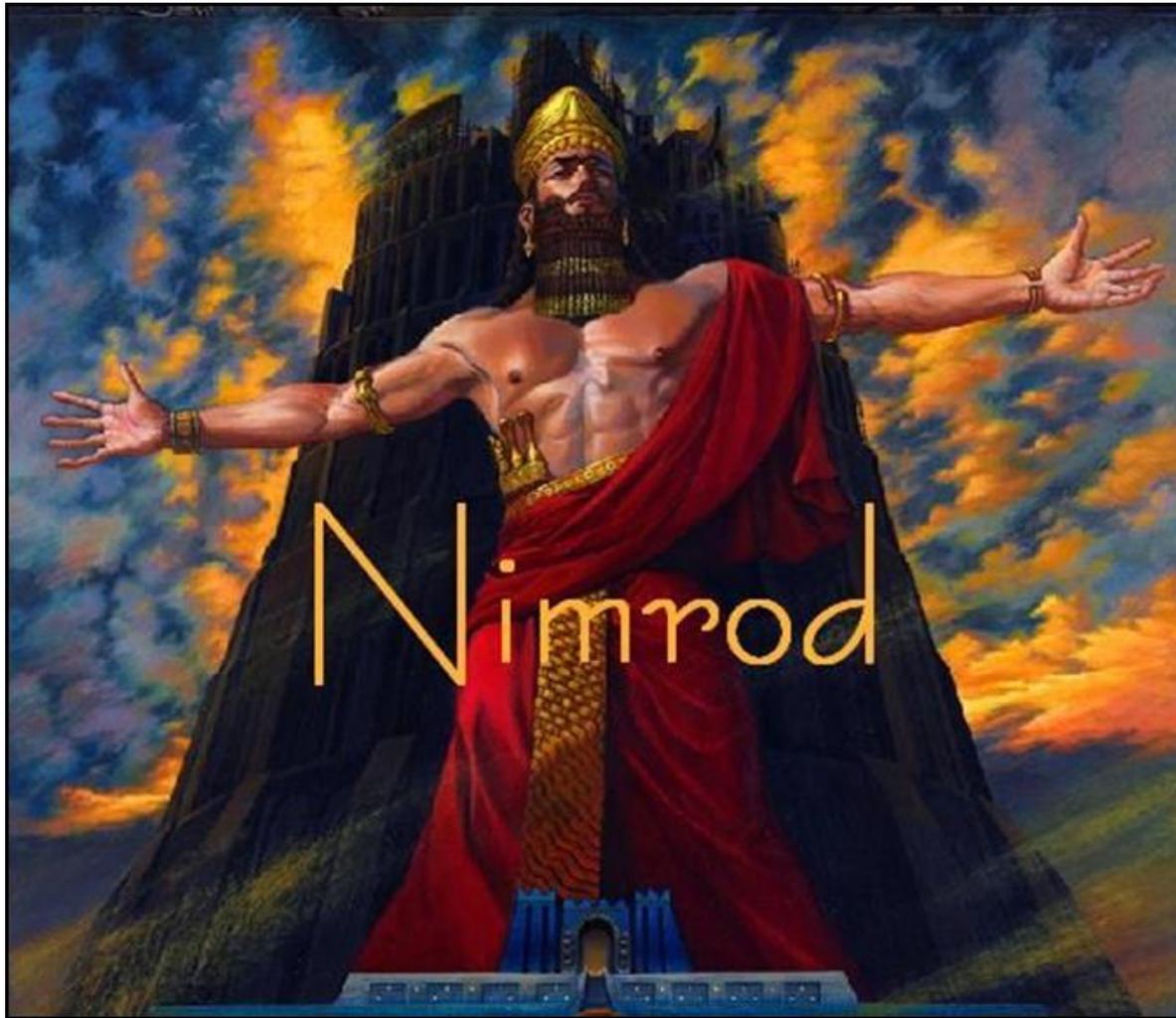
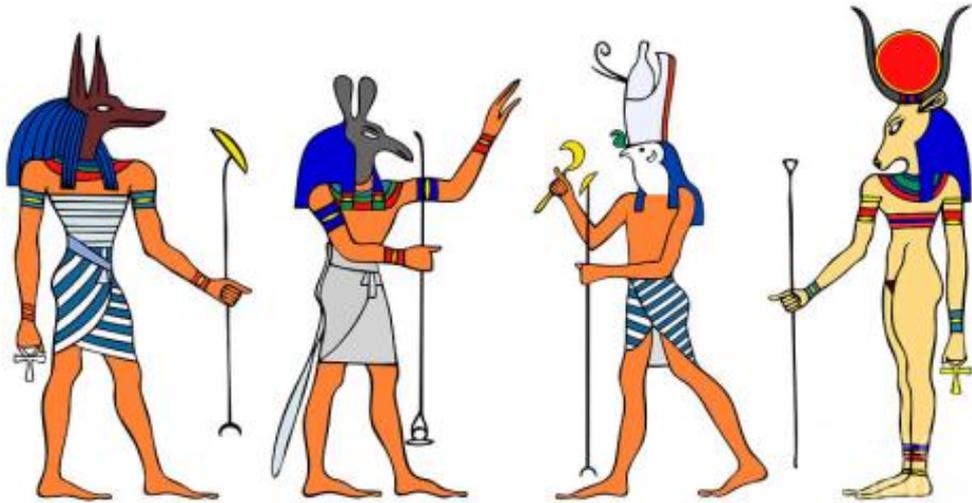


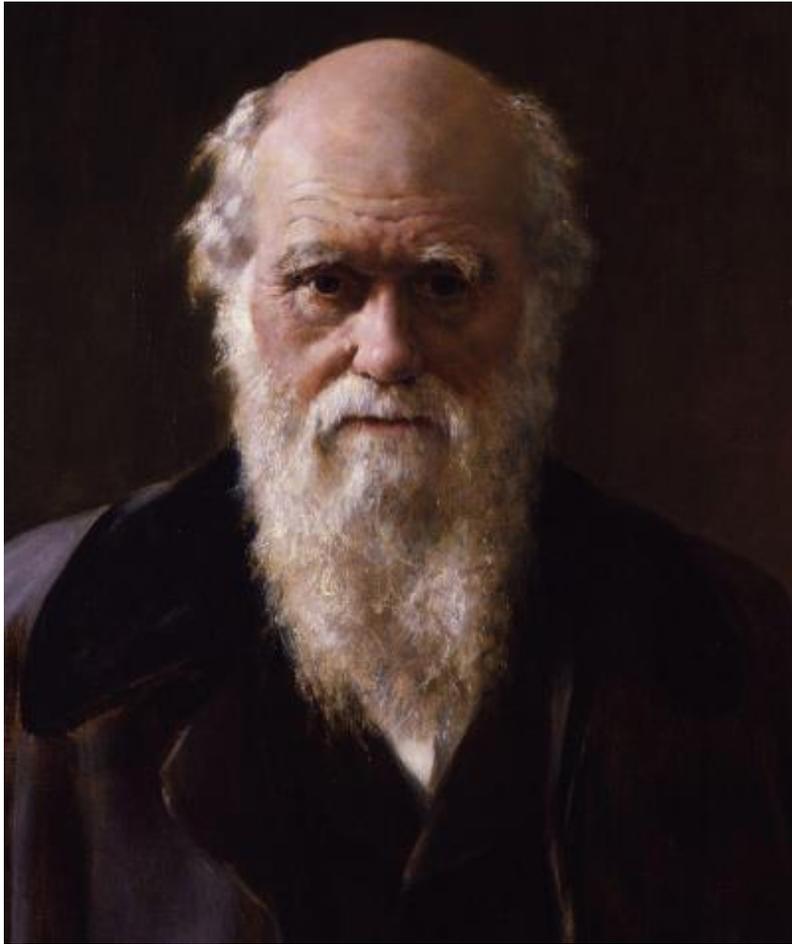
From Bad to Worse



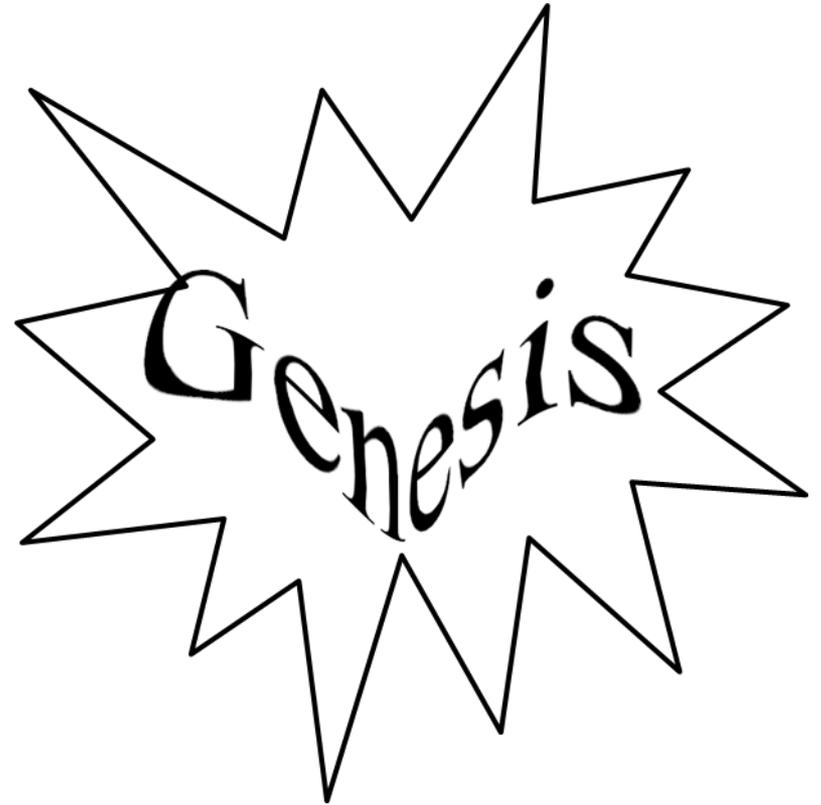
(self - worship) idolatry

From Worse to Polytheism





Effects of the new god “Nature”
on people’s faith in early
chapters of the Bible

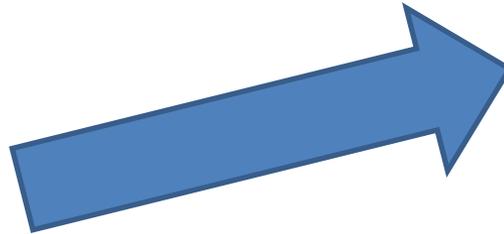


Evolutionary theology

Monotheism

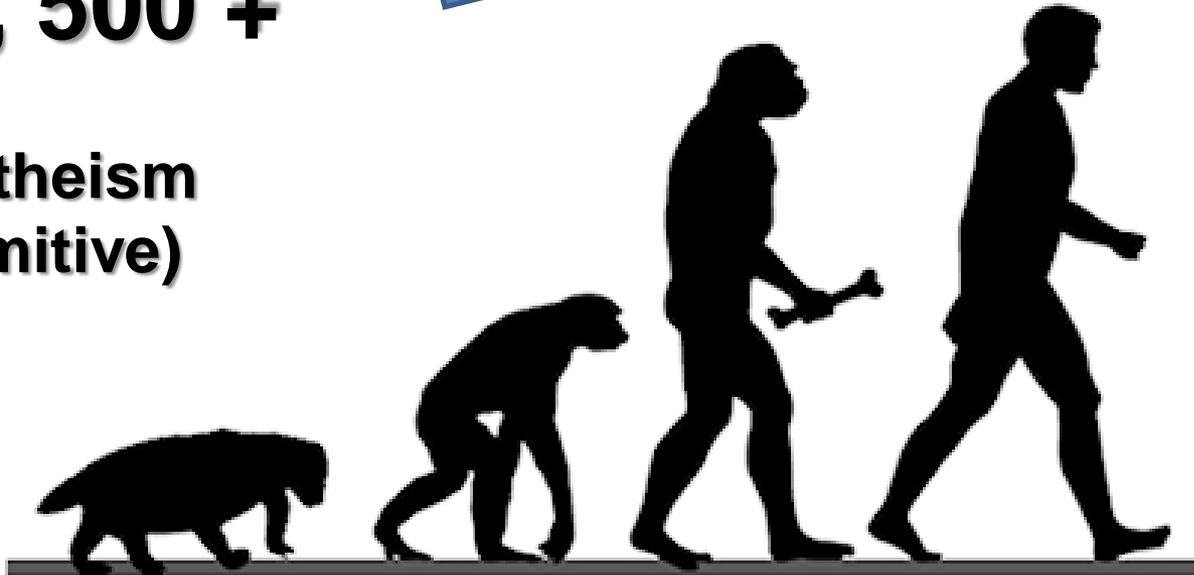
1

(superior)



2, 10, 500 +

**Polytheism
(primitive)**

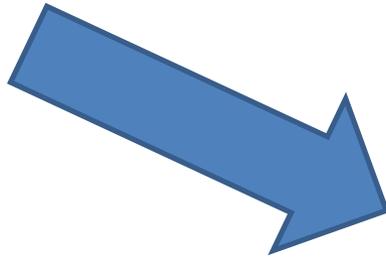


Biblical theology

Monotheism

1

(original)



2, 10, 500 +

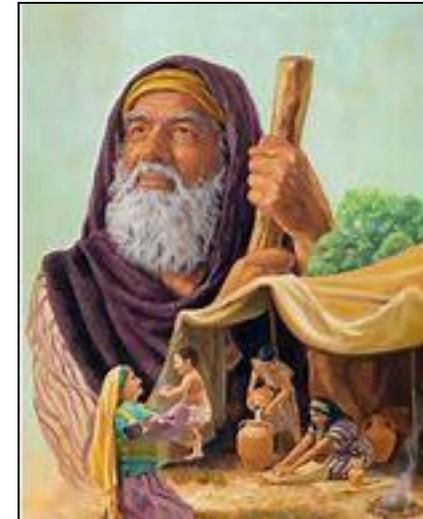
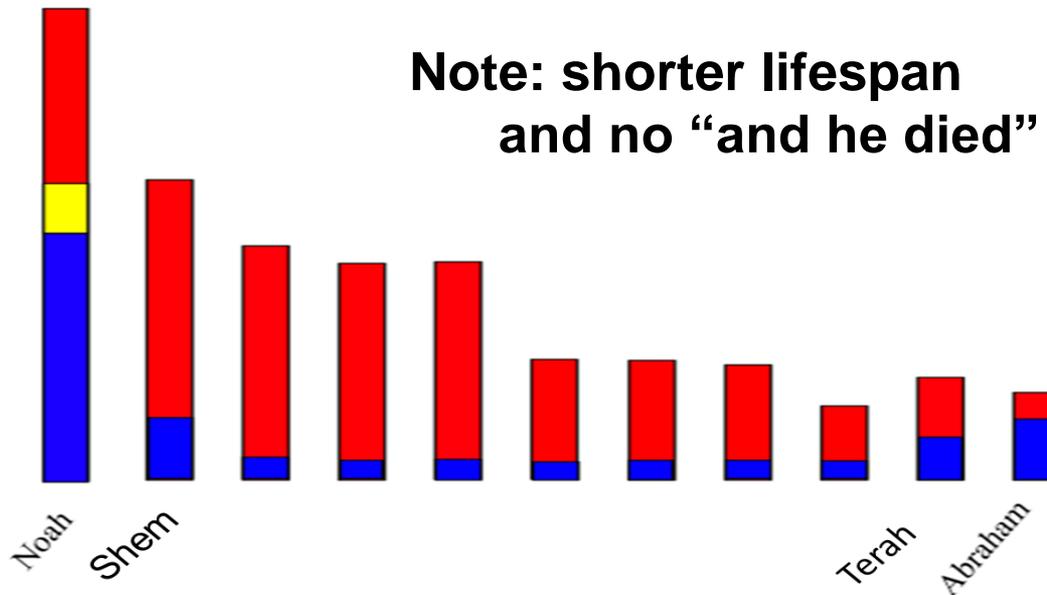
Romans 1: 21-23

**Polytheism
(degenerate)**

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

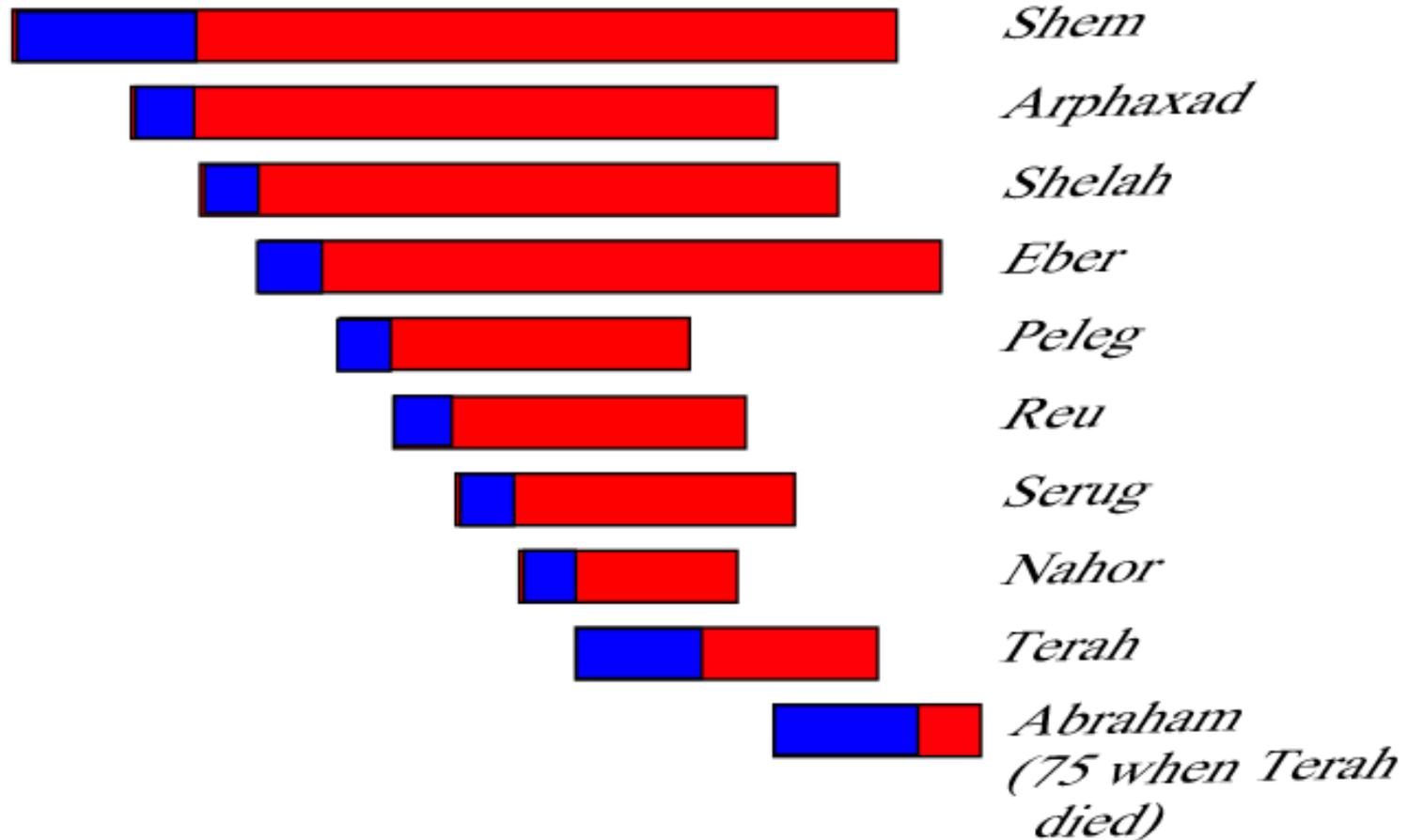
The Chosen Line

Genesis 11:10-11 This is the account of Shem's family line. Two years after the flood, when Shem was 100 years old, he became the father of Arphaxad. And after he became the father of Arphaxad, Shem lived 500 years and had other sons and daughters. 11:24 When Nahor had lived 29 years, he became the father of Terah.



The Chosen Line

Genesis 11:10-32



Something Moses doesn't mention ...



Joshua 24:2 Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods.'"

God called a man from an idolater's background

Genesis 11:26-27 After Terah had lived 70 years, he became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran.



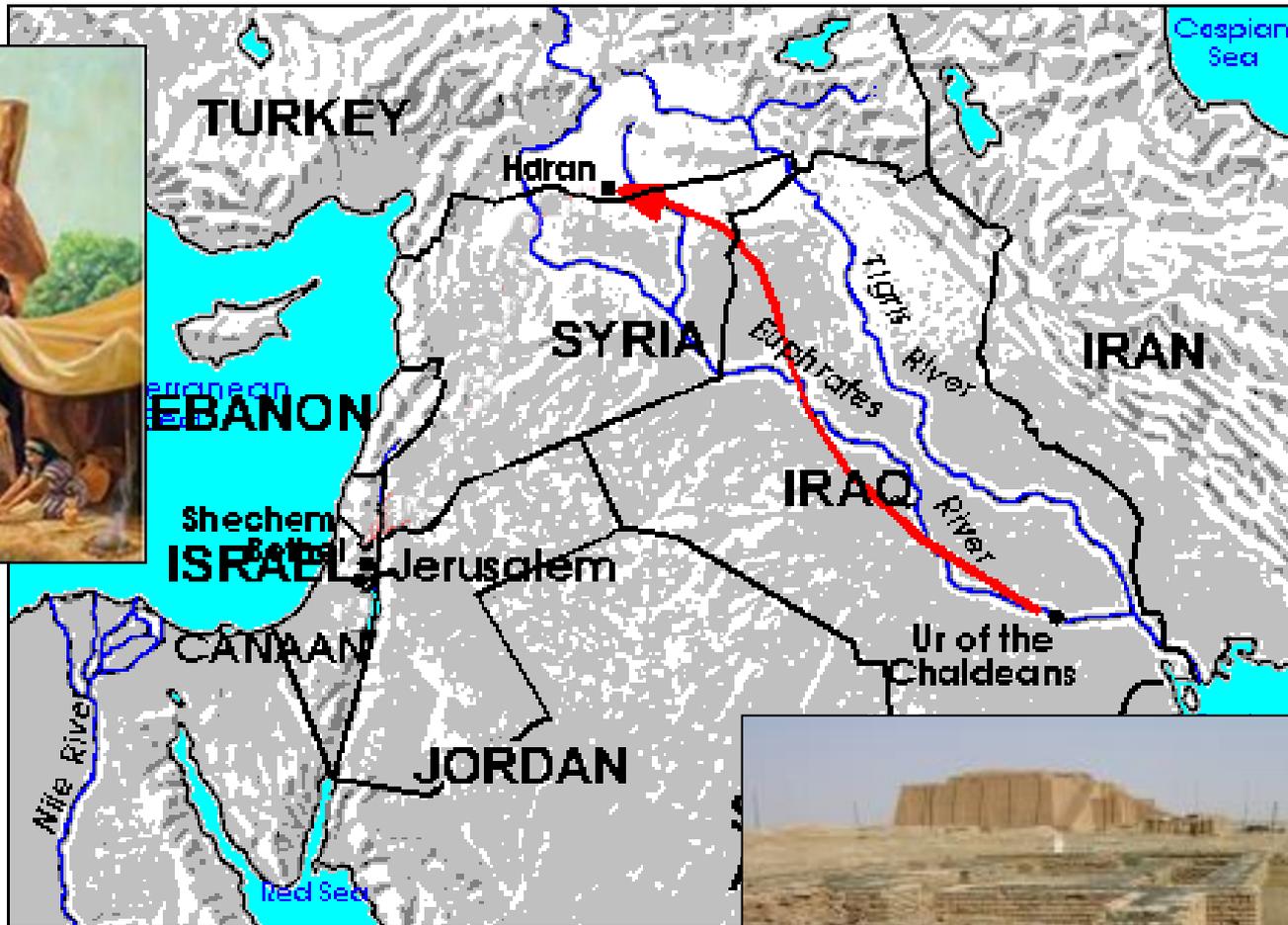
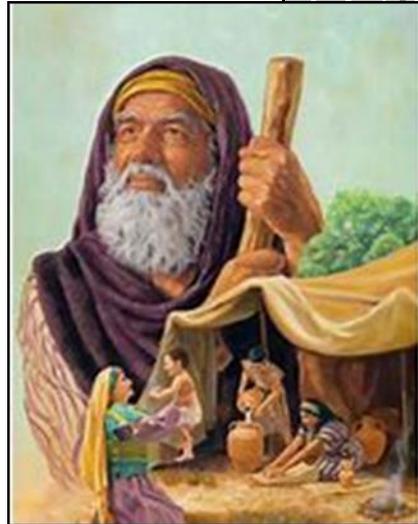
God must act (as He always does) by intervening in history and personal lives

Genesis 12:1 The LORD had said to Abram,
"Go from your country, your people and your father's household
to the land I will show you."

Leave It All Behind



Leave it all behind !



But

Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to Harran, they settled there. Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Harran. Genesis 11:31-32



Why did Terah go ?

A New Beginning (again) ?

So what kind of idols was Abram called to leave behind ?



Eg. Laban said to Jacob, "Now you have gone off because you longed to return to your father's household. But why did you steal my gods?" Genesis 31:30

Modern Forms of Idolatry (superstition) ?

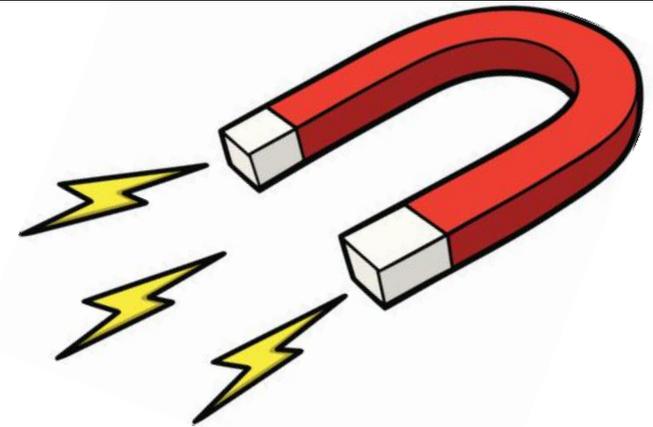
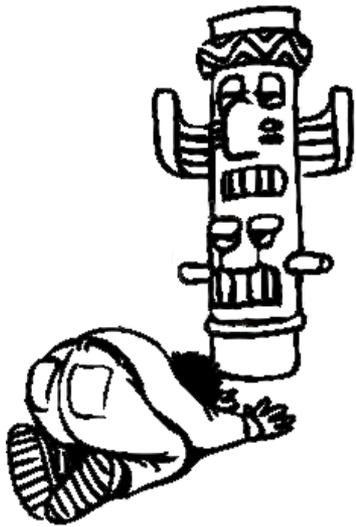
Cf. Acts 17 :16, 22-23



How to be set free

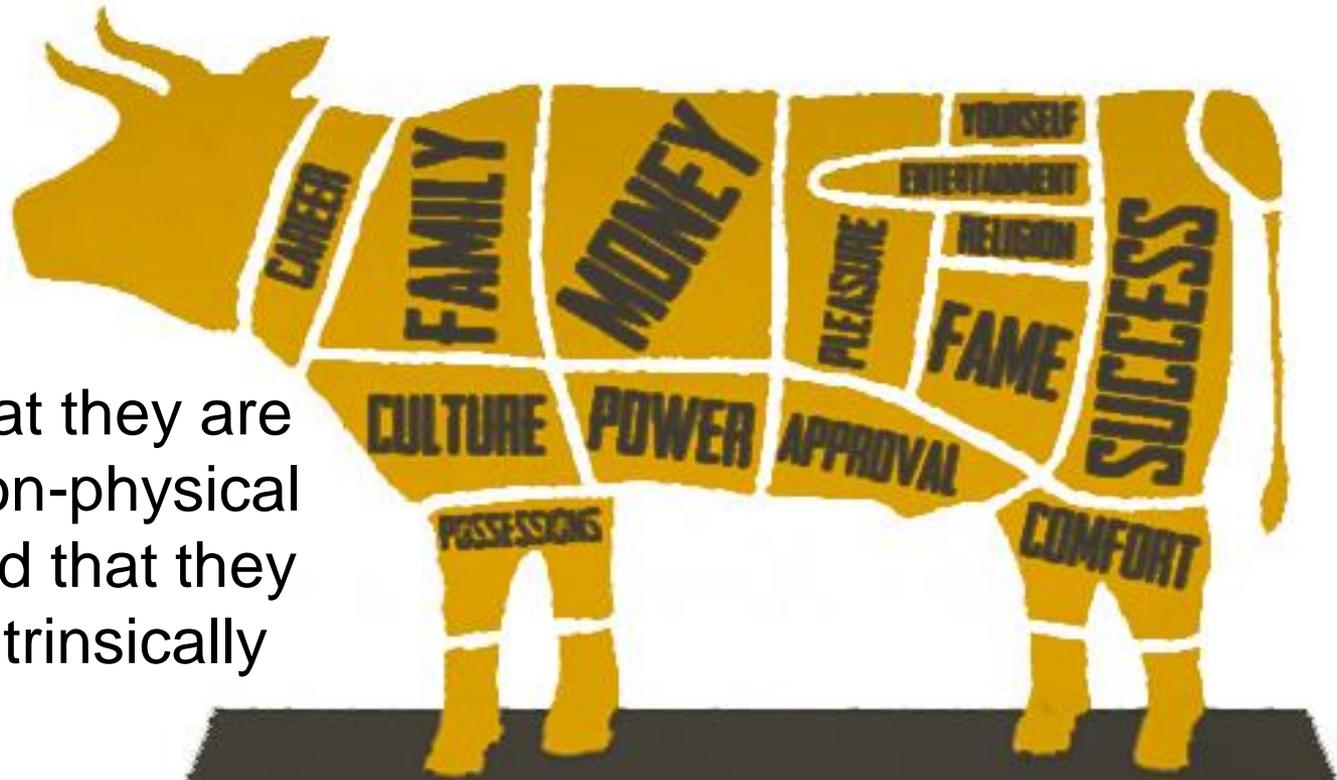
The Lord's message rang out from you ... -your faith in God has become known everywhere.They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead--Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

1 Thessalonians 1:8-10



1 John 5:21

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols



Notice that they are mostly non-physical things and that they are not intrinsically wrong.

Things that can take God's place

A cluster of pink peonies is visible on the left side of the image, partially overlapping the text. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing deep pink and others lighter, almost white, petals. The background is a light, textured blue-grey.

But in your hearts revere Christ as
Lord. Always be prepared to give
an answer to everyone who
asks you to give the reason

for the hope that you have.

But do this with
gentleness and
respect...

1 PETER 3:15 NIV