

THE BOOK OF WISDOM CHAPTER 14

- We are going to see what happens when misplaced trust is rooted in material, idolatry, and spiritual blindness.
- You are going to see a little bit of wood workmanship in this chapter and it is going to use the wood makers and the idolators and the idol makers as the subtext here as we go in.
- It's going to be providence verse rotten wood.
- Where you place your trust will determine whether you float or sink in life....**SINK OR SWIM AS THEY SAY.**

VS 1

Again, one preparing himself to sail, and about to pass through the raging waves, calls upon a piece of wood more rotten than the vessel that carries him.

- It is poetry.
- It reminds me of the movie Gladiators where they had those rotten piece of wood (idols), being praying for deliverance as they would go out and be in the gladiator forum.
- Again we are seeing this in the context of a shipwreck.
- Think about the apostle Paul who went through these types of things. He put his trust where we are supposed to put our trust, in Yahuah, the living, living, Elohiym!!!

VS 2

For truly desire of gain devised that, and the workman built it by his skill.

VS 3

But your providence, O Father, governs it: for you have made a way in the sea, and a safe path in the waves;

VS 4

Showing that you can save from all danger: yea, though a man went to sea without art.

VS 5

Nevertheless you would not that the works of your wisdom should be idle, and therefore do men commit their lives to a small piece of wood, and passing the rough sea in a weak vessel are saved.

- What's going on? The whole context is rooted in material, idolatry and spiritual blindness. These people are putting their trust for safety in a worthless carved idol. A piece of wood more rotted than their own boat.
- Idolatry is all about misplaced trust. That is the root of it.
- What is really crazy and people don't seem to realize it, they put ultimate hope into something weaker than what they already possess.
- The bible tells us we are to possess these vessels (our bodies), and to steward these vessels with the **RUACH HA'KODESH**.
- We already possess these vessels. Why would we put our trust in something weaker than what we already possess?

ACTS 27:24-25

Saying, fear not, Paul; you must be brought before QEYCAR: and, lo, YAHUAH has given you all them that sail with you. Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe YAHUAH, that it shall be even as it was told me.

HEBREWS 3:12

Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living YAH.

- He warns us of an evil heart of unbelief when we trust in created things over the creator.
- Even though this was written a long time before the New Testament with pen, you can see throughout history this is a huge problem. Idolatry, misplaced trust.
- If we go back to the tabernacle, **Exodus 25** and onward, and the creation of the Mishkan, and the furniture, and the implements, what you are going to see are that those ceremonial tools they were consecrated for divine power but they were not power themselves.
- That is where the idolater gets in trouble.
- Something can be consecrated for divine power, but the divine power is not in the implement itself.
- So to place trust in the tool rather than the name, well, that invites spiritual disaster.
- If you lean on something that is already broken, don't be surprised when you fall with it.
- And of course that is reminiscent of the scriptures.

Isaiah 36:6

Lo, you trust in the staff of this broken reed, on MITSRAYIM; whereon if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh King of MITSRAYIM to all that trust in him.

- The metaphor, the analogy there is of course we know from the text of Isaiah. Judah was relying on Egypt to deliver her from Assyria.
- But Egypt in this context is the broken reed, **(the broken staff)**, if you lean on it, it will pierce your very hand.
- So what this tells us is that when you trust something already corrupt and weak, it doesn't just fail you, it wounds you.
- Don't trust in something corrupt and weak.
- Rotten wood, the idol, is worse than the vessel itself.

Ezekiel 29:6-7

And all the inhabitants of Egypt shall know that I am YAHUAH, because they have been a staff of reed to the house of Israel. When they took hold of you by your hand, you did break, and rend all their shoulder: and when they leaned upon you, you broke, and made all their loins to be a stand.

- This theme is throughout scripture
- In this context in **Ezekiel chapter 29**, Pharaohs, of course, are false support. Those who grip false alliances you will be injured by the very thing that you trust in. Be careful!!!

Jeremiah 17:5

It is written, cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from Yahuah.

- So trusting human systems over Elohim brings about spiritual ruin.
- We live in a day and age where man trust in human systems rather than they trust in Elohim.
- I see it in the faith community all the time. People who claim to be devout, but they are really trusting in human systems.
- You cannot trust in the human systems especially as we go towards Messiah 2030.

Psalms 146:3

Put not your trust in prince or son of man in whom there is not salvation.

- Human power cannot deliver us. Human might cannot deliver us. Idolatry starts with human ambition.
- The desire for profit, the desire for control, the idol then is a byproduct of greed dressed up as religion.
- In Verse 3, even when men worship the wood, Yahuah's providence that actually carries them through and sustains them.
- Made they do worship the wood, but it is still providence that carries them through and sustains them.

- Because grace sustains even the foolish, does it not? We see it so many times.
- It's a humbling reminder that safety is from Yahuah alone, not from idols.

Matthew 5:45

He makes his Son rise on the evil and the good.

ACTS 17:28

In him we live and move and have our being.

- The weak wood becomes sacred only when touched by Elohim and for his purpose. All that to say this, it isn't the boat that makes it through the storm, it is the captain and his call because he answered your call to prayer.
- Our vessels, these bodies, they may be weak and fail us sometimes. And sometimes in life, we may have weak resources. We may have a broken past, things that haunt us from our past.
- But when Yahuah governs us, he carries us so much further than any idol ever could.
- For a comparison, we are going to see in the text with dead idols, you get rotten wood.
- But by the hands of men, you see that you become totally dependent on the nails that the men carry.
- The worshippers carry the nails to prop up the idols as you read in Jeremiah.
- But in contrast, of course, we serve a living Elohim. With that we have providence. We have power, and we have paths that open up for us through the chaos just like the parting of the Red Sea.
- Elohim is able to carry his people even in our weak vessels.
- This is a chapter all about misplaced trust, idolatry and the workings of it.
- Because misplaced faith happens when people put their hope in what their own hands have built.
- Wood, systems, traditions, but it is Yahuah alone who sustains and saves us.
- As Paul said, consecrate your vessels brethren, but don't worship them.
- Don't lean on dead weight. Build your life on something that actually floats.
- It's not the boat, it's the builder. And if he made the sea, he can carry you and I through it. Even if it is chaos and even if it is a storm.

VS 6

For in the old time also, when the proud giants perished, and the hope of the world governed by your hand escaped in a weak vessel, and left to all ages a seed of generation.

- Even though the **ARK** sustained everyone, it was still a weak vessel. Are we going to claim that it was like this perfect vessel that was pitched and tarred

just perfectly and it was all because of Noah's might? No!!!

- It actually contained the Seed of the promise. But it wasn't the vessel. It was in fact a weak vessel and let to all the ages, a seed of generation. For blessed is the wood whereby righteousness cometh.
- Think about that. That is very prophetic isn't it.
- That phrase, "blessed is the wood whereby righteousness cometh", the true, true prophecy there even the humblest object vessel becomes powerful but only when consecrated with divine foresight and divine wisdom.
- A small piece of wood of course is nothing without invoking the name of Elohim, the name of Yahuah, to be under his direction.
- It becomes an instrument of deliverance when it is under his direction.
- So, no self-doubt, and no self hatred.
- Don't despise your vessel. With the right governance of Yahuah's wisdom, even when we are weak, he can carry us through the storms in life.
- So, don't hate yourselves. Maybe your body is not as strong as it used to be. Maybe it has failed you. Maybe your health is not where it is supposed to be. But don't despise your weak vessel. He will still carry you through. Even if you have a strong vessel, don't take pride in your strength because it can change in an instant.
- Then it is ultimately Yahuah who saw you through anyway.
- This is for all people, the strong and the weak.
- No self doubt, and no self hatred. Don't despise your vessel because with the right governance of Yahuah's wisdom you can do anything.
- It was never the ark's engineering, but it was Yahuah's hand that preserved life.
- Our survival then through the storms of life, and our survival through chaotic moments often comes down to trusting the plan when it doesn't make any sense to anyone else and it doesn't even make sense to us.
- But like Noah, we have to move with faith. Not in the ark itself, but in the living Elohim who tells us how to build it. Go out there and build something. Go out there and create.
- Of course, all this points to the crucifixion, doesn't it? The ultimate wood by which righteousness came into the world through Yahusha's death.
- For blessed is the wood whereby righteousness Cometh.
- Very succinct, but that's prophecy.
- So the material wood in this instance becomes blessed only when bound to Yahuah's redemptive plan.

Galatians 3

Mashiach redeemed us by becoming a curse on a tree.

1 Peter 2:24

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree and by his wounds we have

been healed.

Hebrews 12:2

The cross as the means of course of ultimate deliverance.

- So what happens here is the fragile actually becomes salvific. Think about that.
- Only when it is consecrated by Elohim. Whether Noah's ark or Yahusha's cross beam, the blessed wood is a reminder that Yahuah ordains weak vessels like you and me. And he ordains weak vessels like the wood and he uses them for eternal purposes.
- Now in verse eight we come to the pivot point of this whole chapter because it moves from the blessed wood of Noah in verses 5 and 7 to the cursed wood of idolatry.
- It creates this contrast between consecration and corruption. The same material wood can be holy or hateful depending on its purpose.

VS 7

For blessed is the wood whereby righteousness comes.

- Even the humblest object becomes powerful when Divine foresight and wisdom is used.
- Evoking the name of Yahuah using his direction his deliverance only.
- With the right governs of Yahuah's wisdom direction, when we are weak, he will be strong in us.
- Don't despise your weak vessel. Don't take pride in your strong vessel, because pride comes before a fall.
- No self doubt or hatred. With the right governs with Yahuah's hand he can preserve life.
- Our survival comes by trusting the plan when it doesn't make sense to anyone else including us.
- Like Noah we must have faith, not in the ark itself, but by the hand of Yahuah.

All of this points to the crucifixion the wood used is blessed by Yahuah for a purpose.

VS 8

But that which is made with hands is cursed, as well it, as he that made it: he, because he made it; and it, because, being corruptible, it was called an elohiym.

VS 9

For the wicked and his wickedness are both alike hateful unto ELOHIYM

VS 10

For that which is made shall be punished together which him that made it.

VS 11

Therefore even upon the idols of the other nations (gentiles), shall there be a visitation: because in the creature of ELOHIYM they are become an abomination, and stumbling blocks to the souls of men, and a snare to the feet of the unwise.

VS 12

For the devising of idols was the beginning of spiritual fornication, and the invention of them the corruption of life.

VS 13

For neither were they from the beginning, neither shall they be forever.

VS 14

For by the vain glory of men they entered into the world, and therefore shall they come shortly to an end.

VS 15

For a father afflicted with untimely mourning, when he has made an image of his child soon taken away, now honored him as an elohiym, which was then a dead man, and delivered to those that were under him ceremonies and sacrifices.

VS 16

Thus in process of time a wicked custom grown strong was kept as a law, and graven images were worshipped by the commandments of kings.

VS 17

Whom men could not honor in presence, because they dwelt far off, they took the counterfeit of his visage from far, and made an express image of a king whom they honored, to the end that by this their forwardness they might flatter him that was absent, as if he were present.

VS 18

Also the singular diligence of the artificer did help to set forward the ignorant to more superstition.

VS 19

For he, perchance willing to please one in authority, forced all his skill to make the resemblance of the best fashion.

VS 20

And so the multitude, allured by the grace of the work, took him now for an elohiym, which a little before was but honored.

VS 21

And this was an occasion to deceive the world: for men, serving either calamity or tyranny, did ascribe unto stones and stocks the incommunicable name.

- Condemnation of Idolatry at its very core in this pivotal point section.
- Created things masquerading as the creator.
- What a terror.
- The idol and the idolater themselves are both equally under judgement.
- Their destinies are actually intertwined. Of course, its the first chapter of the book of Romans.

Romans 1:23

They exchanged the glory of the immortal Yah for an image in the form of mortal man and birds and four footed beasts and creeping things.

- They worshiped the creature rather than the creator.
- We see it in our world today and everywhere.
- And in a day and age of clicks and likes and social media, remember if you build your life on something fake, don't cry when it burns with you.
- When we tie ourselves to dead systems, whether it is false gods, false successes, false identity, then we will eventually go down with them too.
- What the modern church seems to fail to comprehend is that idolatry isn't neutral, it is spiritual idolatry.
- Idols entrap They actually enslave the unwise and they corrupt soul of man. It is a moral infection.
- Not just a bad idea, but a life destroying practice that rots the soul at the core. You end up as rotten wood.
- Mixing worship with manipulation corrupts the work and opens the soul to an inversion, a husk of dead energy.
- And you wonder why people walk around and they have that dead energy and that vacant stare in their eyes.
- In life bad habits, they don't just trip you up, brethren, they chain you up.
- Idols enslave the people who bough down to them. Whether it is an addiction, whether it is an ideology or a carved image, it matters not.
- Idols are historical constructs. They are invented by men and they are destined for destruction.
- Temporary props, whether they be false gods, false fame or false image, that

just can't support us.

- It is only an eternal purpose that does.
- Idolatry comes from misguided grief often times and these people are grieving because they don't have the successes in their life that they really would like to have.
- So they manufacture it through instagram and all these social medias to try and be something but it is a curated life. It is not real.
- And this then really makes the youth despondent because then they are trying to keep up and their reality isn't that reality but that's not reality.
- It is a cycle of deception. And it really is idolatry at it's core. Temporary props. They cannot support us. We have to look to the living Elohim.
- Idolatry often comes from misguided grief turning to a lost loved one into a god. That is what they do.
- They pray to the ancestors. I mean the first nations people are always talking about the ancestors.
- You even see it with Christians. You know somebody dies and they get a tattooed of birth date or the death date or something and you're like well firstly could I direct you to the book of Leviticus.
- Secondly, now were are tattooing ourselves to the dead as well?
- Isn't that exactly what it says in the Torah not to do? But when you bring it up you are just an outcast and a hater.
- Leviticus tells **NO TATOOS**
- **And then you wonder why the world is in the way that it is today.**

ACT 12:21

And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an rotation unto them.

In REV 13, in the future here, the beast will demand worship through an image. That is the ultimate counterfeit king.

- So we should be learning and teaching and watching about idolatry now and idolators and idols.
- We should be on guard and we should look in our houses. When you are at home if you are watching this at home, look around. What kind of statues do you have? What kind of images do you have in your house?
- Do some stock taking and see. What did you pick up when you were on vacation in Thailand?
- What did you pick up when you went to Easter Island?
- Did you bring any of those cute little things into your house?
- Well, maybe you need to do some inventory.
- Maybe you have got some cute little eggs and they all go inside each other and little faces on the outside and they wobble and bobble. I don't know. Do an inventory and you will be amazed at how you will feel liberated spiritually

when you clear out the rubbish within your house.

- Because we live in a day where people will sell you a god if it makes them money or keeps them in power at the pulpit. And that's the problem.
- Stop falling for manufactured gods of church tradition because they exist to control, not to save.

Romans 13:13

The Revised Version has "revelling" instead of the King James Version "rioting," and in 2 Peter 2:13, "revel" replaces "riot." Similarly in

Amos 6:7

"revelry" replaces "banquet." The obvious meaning of the word is excessive and boisterous intemperance and lustful indulgence.

VS 22

Moreover this was not enough for them, that they erred in the knowledge of ELOHIYM; but whereas they lived in the great war of ignorance, those so great plagues called they peace.

VS 23

For while they slew their children in sacrifices, or used secret ceremonies, or made revellings of strange rites;

VS 24

They kept neither lives nor marriages any longer undefiled: but either one slew another traitorously, or grieved him by breaking wedlock.

VS 25

So that there reigned in all men without exception blood, manslaughter, theft, and dissimulation, corruption, unfaithfulness, tumults, perjury

VS 26

Disquieting of good men, forgetfulness of good turns, defiling of souls, changing of kind, disorder in marriages, breaking wedlock, and shameless uncleanness.

VS 27

For the worshipping of idols not to be named is the beginning, the cause, and the end, of all evil.

VS 28

For either they are mad when they be merry, or prophesy lies, or live unjustly, or else lightly forswear themselves.

VS 29

For so much so as their trust is in idols, which have no life; thought they swear falsely, yet they look not to be hurt.

VS 30

Howbeit for both causes shall they be justly punished: both because they thought not well of ELOHIYM, giving heed unto idols, and also unjustly swore in deceit, despising holiness.

VS 31

For it is not the power of them by whom they swear: but it is the just vengeance of sinners, that punishes always the offense of the wicked.

- There is a lot to unpack here. The conclusion of the matter is misplaced worship. It corrupts the entire social order.
- It is turning false religion into full scale moral corruption.
- What we worship shapes what we become. We have a moral inversion going on here.
- What Yahuah calls plagues, idolatry, human sacrifice, moral lawlessness, they rename peace.
- Ignorance of Yahuah equals social war. Where a culture comes adrift calling vice virtue.
- That is what we are living in, welcome to the new age.
- It is all about us and was foreseen in **Romans chapter 1 where idolatry leads to Elohim giving them over** to their debased minds renaming unnatural vice as normal.
- We see that in the book of Isaiah, which of course we just recently went through in Isaiah chapter 5 very succinctly.

Isaiah 5:20

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil. (That is what this chapter really makes us wake up to).

- They are deceiving spirits and they name chaos for peace, making destruction look like harmony selling us poison and calling it medicine.
- People packaged chaos as normal, but our spiritual survival requires us to naming things truthfully.
- How do we name things truthfully? We must name things truthley by layering it through the word of Messiah.
- The truth is, He is the way, the truth, the life. The truth of course is the person of Messiah.
- False worship as we see as this chapter concludes leads to social break

down, idolatry, infanticide, sexual perversion, treachery, and ultimately systematic bloodshed.

- Worship and worship disorders in this instant, disorder everything.
- When you bow to dead gods all of your living relationships turn to rot, like rotten wood, just in the context of this.

James 4:1-2

From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? You lust, and have not: you kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: you fight and war, yet you have not, because you ask not.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of Yah. Having a form of regard of Yah, but denying the power of Yahuah: from such turn away.

- When you align with unclean spirits, it invites moral contamination.
- The worshiper becomes the very forces that he invokes. Worship shapes the worshipper.
- Holy invocations sanctify and false invocations corrupt utterly. So there is a maxim.
- If the people you follow don't value life, they won't value yours either.
- If you build with the corrupt, you inherit their chaos. We need to choose who and what we serve carefully.
- The worshipping of idols is the beginning cause and end of **all evil**, as Solomon says in this chapter.
- Idolatry it isn't just one sin, it's the root of all sin. Why?
- **Because disordered worship disorients the soul. Everything else, your ethics, your sexuality, justice, It all collapses utterly around what is falsely enthroned.**
- Then you have to do a self inventory in your life. What's on your altar. What have you enthroned in your life?
- Because the holy scriptures stress hierarchy.
- And when we build a conflicting hierarchy, then we make ourselves enmity against the living Elohim.
- There is Elohim, and there is the angels, then there's the spirits. There are tools, ceremonial tools.
- When we break the chain by worshipping what's beneath us the whole order

collapses dragging us down spiritually and physically with it.

- What you put at the top of your life runs everything beneath it. This is a good chapter to do a self inventory.
- **Whatever sits on your alter, money, fame, relationships, controls your destiny.**

In verses 28-31

- It says they trust in idols which have no life yet they swear falsely they will be punished.
- Idolaters think their false gods do not hold them accountable. But they do. Because true judgement, it doesn't come from the idol. It actually comes from the Elohim of all justice. The one they have ignored.

Galatians 6:7

Be not deceived; Yahuah is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap.

ACTS 17:31

Because Yahuah has appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he has ordained; whereof he has given assurance unto all men, in that he has raised him from the dead.

- No idol can save an idolator from violating divine law, the Torah.
- Yahuah's Torah, you cannot violate it. Only TSESHUVA, repentance, is what restores that alignment once you become misaligned.
- False gods will not save you when reality comes knocking.
- You can't con the judge. We live in an age where people are trying to con the judge.
- **Worship sets the pattern for our lives.**
- **If our alter is crowded with idols, money, relationships, addictions, rituals, ego, we can't be surprise when our lives echo that very corruption.**
- Whatever you put at the top runs everything underneath it.
- If it's fake, so are you.
- If it's real, then you can survive anything.

Seek first the kingdom of Yahuah and all these things will be added to you!!!!