

False Gods: Ashtoreth
1 Samuel 7:1-4
(Judges 2:13; 10:6; 1 Sam 7:3-4, 1 Sam 31)
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what we can learn from those who made the mistake about follow this false God.

Intro: 1.
2.

I. Background of Ashtoreth

A. Who is this god?

1. the principal female deity of the Phoenicians (2 Kings 23:13) worshipped as the god of war and fertility.
2. the moon goddess of the Phoenicians, representing the passive principle in nature, their principal female deity; frequently associated with the name of Baal, the sun-god, their chief male deity (*Judges 10:6 ; 1 Samuel 7:4 ; 12:10*).

B. What followers did

1. On ritual - women were obliged to sacrifice either their hair or their chastity.
2. The heathen worship, which the Israelites often adopted, involved horribly degenerate practices:
 - a. *The female followers had to offer themselves sexually at least once in their life as act of obedience to this false god*
 - b. *A shrine of this goddess was found also in the city of Ashkelon in Philistia (Herodotus, i. 105),*

II. The people sinned with Ashtoreth

A. Immoral acts & wickedness

1. The worship of this false god drove the people deeper into sin.
2. Worship of a false god will only cause man to dig deeper into wickedness.

B. Wise men have fallen to idolatry

1. When Solomon became older, his wives turned his heart away from God and toward their various heathen gods and goddesses, including Ashtaroth (**1 Kings 11:4-10**)

III. Lessons for us today.

A. Worshipping anyone but the God of the Bible is sin (1 Sam 12:10)

1. God condemned and punished those who went after false gods.
2. God reminds man of the truth idols, false gods and the One True God (**Jer 10:1-16**)

B. The God of the Bible is man's only source of salvation.

1. Man who aligns himself with idols will only know defeat.
2. Man is reminded that victory only comes with the one true God (**1 Sam 7:1-13**)

Application & Conclusion:

1. False gods give no hope to man.
2. While false gods and idols come in many forms, none of them benefit man in any way.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9