

Hey Bible Readers!

Thank you for listening! We're so grateful for you and your desire to know scripture and represent God's truth. Thank you for holding *us* to that standard as well! In today's episode we looked at Exodus 22:20: "Whoever sacrifices to any god, other than the Lord alone, shall be devoted to destruction."

Here's the content of the script where we addressed this: There were lots of people in that time who would say they worshipped God but who also acknowledged the power and validity of other gods. This is called "monolatry" -- like a blending of the words "monotheism" and "idolatry". While God never denies that other gods exist, and in fact, He seems to indicate that they *do* exist -- He continues to point out that Israel's loyalty must be to HIM. He is the one true God.

Below are a few of the tools we used when researching this particular text.

FaithLife Study Bible (*Scripture is in the left column; study Bible notes are in the right column*)

-- Exodus 20:3 (Ten Commandments)

https://bible.faithlife.com/books/esv/Ex20.3

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ESV Exodus 20:3 + Share

3 You shall have no other gods before me.
4 You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.
7 You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.
8 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six

Faithlife Study Bible Exodus 20:3 + Share

20:3 no other gods before me Forbids any personal loyalty or relationship with any deity besides Yahweh—the core idea behind the modern term “monotheism.”

Biblical Hebrew has no verb meaning “to have.” Instead, it conveys the idea of possession in a variety of ways. The most common is the phrasing found here: “there shall not be to you.” When used in relation to items that are animate (e.g., a wife, livestock, a deity), the phrase connotes a personal relationship.

Understanding Israelite Monotheism

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Topic or passage

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Time's Running Out

Better L8 Than Never

-- Exodus 22:20

https://bible.faithlife.com/books/esv/Ex22.20

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ESV Exodus 22:20 + Share

20 Whoever sacrifices to any god, other than the LORD alone, shall be devoted to destruction.
21 You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. 22 You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. 23 If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry, and my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become

Faithlife Study Bible Exodus 22:20 + Share

22:20 the gods—not This highlights the polytheistic nature of the historical and religious context out of which Israel emerged. The law does not deny the existence of other gods; it does, however, assert that Yahweh is the only god that Israel is to worship. The worship of one particular god, without denying the existence of others, is called monolatry.

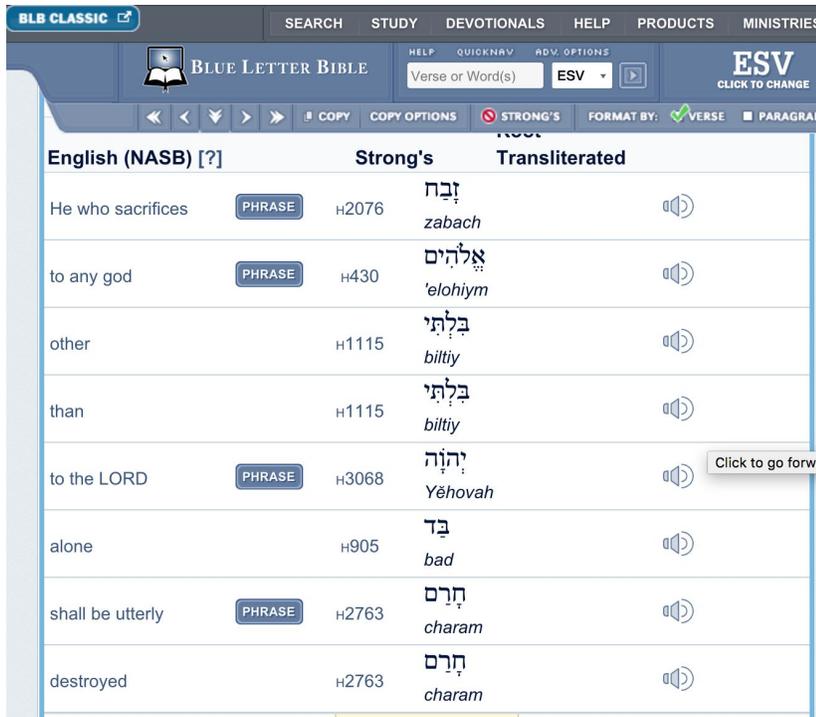
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Hebrew Lexicon:

[Here's the definition](#) of the Hebrew word used for "god" in Exodus 22:20 (and also in Exodus 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before Me."). We've shown the full verse below in Hebrew as well, to show that this is the particular word being used in the link above.



The screenshot shows the Blue Letter Bible website interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: BLB CLASSIC, SEARCH, STUDY, DEVOTIONALS, HELP, PRODUCTS, and MINISTRIES. Below this is a search bar with the text "Verse or Word(s)" and a dropdown menu set to "ESV". There are also buttons for "COPY", "COPY OPTIONS", "STRONG'S", and "FORMAT BY: VERSE". The main content area is a table with three columns: "English (NASB) [?]", "Strong's", and "Transliterated". The table lists several Hebrew words with their Strong's numbers and transliterations, along with audio icons for each.

English (NASB) [?]	Strong's	Transliterated
He who sacrifices PHRASE	H2076	זָבַח zabach
to any god PHRASE	H430	אֱלֹהִים 'elohiyim
other	H1115	בְּלִי biltiy
than	H1115	בְּלִי biltiy
to the LORD PHRASE	H3068	יְהוָה Yēhovah
alone	H905	בַּד bad
shall be utterly PHRASE	H2763	חָרַם charam
destroyed	H2763	חָרַם charam

Two helpful podcasts on this topic:

["God or gods?"](#) - The Bible Project

["No Other God"](#) - The Bible Project

How are idols (gods) connected to demons?

Here's [a short article](#) about the connection between the pagan gods and the demons. We've begun mentioning this connection in the podcast and plan to continue this thread as we continue. It's challenging to drop ALL the information about these things into one short podcast, and sometimes it's hard for people to accept it all at once, so we're aiming to drop bits of information in like breadcrumbs as we move through the text, and build the information at the same pace Scripture does.

God versus the idols (gods)

Here's [a short article](#) about the existence of other gods and how the one true God is superior to all of them.

We hope these resources are helpful. Thank you for listening and for caring about the truth!

**For the Gospel,
The Bible Recap**