

This is what the Lord, the King of Israel and
its Redeemer, the Lord of Armies, says:

I am the first and I am the last.

There is no God but me.

7 Who, like me, can announce the future?

Let him say so and make a case before me,
since I have established an ancient people.

Let these gods declare[c] the coming things,
and what will take place.

8 Do not be startled or afraid.

Have I not told you and declared it long ago?

You are my witnesses!

Is there any God but me?

There is no other Rock; I do not know any.

9 All who make idols are nothing,
and what they treasure benefits no one.

Their witnesses do not see or know anything,
so they will be put to shame.

21 Remember these things, Jacob,
and Israel, for you are my servant;

I formed you, you are my servant;

Israel, you will never be forgotten by me.[i]

22 I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud,
and your sins like a mist.

Return to me,

for I have redeemed you.

23 Rejoice, heavens, for the Lord has acted;
shout, depths of the earth.

Break out into singing, mountains,
forest, and every tree in it.

For the Lord has redeemed Jacob,
and glorifies himself through Israel.

24 This is what the Lord, your Redeemer
who formed you from the womb, says:

I am the Lord, who made everything;
who stretched out the heavens by myself;
who alone spread out the earth;

25 who destroys the omens of the false prophets
and makes fools of diviners;
who confounds the wise
and makes their knowledge foolishness;

26 who confirms the message of his servant
and fulfills the counsel of his messengers;
who says to Jerusalem, “She will be inhabited,”

and to the cities of Judah, “They will be rebuilt,”
and I will restore her ruins;

27 who says to the depths of the sea, “Be dry,”
and I will dry up your rivers;

28 who says to Cyrus, “My shepherd,
he will fulfill all my pleasure”

and says to Jerusalem, “She will be rebuilt,”
and of the temple, “Its foundation will be laid.”

READER: May the Holy Spirit guide us to the Truth. Together, we
pray:

EVERYONE: May His Truth transform our lives. In Jesus’ mighty
name, Amen.

READER: You may now be seated

Movement	Chapters	Primary Audience	Theme
1	1-39	Isaiah's own generation (Judah)	Warning (<i>Turn back to God</i>)
2	40-55	Future exiles in Babylon (about 150 years later)	Comfort (<i>God has not forgotten you</i>)
3	56-66	God's restored people and all nations	Restoration (<i>God will make all things new</i>)

Have you not heard? Long ago I ordained it. In days of old I planned it; now I have brought it to pass.

Isaiah 37:26 (CSB)

And now listen, Jacob My servant, Israel, whom I have chosen. This is the word of the LORD your Maker, who formed you from the womb; He will help you. Do not fear, Jacob My servant, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen... For I will pour water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your descendants and My blessing on your offspring.

Isaiah 44:1–5, CSB

1. **Counterfeit Idols:** *Idols promise what only God can provide.*

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This is what the LORD, the King of Israel and its Redeemer—the LORD of Armies—says: I am the First and I am the Last. There is no God but Me.

Isaiah 44:6, CSB

The True God:

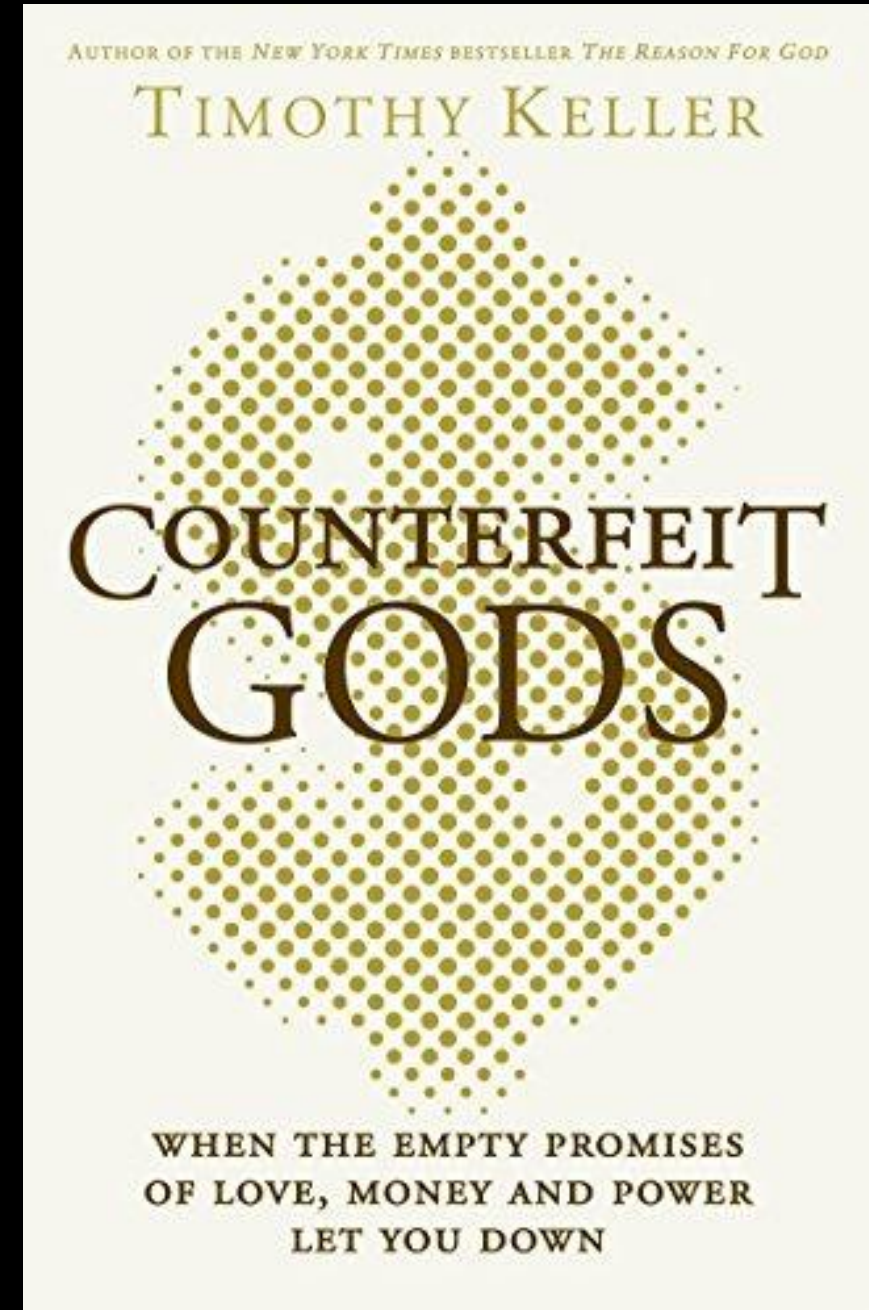
- ***The Lord***
- ***The King of Israel***
- ***Redeemer***
- ***The Lord of Armies***

"I am the First and I am the Last. There is no God but Me."

What is an idol?

"An idol or a counterfeit god is anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give."

Tim Keller



Has a nation ever exchanged its gods? (But they were not gods!) Yet my people have exchanged their Glory for useless idols. For My people have committed a double evil: They have abandoned Me, the fountain of living water, and dug cisterns for themselves—cracked cisterns that cannot hold water.

Jeremiah 2:11, 13, CSB

What good thing have you slowly begun making an
ultimate thing?

1. **Counterfeit Idols:** Idols promise what only God can provide.
2. **Captivating Idols:** *We become what worship*

1. Counterfeit Idols: Idols promise what only God can provide.
2. Captivating Idols: We become what worship

"He burns half of it in a fire. Over this half he roasts meat, eats the roast, and is satisfied. He also warms himself and says, 'Ah! I am warm; I see the blaze.' He makes a god or his idol with the rest of it. He bows down to it and worships; he prays to it, 'Save me, for you are my god.'"

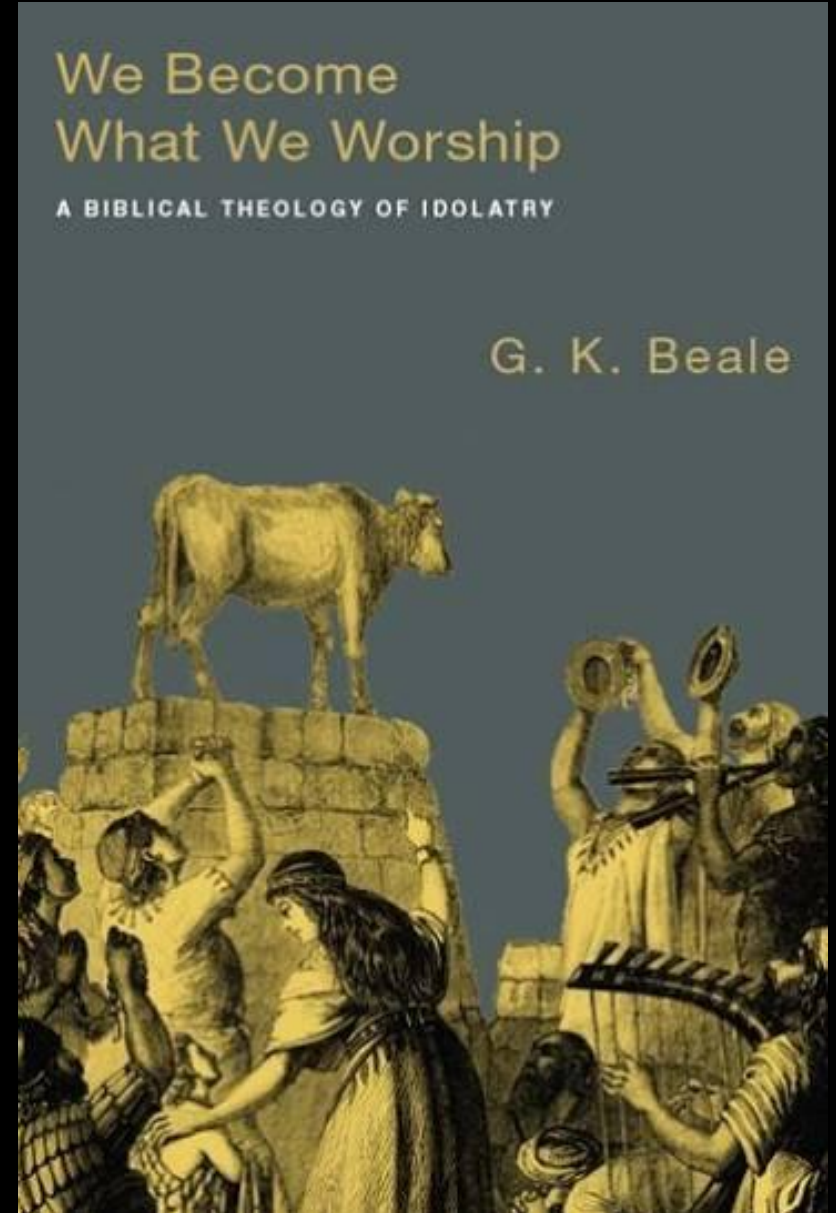
Isaiah 44:16–17, CSB

"Their idols are silver and gold, made by human hands. They have mouths but cannot speak, eyes but cannot see. They have ears but cannot hear... Those who make them are just like them, as are all who trust in them."

Psalms 115:4–8, CSB

"What people revere, they resemble, either for ruin or restoration."

G.K. Beale



"For though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became worthless... They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served what has been created instead of the Creator, who is praised forever. Amen."

Romans 1:21–25, CSB

What invitation might God be giving you right now?

He feeds on ashes. His deceived heart has led him astray, and he cannot rescue himself or say, 'Isn't there a lie in my right hand?'

Isaiah 44:20, CSB

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2. **Captivating Idols:** We become what worship
3. **Faithful God: God alone is worthy of our worship**

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2. **Captivating Idols:** We become what worship
3. **Faithful God: God alone is worthy of our worship**

"Remember these things, Jacob, and Israel, for you are My servant... I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud, and your sins like a mist. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you."

Isaiah 44:21–22, CSB

This is what the Lord, your Redeemer who formed you from the womb, says:

I am the Lord, who made everything;

who stretched out the heavens by myself;

who alone spread out the earth....

who says to Jerusalem, "She will be inhabited,"

and to the cities of Judah, "They will be rebuilt,"

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28 who says to Cyrus, "My shepherd,

he will fulfill all my pleasure"

and says to Jerusalem, "She will be rebuilt,"

and of the temple, "Its foundation will be laid."

1. Recognize your idols



1. *Recognize your idols*
2. *Repent of your idols*



1. *Recognize your idols*
2. *Repent of your idols*
3. *Replace your idols with Jesus*



Our hearts were never created to worship less.
It was designed to worship God more.

So if you have been raised with Christ, **seek the things above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

(Colossians 3:1-2, CSB)

Lord, what have I been looking to for what only You can provide?