about wake up it made me think about

Ephesians uh five and um just starting in

verse 13 it says but everything exposed By the Light becomes visible for it is light that makes everything visible it

is why it is said wake up Oh Sleeper rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you be very careful then how you live

not as unwise but as wise making the most of every opportunity because the days are evil and I just you know that

just brings it home for me how important that is I almost shared that script that very scripture in this

lesson yep yeah and the funny thing about that Joe is how many times have you and I read that how many times have

any of us read verses like that and didn't have the historical context of why Paul was saying some of the things that he said why he so often quoted from the Old Testament and we didn't even know it we just thought you

know Paul was some cool guy and and coming up with all these cool sayings and the truth of the matter was is he was he was carrying over everything that he

learned as he to in being a Pharisee of Pharisees and being you know a Jew of Jews he was a scholar of the Old

Testament and he was bringing all of that knowledge into the letters that he wrote to the churches and we missed it

we missed it well okay awesome well little smaller

group today but that's okay all right well guys let's close with word of prayer and we'll have a fantastic Shabbat Holy Father Jehovah thank you for hearing our

prayers thank you for being the loving perfect example of a father that you are in our

lives thank you for the ways that you nudge us point us and sometimes shove us

into an understanding of something in your word that we never saw before thank you Father for the mystery

that your holy words are to us and how they are unsearchable and un

we we cannot ever fully come to a complete knowledge of of your word in the course

of our lifetime thank you that you've made it in such a way that every time we open it up it's new and it's fresh and

it's alive thank you that we never stop learning than thank you Father for even

showing us new things in Verses that we've read a thousand times thank you for the ways that you open our minds and

our hearts to seeing new and exciting things in in your word thank you for

your love most of all because all the things that I just thanked you for come from your love of your children your

people and we we just pray father that but that continues in in every day of our life that when we open up your Bible
to to read it that we're not just skimming that we're searching for you we're searching for your values we're
searching for your character we're searching for your heart in every little verse in every little Hebrew word in
Every Little Greek word we want to know you and so we do bring before you father the needs of those in our extended
families that are dealing with sickness right now be it my sister or my nephew or Joanne's daughter Becky who's
dealing with her bodily issues father we know these things mean nothing to you that these diseases and these bodily
issues you you could fix with a thought but we just pray that you help
them and be with them and use these things in their lives as a tool for them to turn their gaze to you as a tool to get them to consider talking to you again or for the first
time we pray that for those who are not here for all who couldn't join this morning that you watch over them on this
Shabbat keep them safe if they're traveling keep them healthy um and for those that we don't know where they're at I pray that
everything's okay uh with them and just ask that you watch over them thank you for our wives our husbands our children
and the lives that you've given us we pray for a great Shabbat we pray these things in the name of your son Yeshua
amen amen okay guys have a great
day shalom shalom shabbat shalom sh shalom