



ISAIAH

"The Insanity of Idolatry"
Isaiah 40-48

Definitions of Idolatry:

An idol is anything that promises a life of security and joy apart from God.

Idolatry is “anything we place more value on above God.”

Anything that takes the place of God in our life, anything that becomes more important than Him is an idol.

4 Powerful Warnings about the danger of Idolatry

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1. Idolatry Obscures: It creates a false picture of God

**“⁵ “To whom will you liken Me, and make *Me* equal
And compare Me, that we should be alike?**

**⁶ They lavish gold out of the bag,
And weigh silver on the scales;
They hire a goldsmith, and he makes it a god;
They prostrate themselves, yes, they worship.**

**⁷ They bear it on the shoulder, they carry it
And set it in its place, and it stands;
From its place it shall not move.**

**Though *one* cries out to it, yet it cannot answer
Nor save him out of his trouble.” Isaiah 46:3-7**

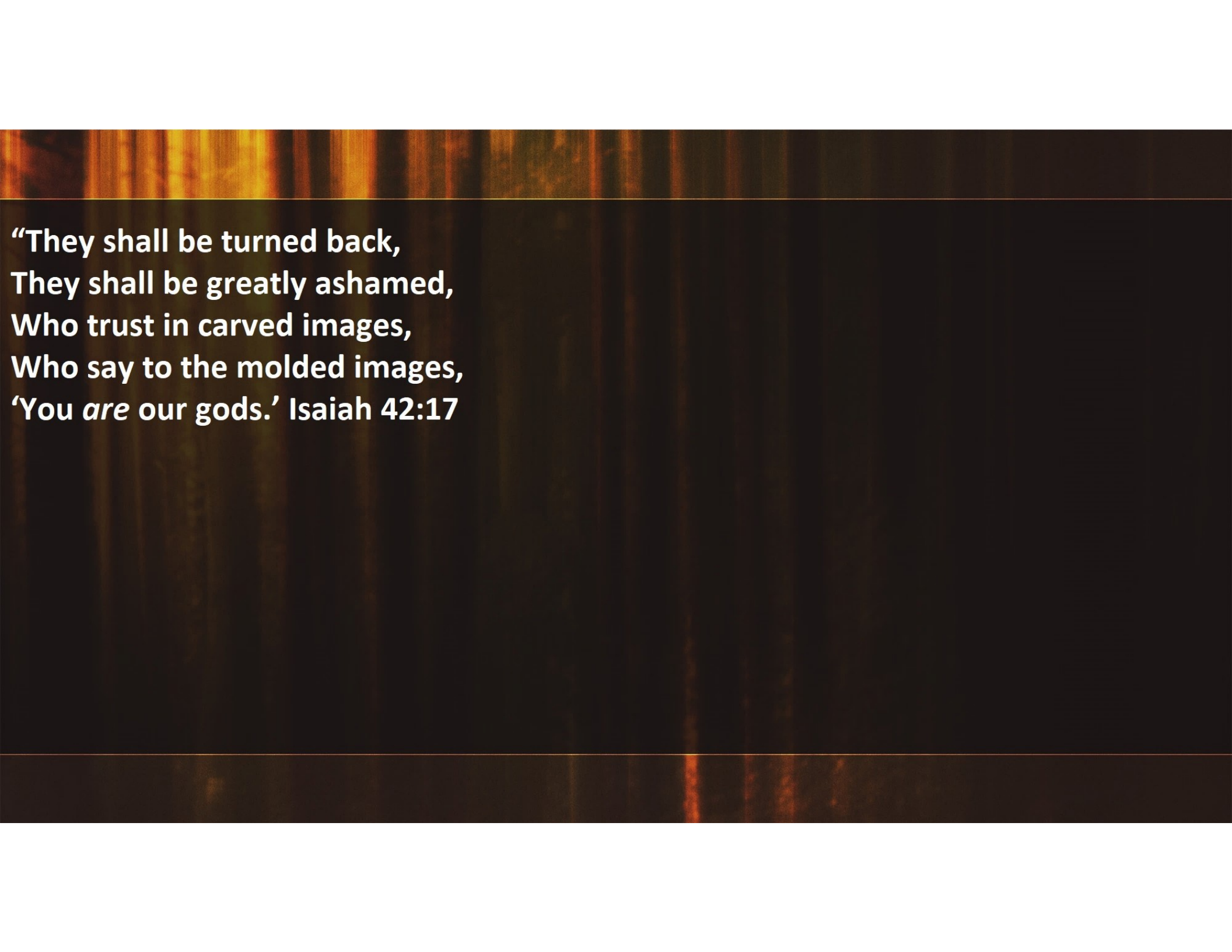
4 Powerful Warnings about the danger of Idolatry

1. Idolatry Obscures: It creates a false picture of God
2. Idolatry Deceives: It moves your thinking and beliefs further away from God

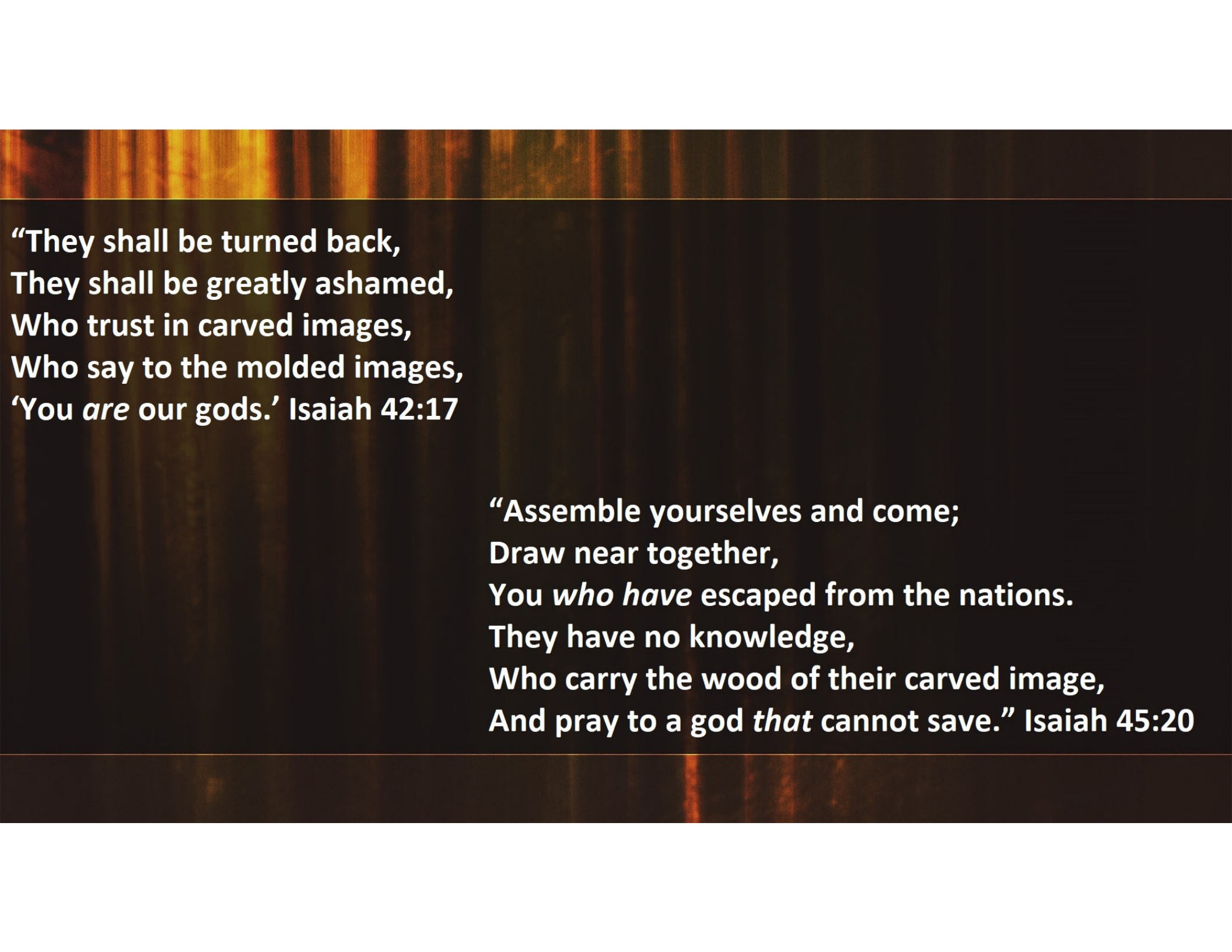
**“³ “I have declared the former things from the beginning;
They went forth from My mouth, and I caused them to hear it.
Suddenly I did *them*, and they came to pass.**

**⁴ Because I knew that you *were* obstinate,
And your neck *was* an iron sinew,
And your brow bronze,**

**⁵ Even from the beginning I have declared *it* to you;
Before it came to pass I proclaimed *it* to you,
Lest you should say, ‘My idol has done them,
And my carved image and my molded image
Have commanded them.’ Isaiah 48:3-5**

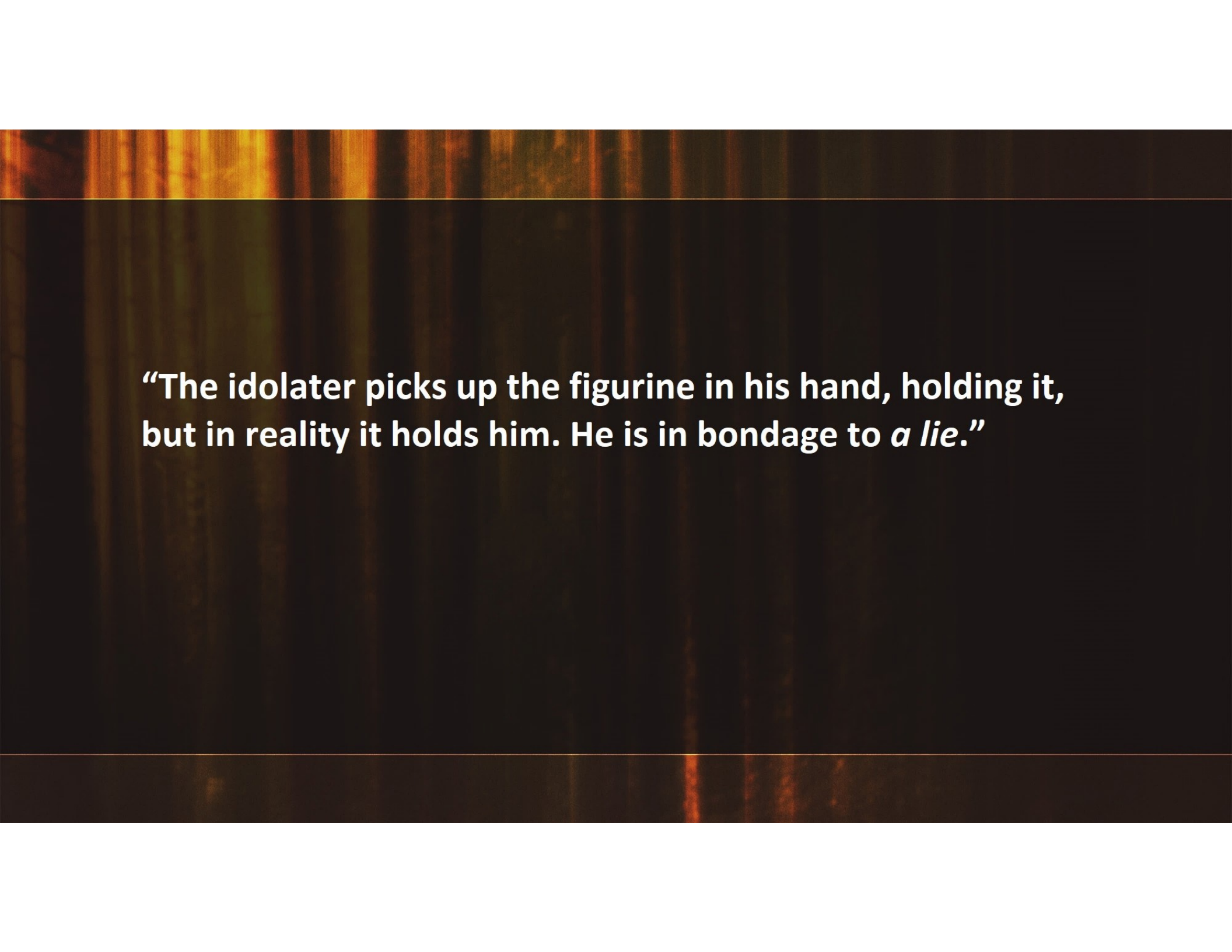


**“They shall be turned back,
They shall be greatly ashamed,
Who trust in carved images,
Who say to the molded images,
‘You *are* our gods.’** Isaiah 42:17



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They shall be greatly ashamed,
Who trust in carved images,
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**“Assemble yourselves and come;
Draw near together,
You *who have* escaped from the nations.
They have no knowledge,
Who carry the wood of their carved image,
And pray to a god *that* cannot save.”** Isaiah 45:20



**“The idolater picks up the figurine in his hand, holding it,
but in reality it holds him. He is in bondage to *a lie.*”**

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2. Idolatry Deceives: It moves your thinking and beliefs further away from God
3. Idolatry Steals: It gives the glory that God alone deserves to something else

**“⁸ I *am* the LORD, that *is* My name;
And My glory I will not give to another,
Nor My praise to carved images.” Isaiah 42:8 (48:11)**

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2. Idolatry Deceives: It moves your thinking and beliefs further away from God
3. Idolatry Steals: It gives the glory that God alone deserves to something else
4. Idolatry Contradicts: It is an illogical act of giving worship to a created thing

Case Study: Hezekiah destroys the Bronze Serpent (2 Kings 18:1-5)

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“Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea the son of Elah, king of Israel, *that* Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign. ² He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name *was* Abi the daughter of Zechariah. ³ And he did *what was* right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done.

⁴ He removed the high places and broke the *sacred* pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan. ⁵ He trusted in the LORD God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him.”

Possible Idols in our world:

People

Your Phone

Lifestyle and the Idol of Self

Rights and Freedom

Social Media

Money

Entertainment

Sex

Comfort