


Dear Brother Faull,



In our small group study on your book of "Joshua" in Chapter 23, we had a question arise. You state that we are not to mention the names of other gods and not to do as the heathen does regarding worship and what they

were supposed to do when they came across their groves.

They were told to destroy their groves, idols, altars and pictures. They were to rename the place but not to name it after God.

Where does it explain to rename the place and not name it after God as **Deuteronomy 7:5** does not mention renaming the place? Are there other places in the Bible that talks about this?

Answer:

Thou shalt not do so unto the Lord thy God. **Deuteronomy 12:3-4**, "And ye shall overthrow their altars, and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire; and ye shall hew down the graven images of their gods, and **destroy the names of them out of that place.** **4 Ye shall not do so unto the LORD your God."**

God would have His Name in the place that He alone should choose.

See also:

Leviticus 17:3-9, "What man soever *there be* of the house of Israel, that killeth an ox, or lamb, or goat, in the camp, or that killeth *it* out of the camp, **4 And bringeth it not unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, to offer an offering unto the LORD before the tabernacle of the LORD;** blood shall be imputed unto that man; he hath shed blood; and that man shall be cut off from among his people: **5 To the end that the children of Israel may bring their sacrifices, which they offer in the open field, even that they may bring them unto the LORD, unto the door of the tabernacle**

of the congregation, unto the priest, and offer them *for* peace offerings unto the LORD. **6 And the priest shall sprinkle the blood upon the altar of the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation,** and burn the fat for a sweet savour unto the LORD. **7 And they shall no more offer their sacrifices unto devils, after whom they have gone a whoring. This shall be a statute for ever unto them throughout their generations.** **8 And thou shalt say unto them, Whatsoever man *there be* of the house of Israel, or of the strangers which sojourn among you, that offereth a burnt offering or sacrifice, **9 And bringeth it not unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, to offer it unto the LORD; even that man shall be cut off from among his people."****

Deuteronomy 26:2, "That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt put *it* in a basket, and shalt **go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name there."**

Joshua 9:27, "And Joshua made them that day hewers of wood and drawers of water for the congregation, and for the altar of the LORD, **even unto this day, in the place which he should choose."**

I Kings 8:29, "That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, **even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there:** that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place."

II Chronicles 7:12, "And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, **I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice."**

Because Israel disobeyed these commands is why Israel stumbled into Idolatry. They sacrificed on every high hill and in the groves. IF there were not groves, they planted some. God forbade trees by His altars.

There was only one place where God put His name and nowhere else could be used for sacrificing. If you do a parallel check of **Deuteronomy 12**, you will find other places, which made this pretty obvious.

Why did God insist on this? It would look like they just changed the name of God and contained the same evil

practices (adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, and bestiality) that occurred there in the name of the Lord.

That is what people have done today.

They try to Christianize the pagan holidays. They have stolen Santa, evergreen trees, Easter bunnies, lilies, hams, eggs, and hot cross buns from the worship of the heathen gods and goddesses.

Christians have kept the same practices but just changed the name to Christ. This causes unbelievers to say that Christianity is nothing but baptized paganism. It is a fair accusation.

Our holiday customs, their dates, and the means of celebrating them are the same used for the pagan gods and goddesses. This causes unbelief. See "This Believing World" by Browne, or "The Golden Bough" by Frazer as examples of this.

It is a shame that Easter, the goddess of fornication had her name stuck on the celebration of Christ's Resurrection. Her emblem of eggs, lilies, and bunnies that symbolized fertility are mixed with the truth of the Gospel. God cannot be pleased with the violation of the principle that His truth must not be mixed with other gods.

See what God says....

Amos 5:21-27, "21 I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies. 22 Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept *them*: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts. 23 Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols. 24 But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream. 25 **Have ye offered unto me sacrifices and offerings in the wilderness forty years, O house of Israel? 26 But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which ye made to yourselves.** 27 Therefore will I cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus, saith the LORD, whose name *is* The God of hosts."

Remember **II Corinthians 6:14-18**, "14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what **fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?** for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."