

# HOW MANY GODS ARE THERE?

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## INTRODUCTION

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TEXT: *For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or on earth; as there are gods many, and lords many:" (v. 5)*

- A. May seem like a strange or foolish question.
    - 1. We all know, and I know that I know.
    - 2. But Paul said a little knowledge can be dangerous (vs. 1,2).
  - B. "To us there is ONE God." v. 6.
    - 1. Again in v. 4; "there is no God but one."
    - 2. "Howbeit there is not in all men that knowledge: but some being used until now to the idol." v. 7.
  - C. SO HOW MANY GODS ARE THERE?
    - 1. As the world sees them.
    - 2. And as they have been described to us.
  - D. NOTICE SOME OF THE gods THE BIBLE DESCRIBES.
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## God Of This World

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- A. Who is this god? (II Cor. 4:4).
    - 1. The hidden things of shame."
    - 2. Darkness
    - 3. It is the temporal things that entice and involve man.
  - B. DESCRIPTION OF BABYLON IN REVELATION 18.
  - C. NOW SEE HOW IT FELL.
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## Whose God Is the Belly

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- A. A Strange Description. Philippians 3:19
    - 1. What it would have meant in N.T. times.
    - 2. "Belly" was used to describe anything that man wanted."
      - a. To be controlled by our own wishes and desires.
      - b. The things that are important are the things that "**I**" want.
  - B. THUS ONES OWN SELFISH DESIRES BECOMES HIS GOD.
    - 1. How many people worship that "god" today?
    - 2. The thing (god) that is most important to many people today is the god of pleasure and self indulgence.
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### STRANGE GODS

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- A. ANY god or object of worship that is not Jehovah.
    - 1. Often referred to as foreign gods.
    - 2. “If we have forgotten the name of our God”
  - B. Acts 17:18, Paul is said to be preaching a “strange God”.
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### THE UNKNOWN GOD

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- A. Who was the Unknown God? (Acts 17; Paul’s sermon on Mars Hill)
    - 1. Was it the true God that they just didn’t know?
    - 2. And was this their effort to worship Him.
  - B. Or were they just afraid that with many gods, they might miss one and therefore offend him?
    - 1. This seems to be an effort on their part to “cover all the bases”.
    - 2. Without making a definite commitment, they could develop an umbrella type of religion.
    - 3. Stand for nothing and accept anything.
  - C. This is what we are seeing today in many of the “new” family worship centers that are springing up everywhere.
    - 1. Any kind of belief that you wish..
    - 2. Therefore any kind of god....even an unknown god.
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### HAND MADE GODS

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- A. “Make us gods, which shall go before us.” That we can see. (Hand made or Home made gods; (Exodus 32:1). (Isaiah 44:9-17)).
    - 1. Made a golden calf.
    - 2. People set down to eat - rose up to play.
  - B. How many times do people fashion their religion with their own hands?
    - 1. What I feel in my heart.
    - 2. That which makes me happy.
  - C. **HAND MADE RELIGION, HAND MADE GODS; WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?**
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### **God Of Convenience**

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- A. Situation that had developed. (See I Kings 12:28).
    - 1. Led to the division of the Kingdom of Israel.
    - 2. Jeroboam knew better than to let them go to Jerusalem to worship.
  - B. OFFERED THEM **GODS OF CONVENIENCE**. v. 28 “too far to go....”
  - C. **DO WE WORSHIP A GOD OF CONVENIENCE TODAY?**
    - 1. What do we give up.
    - 2. What do we sacrificed?
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### **CONCLUSION**

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- A. FIRST OF TEN COMMANDMENTS (Exodus 20:2,3) READ
  - 1. Paul knew, “there is no God but one.”
  - 2. Do we have this knowledge today?
- B. **CONCLUSION:**

### **WHAT IS THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT?**

**Which God do we love with all our Strength, Heart, Soul, and Mind**

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