

Episode: Topics Series No. 01

Narrator: Rachel

Primary Scriptures: Genesis 31:17-35, 35:2-5

Story Summary: Rachel discusses how the concept of gods originated

Location: Israel

Time: circa 2000 BC

Suggested Memory Scriptures: Genesis 31:32, 35:2

Perhaps the best Biblical reference for the origin of the worship of gods is found in Joshua 24:14-15. In these verses, Joshua indicates that ancestors of Abraham served and worshiped gods other than the one true God. Genesis 31:17-35 shows the two generations following Abraham worshiped other gods.

Joshua 24:14-15 says the Hebrews worshiped other gods in Egypt and after entering the Promised Land. They continued to worship other gods all the way to the time they went into exile in Babylon.

In the modern world, it's hard to imagine a time when people's lives were completely chaotic and seemingly random. They had no good ways to forecast or control the weather, temperature, or danger from wild animals or opposing tribes. In their quest to survive and thrive, it must have seemed useful to worship and appease unseen gods who might have the desire and power to make their lives better.

The First Commandment is "You shall have no other gods before me." God was well aware that people worshiped other gods. The Second Commandment ups the standard by commanding the Israelites not to worship any other gods. God was steadfast in commanding the Israelites to worship him as the only god, and to have them worship him only.

This brings the crux of the matter to the forefront – how does anyone know God of the Bible is the one and only true god, while no other gods are real?

The Bible does not dodge that question. Hebrews 11:6 says, "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who come to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." There is no scientific proof that God exists, but it is by faith you believe it. Romans 1 says you can know God exists through nature. The Bible shows it is evident God exists in what he has made and how he intervenes in the world. Through the Bible, God requires his followers to believe he exists and that he is the one and only true, all-powerful God.

What are people to do who do not believe in the God of the Bible? They are left to believe that other gods are in control, or that everything is random and there is no God or other gods. Their actions and words are a reflection of what they believe.