

## Laws That Protect a Person from Idolatry: The Dangers of Being Seduced into False Worship Deuteronomy 13: 01–18

### 1. *The danger of a false prophet, or an interpreter of dreams, seducing you into false worship*

- a. The proof that he is a prophet:  
Miraculous works
- b. The seduction: Declares that following other gods, false worship is acceptable
- c. The warning: Must not listen to the words of this prophet
- d. The purpose of the seduction:  
The LORD allows the temptation to test (prove, strengthen) your love for Him
- e. The charge
  - 1) Must follow the LORD God and fear Him
  - 2) Must obey His commands
  - 3) Must serve and cling to Him
- f. The judicial judgment or penalty: Death
  - 1) Because he encouraged rebellion against the LORD
  - 2) Because God delivered and redeemed you
  - 3) Because the false prophet tried to turn you from the way of the LORD
- g. The judgment stressed again:  
Remove the evil from your midst

- 1 If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a sign or wonder,
- 2 and if the sign or wonder spoken of takes place, and the prophet says, “Let us follow other gods” (gods you have not known) “and let us worship them,”
- 3 you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul.
- 4 It is the LORD your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him.
- 5 That prophet or dreamer must be put to death for inciting rebellion against the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. That prophet or dreamer tried to turn you from the way the LORD your God commanded you to follow. You must purge the evil from among you.

**2. *The danger of a loved one or close friend seducing you into false worship***

- a. The seduction:  
Is a secret suggestion that worshipping other gods is acceptable
- b. The warning:
- 1) Are false gods
    - Were not worshipped by the forefathers
    - Are gods of the people
    - Are gods of the world
  - 2) Must not yield to the seduction
  - 3) Must not pity him, but turn him over to the authorities
- c. The judicial judgment or penalty: Death
- 1) The personal responsibility:  
Must take the lead in executing justice
  - 2) The execution: Stoning
  - 3) The reasons
    - Because he tried to turn you away
    - Because the LORD saved you
    - Because justice and execution will be a deterrent to evil

**3. *The danger of an entire city or community seducing you into false worship***

- a. The seduction: Wicked men arose and seduced the entire community or city to worship other gods

6 If your very own brother, or your son or daughter, or the wife you love, or your closest friend secretly entices you, saying, "Let us go and worship other gods" (gods that neither you nor your ancestors have known,

7 gods of the peoples around you, whether near or far, from one end of the land to the other),

8 do not yield to them or listen to them. Show them no pity. Do not spare them or shield them.

9 You must certainly put them to death. Your hand must be the first in putting them to death, and then the hands of all the people.

10 Stone them to death, because they tried to turn you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

11 Then all Israel will hear and be afraid, and no one among you will do such an evil thing again.

12 If you hear it said about one of the towns the LORD your God is giving you to live in

13 that troublemakers have arisen among you and have led the people of their town astray, saying, "Let us go and worship other gods" (gods you have not known),

b. The judicial process  
to be followed:  
Carefully investigate the case

c. The judgment or penalty:  
To be corporate punishment

1) To execute all the people  
and livestock

2) To burn the entire city:  
To be a burnt offering to God  
— a sacrifice for atonement

3) To leave the city as a ruin  
forever, never to be rebuilt

d. The charge: To execute the  
judgment and keep no plunder

1) Result one: God will turn from  
His anger and have mercy

2) Result two: God will make you  
a great nation of people

3) The reason:  
Because you obey and keep  
all His commandments

14 then you must inquire,  
probe and investigate it thoroughly.  
And if it is true and it has been proved  
that this detestable thing  
has been done among you,

15 you must certainly put to the sword  
all who live in that town.  
You must destroy it completely,  
both its people and its livestock.

16 You are to gather all the plunder of the town  
into the middle of the public square  
and completely burn the town  
and all its plunder as a whole burnt offering  
to the LORD your God.  
That town is to remain a ruin forever,  
never to be rebuilt,

17 and none of the condemned things  
are to be found in your hands.  
Then the LORD will turn from his fierce anger,  
will show you mercy,  
and will have compassion on you.  
He will increase your numbers,  
as he promised on oath to your ancestors —

18 because you obey the LORD your God  
by keeping all his commands  
that I am giving you today  
and doing what is right in his eyes.

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