




Genesis 1.31

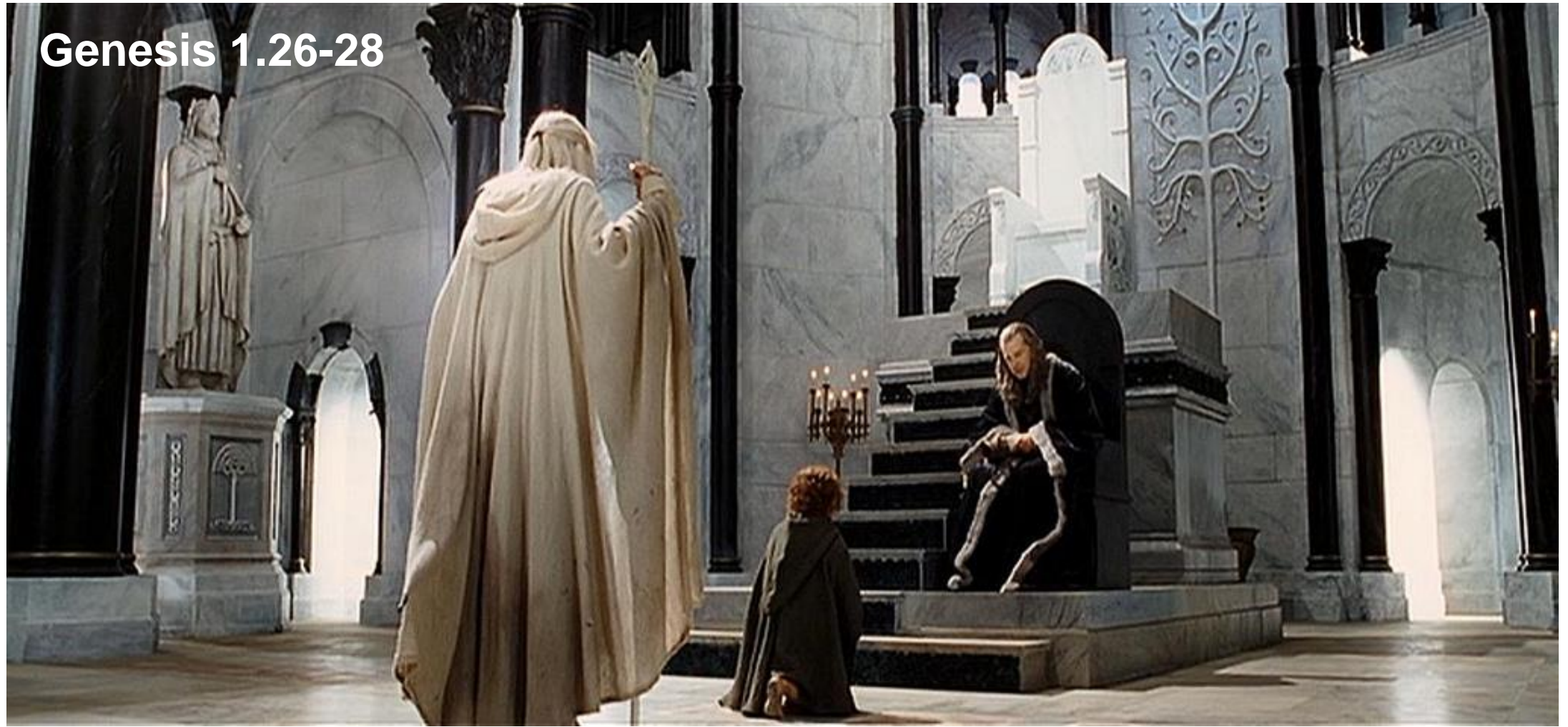
BOOK 6



Romans
Complete Treatise of Paul's Gospel

BY GUY RESS

Genesis 1.26-28

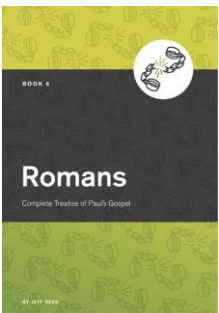




Genesis ch. 3, Ro 1.22

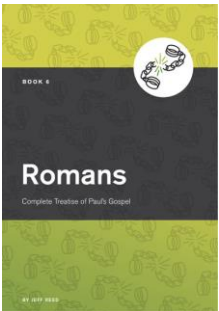


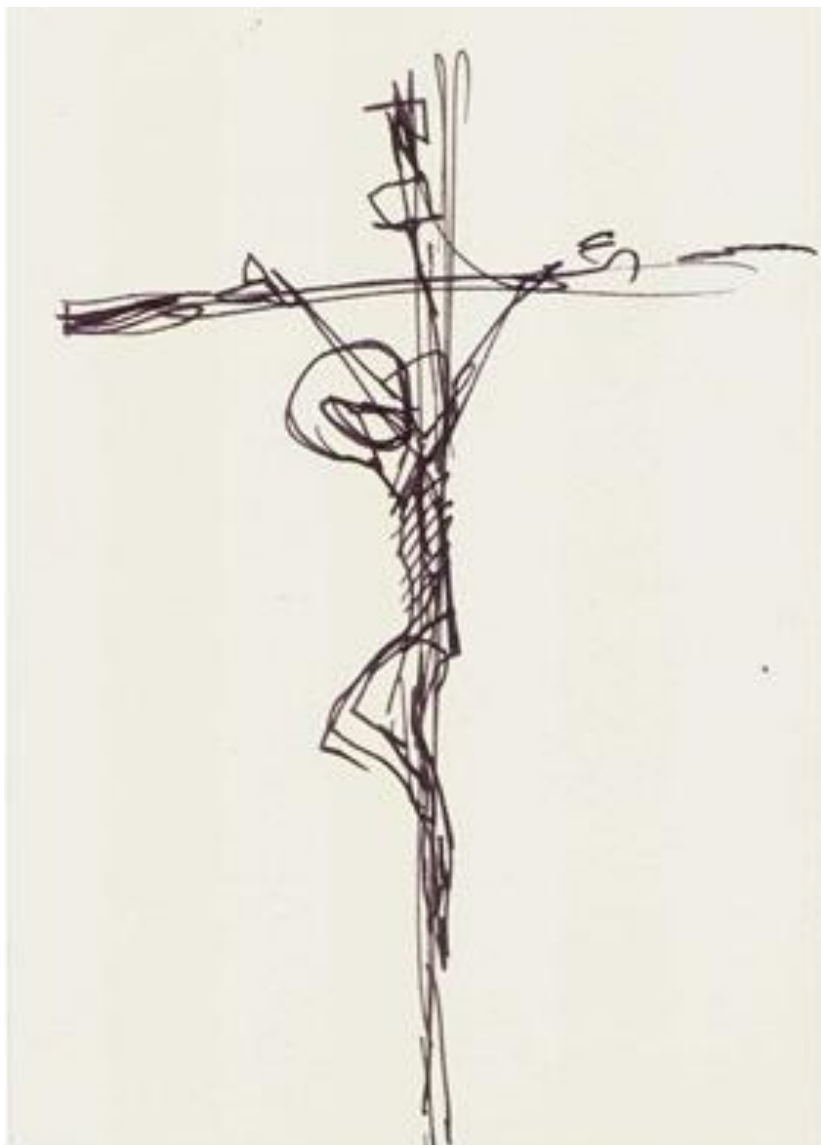
Ge 2.16-17, Ro 5.12



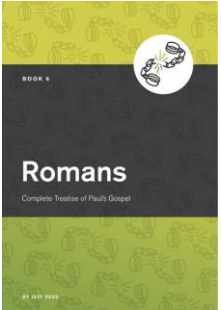
Ge 3. 17-19, Ro 8.18-24a

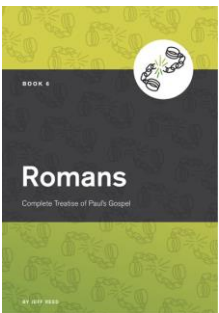


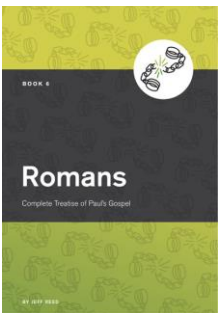




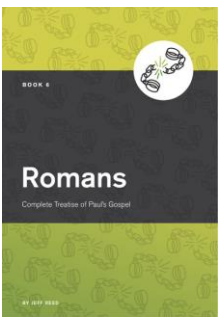




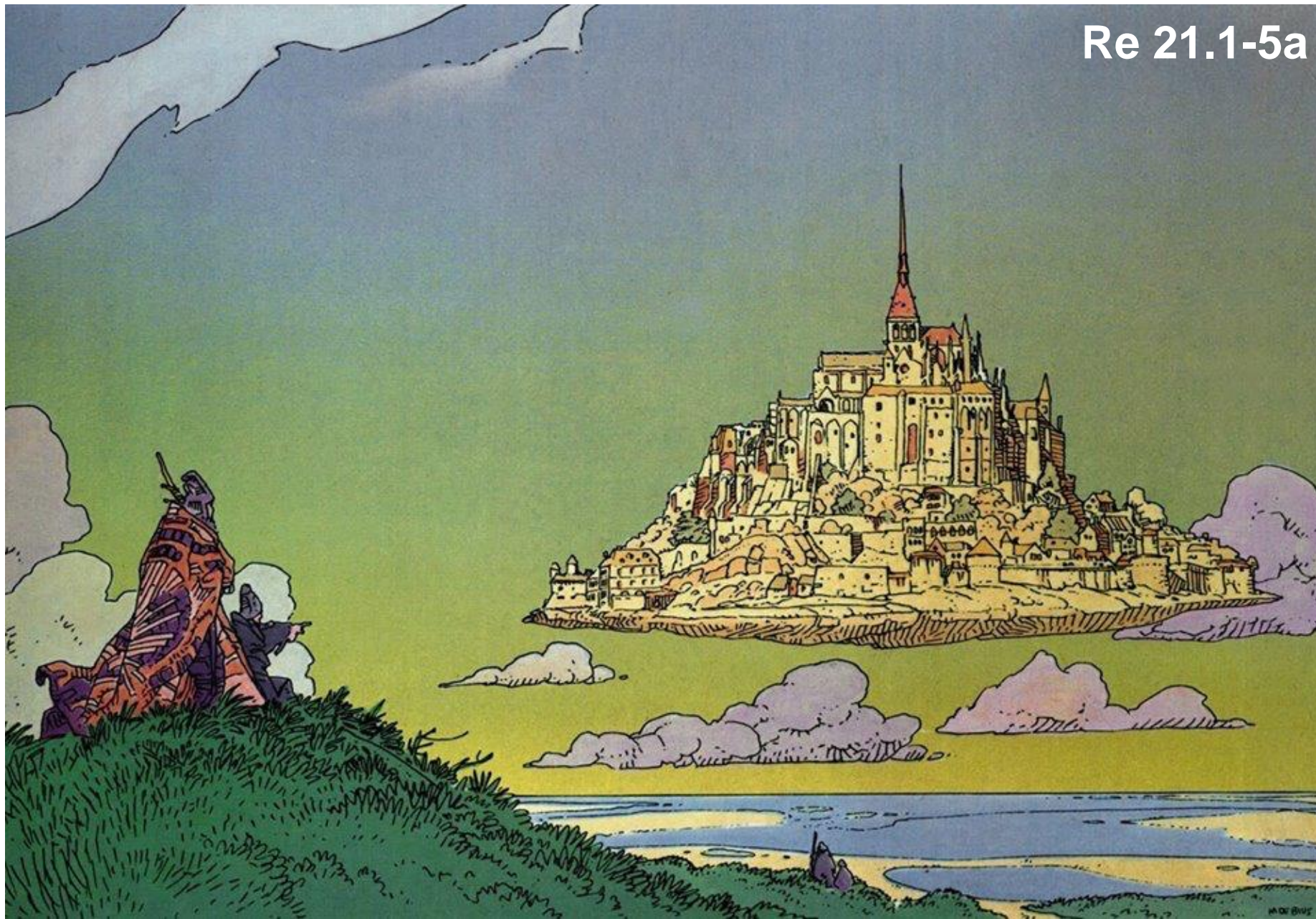




2 Co 5.17



Re 21.1-5a



Hb 2.14: “For as the waters fill the sea, the earth will be filled with an awareness of the glory of the LORD.”



THE STORY OF EVERYTHING

Ro 1.19-20a: “What can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made.” ...

See also Ps 8, 19, 33, 95, 104, 139, Jb 38-39

STARRING
YHWH

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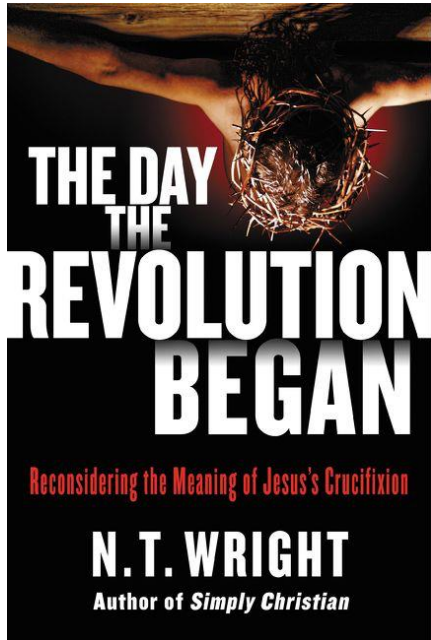
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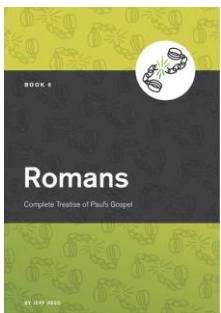
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Genesis ch. 3, Ro 1.22



“Called to responsibility and authority within and over creation, humans have turned their vocation upside down, giving worship and allegiance to forces and powers within creation itself. The name for this is idolatry. The result is slavery and finally death. ... We humans have thus, by abrogating our own vocation, handed our power and authority to nondivine and nonhuman forces, which have then run rampant, spoiling human lives, ravaging the beautiful creation, and doing their best to turn God’s world into a hell.” Wright, DRB, 77



THE STORY OF EVERYTHING

STARRING
~~YHWH~~

the creation!

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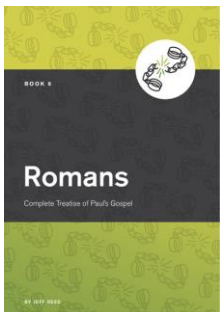
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... Ro 1.20-23: "...So they are without excuse; for though they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless minds were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools; and they exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling a mortal human being or birds or four-footed animals or reptiles. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator."

Read: Romans 1.19-32, Jeremiah 3.1-10

Discuss:

- What does idolatry look like today, in an era with (mostly) no literal idols?
- What are the results of idolatry?
- Why does God hate idolatry so much that he gives Israel a bill of divorce? (For a real adventure read Ezekiel 23...)



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~~YHWH~~

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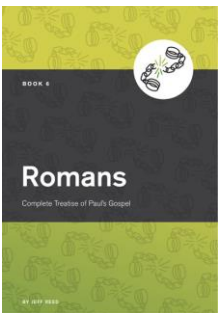
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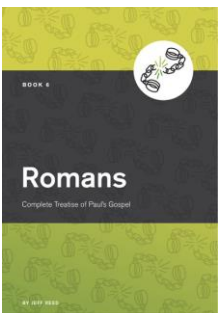
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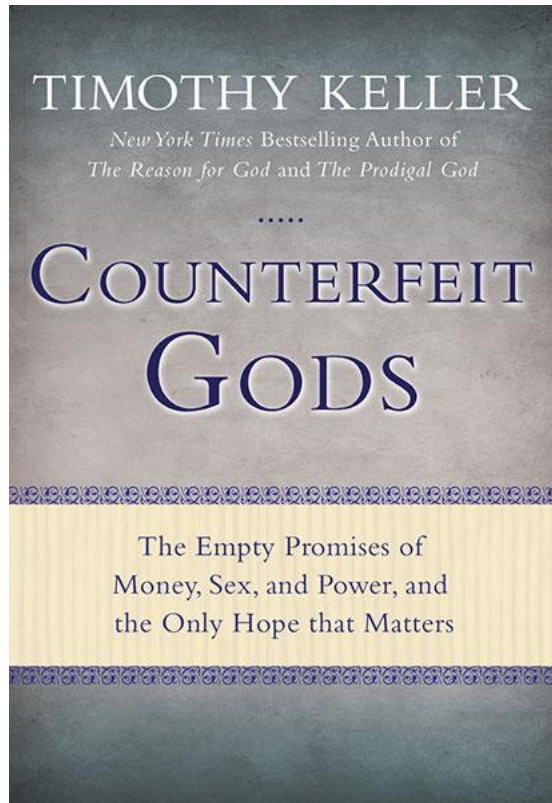




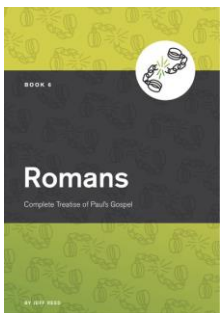


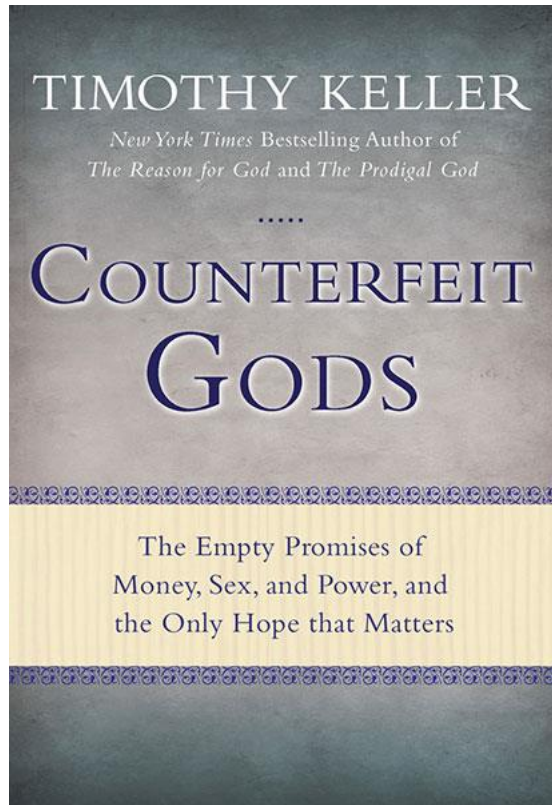
In Warren St. John's *Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer*—a fascinating account of the lunacy that is University of Alabama football—the reporter recounts a conversation with a Mr. and Mrs. Reese in their \$300,000 motor home, purchased exclusively to travel to Crimson Tide games. The couple, it turns out, had missed their daughter's wedding because it fell on the same day as the Alabama-Tennessee game. They said they had managed to make the reception, and noted that they had asked their daughter not to schedule the wedding so as to conflict with the big game. Asked why he did it, Mr. Reese could only shake his head and respond: "I just love Alabama football, is all I can think of."





“Our contemporary society is not fundamentally different from ... ancient ones. Each culture is dominated by its own set of idols. Each has its own ‘priesthoods,’ its totems and rituals. Each one has its shrines—whether office towers, spas and gyms, studios, or stadiums—where sacrifices must be made in order to procure the blessings of the good life and ward off disaster.” Keller, Counterfeit Gods, xi-xii

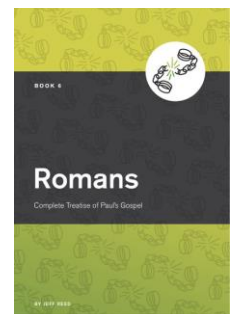


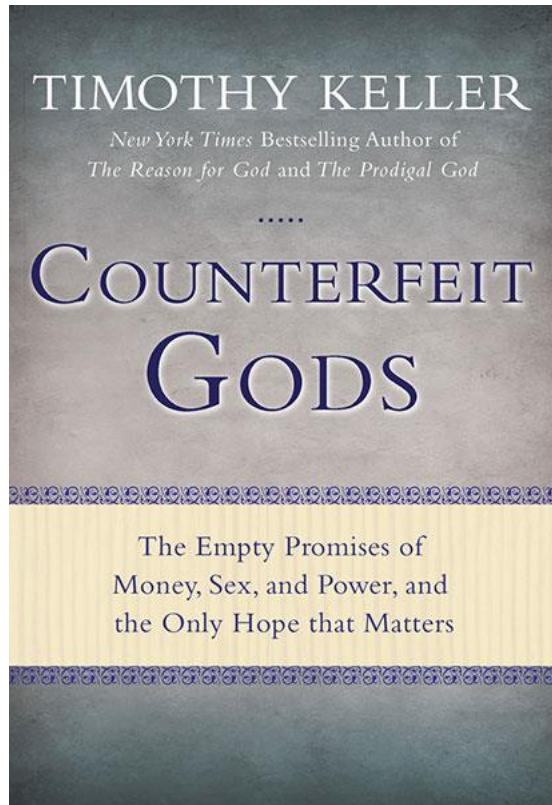


“An idol is something we cannot live without.”

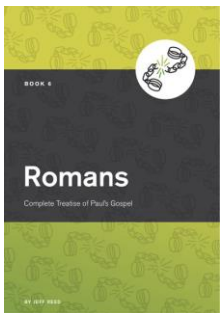
“[An idol is] anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God.”

“[An idol is] anything so central and essential to your life that, should you lose it, your life would feel hardly worth living.”





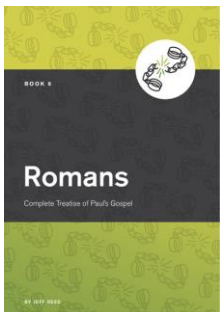
“If anything becomes more fundamental than God to your happiness, meaning in life, and identity, then it is an idol.”





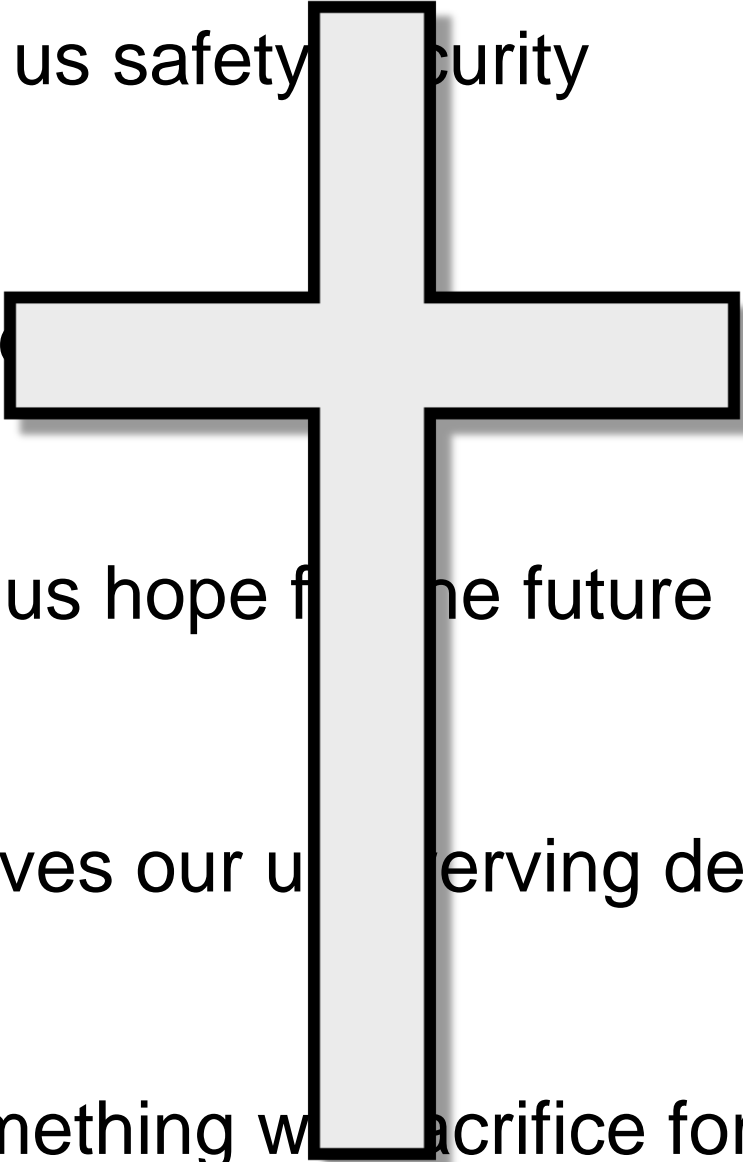
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A thing within the created order that takes God's place.





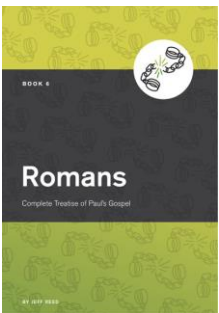
Gives us safety security

Secure  ess

Gives us hope for the future

Receives our unreserved devotion

Is something worth sacrifice for/to

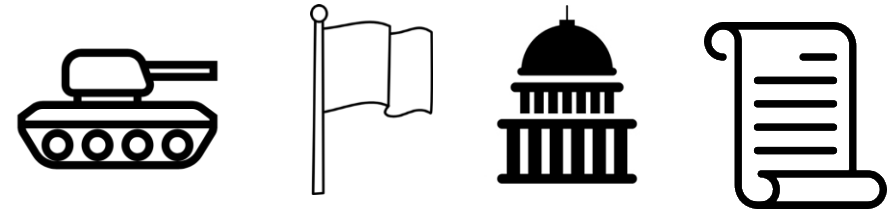




Personal idols



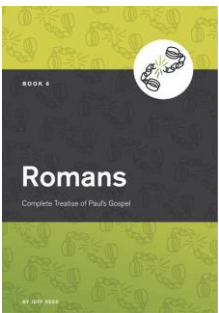
Cultural idols



Vocational idols



Intellectual idols

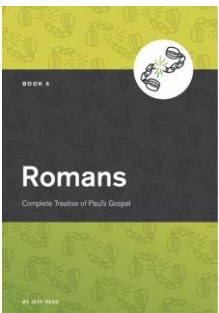




What is my deepest wish, or fondest dream?

What do I fear most? What makes me safe? What could I not bear to live without?

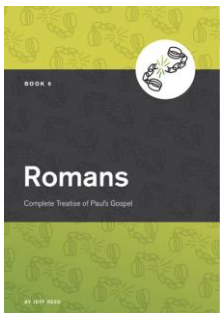
What makes me instantly furious, outraged, or despondent?

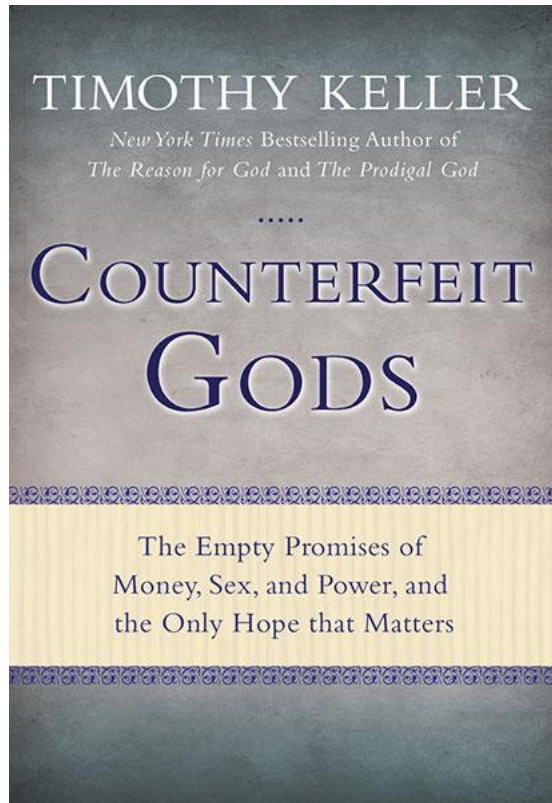




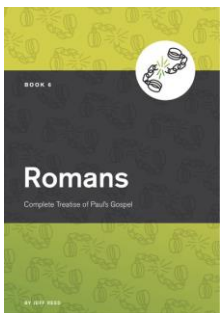
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A thing within the created order that takes God's place.





“Many, if not most, of these counterfeit gods can remain in our lives once we have ‘demoted’ them below God. Then they won’t control us and bedevil us with anxiety, pride, anger, and drivenness.”



THE STORY OF EVERYTHING

STARRING
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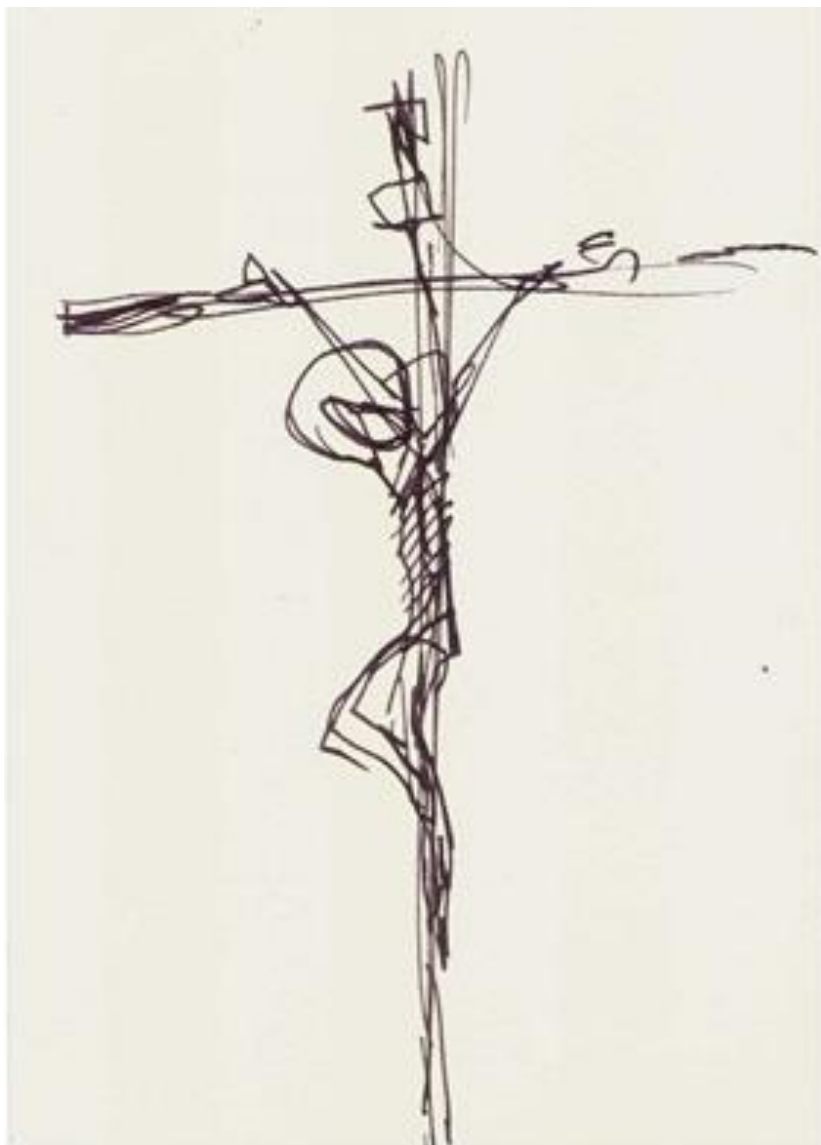
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Genesis ch. 3, Ro 1.22





Discuss

- Does the lack of literal idols make idolatry more or less common? Defend your answer.
- Try to describe some examples of idolatry that you have observed.
- What are the results of idolatry?

