

## **Ancestor Worship - Godly Or Not - Genesis 31**

**Ancestor worship has infiltrated the Church today.**

**Luke 16:13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.**

**Matthew 10:37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.**

**Mark 4:19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.**

**Revelation 2 & 3 referred to the letters to the churches.**

**Ezekiel 10:18 Then the glory of the LORD departed from off the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubims.**

**Mark 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;**

**Encyclopedia Britanica - Ancestor Worship -**

**The veneration and respect shown to the dead in many cultures and societies is called ancestor worship. It is one of human history's oldest and most basic religious beliefs. It is believed that when family members die, they join the spirit world and are closer to God or the gods than the living are. Spirits, no longer burdened with bodies, are thought to be very powerful—possessing the ability to help or to harm people in the living world. They may even be powerful enough to be reborn into the community. The living who believe these things therefore view ancestors with a mixture of awe, fear, and respect. They feel they are dependent on the goodwill of ancestors for prosperity and survival. Under such beliefs, the family link does not end with the physical death of the individual.**

**The dead are thought by those who practice ancestor worship to have many of the same needs as they did when they were alive. Thus, the living believe in bestowing on them respect, attention, love, food and drink, and music and entertainment. This veneration of ancestors may be carried out either by individuals or by the whole community. Community worship would normally center on some great leader or hero, as was the case with the cult of the emperors in ancient Rome. Special days of the year have often been set aside for such commemoration.**

**In some countries devotion to the ancestors and their needs is still a part of everyday life. In China, for example, ancestor worship has long**

been a key religious belief and practice. In Hong Kong, where ancient Chinese religious rituals continue, the spirits of the ancestors are still offered food, drink, incense, and prayers. They are asked to bless family events because they are still considered to be part of the family. This belief in the continuity of the life force is expressed in the Chinese saying, "Birth is not a beginning, and death is not an end."

Ancestor worship is prevalent throughout Africa, East Asia, and the Pacific, even among those who have converted to Islam or Christianity. These believers see no conflict in continuing to respect their own family saints. Such worship can also be found in India and Indochina.

"Ancestor worship," first coined in 1885 by the British anthropologist Herbert Spencer, is now thought to be a misleading term. "Ancestor respect" might be a more accurate phrase. This broadens the concept considerably but not illogically. Jewish people light candles and say special prayers on the anniversary of the death of a close family member. Christians celebrate All Souls' Day. Putting gifts and flowers on the graves of the family dead is probably the oldest universal human religious gesture and is still a sign of ancestor respect.

These practices, which are followed by members of modern societies as well as those who practice ancient cultural traditions, indicate a belief that at some level people continue to exist after they have died. This is the link between ancestor worship and ancestor respect.

**Filial Piety:** religious activity to dead ancestors.

**John 8:36** If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

**Acts 17:11** These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

**Hebrews 9:27** And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

**1 Timothy 2:5** For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

**Exodus 20:12** Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

**Genesis 31:17-35** Then Jacob rose up, and set his sons and his wives upon camels; 18 And he carried away all his cattle, and all his goods which he had gotten, the cattle of his getting, which he had gotten in Padanaram, for to go to Isaac his father in the land of Canaan. 19 And Laban went to shear his sheep: and Rachel had stolen the images (Teraphim) that were her father's. 20 And Jacob stole away unawares to Laban the Syrian, in that he told him not that he fled. 21 So he fled with all that he had; and he rose up, and passed over the river, and set his face toward the mount Gilead. 22 And it was told Laban on the third day that Jacob was fled. 23 And he took his brethren with him, and pursued after him seven days'

journey; and they overtook him in the mount Gilead. 24 And God came to Laban the Syrian in a dream by night, and said unto him, Take heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad. 25 Then Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the mount: and Laban with his brethren pitched in the mount of Gilead. 26 And Laban said to Jacob, What hast thou done, that thou hast stolen away unawares to me, and carried away my daughters, as captives taken with the sword? 27 Wherefore didst thou flee away secretly, and steal away from me; and didst not tell me, that I might have sent thee away with mirth, and with songs, with tabret, and with harp? 28 And hast not suffered me to kiss my sons and my daughters? thou hast now done foolishly in so doing. 29 It is in the power of my hand to do you hurt: but the God of your father spake unto me yesternight, saying, Take thou heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad. 30 And now, though thou wouldest needs be gone, because thou sore longedst after thy father's house, yet wherefore hast thou stolen my gods? 31 And Jacob answered and said to Laban, Because I was afraid: for I said, Peradventure thou wouldest take by force thy daughters from me. 32 With whomsoever thou findest thy gods, let him not live: before our brethren discern thou what is thine with me, and take it to thee. For Jacob knew not that Rachel had stolen them. 33 And Laban went into Jacob's tent, and into Leah's tent, and into the two maidservants' tents; but he found them not. Then went he out of Leah's tent, and entered into Rachel's tent. 34 Now Rachel had taken the images (teraphim), and put them in the camel's furniture, and sat upon them. And Laban searched all the tent, but found them not. 35 And she said to her father, Let it not displease my lord that I cannot rise up before thee; for the custom of women is upon me. And he searched, but found not the images.

**Genesis 44:15 And Joseph said unto them, What deed *is* this that ye have done? wot ye not that such a man as I can certainly divine?**

**Strong's #08655 t@raphiym *ter-aw-feme'***

**AV-image 7, teraphim 6, idol 1, idolatry 1; 15**

**1) idolatry, idols, image( s), teraphim, family idol**

**1a) a kind of idol used in household shrine or worship**

**Judges 18:20 And the priest's heart was glad, and he took the ephod, and the teraphim, and the graven image, and went in the midst of the people. (the Danites)**

**1 Samuel 28:7-19 Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor. 8 And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he**

went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee. 9 And the woman said unto him, Behold, thou knowest what Saul hath done, how he hath cut off those that have familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land: wherefore then layest thou a snare for my life, to cause me to die? 10 And Saul sware to her by the LORD, saying, As the LORD liveth, there shall no punishment happen to thee for this thing. 11 Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel. 12 And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou deceived me? for thou art Saul. 13 And the king said unto her, Be not afraid: for what sawest thou? And the woman said unto Saul, I saw gods ascending out of the earth. 14 And he said unto her, What form is he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he is covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself. 15 And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up? And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do. 16 Then said Samuel, Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing the LORD is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy? 17 And the LORD hath done to him, as he spake by me: for the LORD hath rent the kingdom out of thine hand, and given it to thy neighbour, even to David: 18 Because thou obeyedst not the voice of the LORD, nor executedst his fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore hath the LORD done this thing unto thee this day. 19 Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with thee into the hand of the Philistines: and to morrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me: the LORD also shall deliver the host of Israel into the hand of the Philistines.

**1 Kings 22:22** And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade *him*, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.

**Mark 9:2-8** And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them. 3 And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them. 4 And there appeared unto them Elijah with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus. 5 And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for

Moses, and one for Elijah. 6 For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid. 7 And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is My beloved Son: hear Him. 8 And suddenly, when they had looked round about, they saw no man any more, save Jesus only with themselves.

Jude 1:9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

Luke 16 Summarized the account of the rich man & Lazarus

Leviticus 19:31 Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I *am* the LORD your God.

Deuteronomy 18:9-14 V9 When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. V11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.

Acts 19:19 Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all *men*: and they counted the price of them, and found *it* fifty thousand *pieces* of silver.

Isaiah 8:19 And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?

Deuteronomy 29:29 The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those *things which are* revealed *belong* unto us and to our children for ever, that *we* may do all the words of this law.

Isaiah 19:3 And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards.

Daniel 2 Summarized of the king's dream & the occultists.

Matthew 15:6 And honour not his father or his mother, *he shall be free.* Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

Mark 7:13 Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

Matthew 15:2-6 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. 3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? 4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. 5 But ye say, Whosoever shall say to *his* father or *his* mother, *It is* a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; 6 And honour not his father or his mother, *he shall be free.* Thus have ye made the

**commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.**

**Mark 7:3-13 (Summarized) For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash *their* hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders. 4 And *when they come* from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brassen vessels, and of tables. 5 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands? 6 He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with *their* lips, but their heart is far from me. 7 Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men. 8 For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. 9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. 10 For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death: 11 But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, *It is* Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; *he shall be free*. 12 And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; 13 Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.**

**Galatians 1:14 And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.**

**Acts 15:1 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, *and said*, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.**

**Acts 15:5 But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command *them* to keep the law of Moses.**

**Acts 15:20 But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols (the occult), and *from* fornication, and *from* things strangled, and *from* blood.**

**Recommended prayer areas mentioned.**