

TEAR DOWN THE IDOLS

A Call To The People Of Papua New Guinea To Destroy All Idolatrous Objects.

"Dear children, keep yourselves from idols." 1John 5:21

"¹⁵ He (Jesus Christ) is the image of the invisible God, the first born over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were made by Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And He is the head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning and first born from among the dead, so that in everything He might have supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all His fulness dwell in Him, ²⁰ and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross." Colossians 1:15-20

"⁹ Therefore God exalted Him (Christ Jesus) to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:9-11



"² Destroy completely all the places on the high mountains and on the hills and under every spreading tree where the nations you are dispossessing worship their gods. ³ Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones and burn their Asherah poles in the fire; cut down the idols of their gods and wipe out their names from those places." Deuteronomy 12:2, 3



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On August 26, 2015 on the National Day of Repentance, we have an extraordinary opportunity to break free from the powers of darkness that have held us for so long, by destroying every object used in idol worship, witchcraft or that has in any way tied us to the powers of darkness.

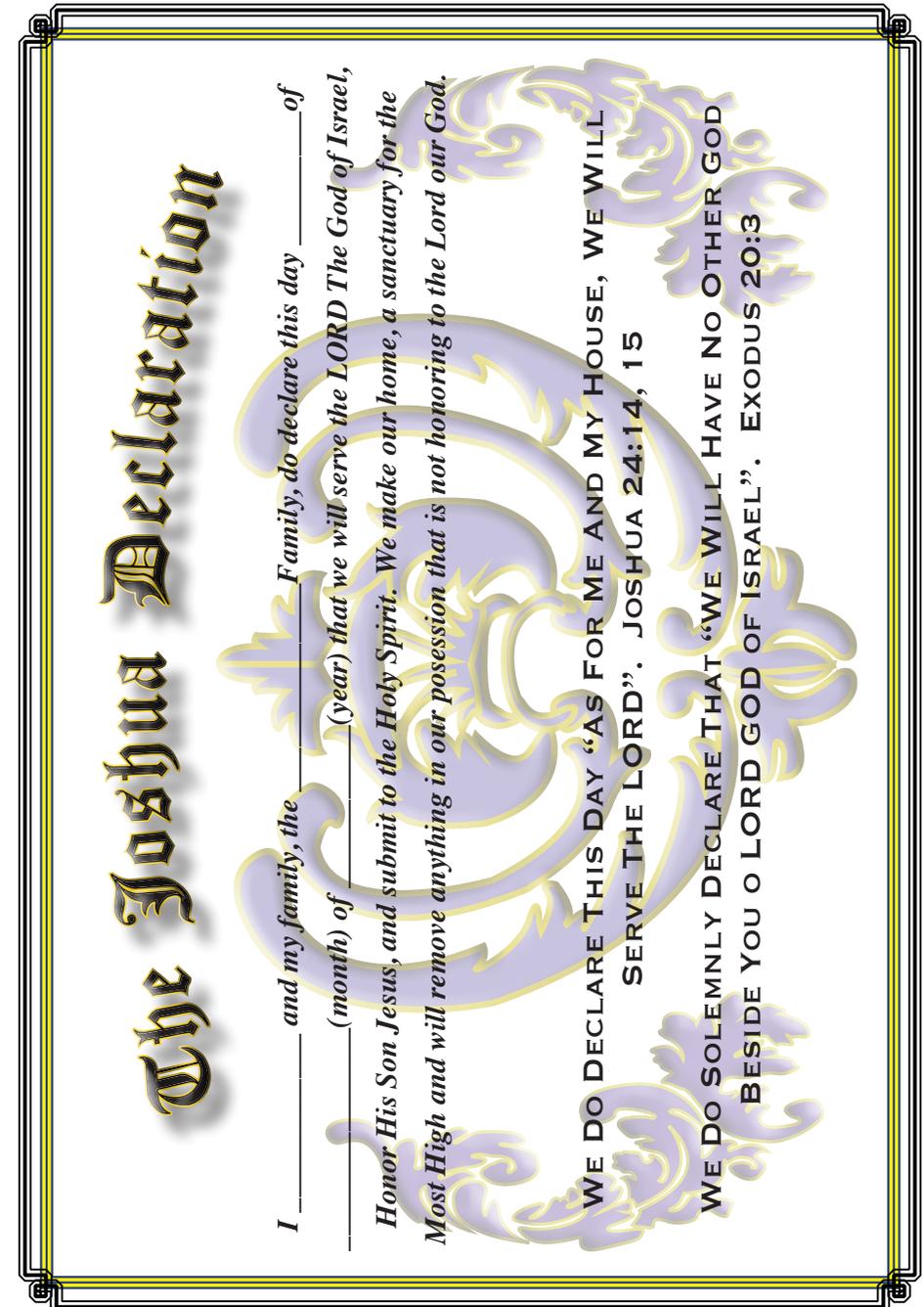
The Speaker of Parliament, the Honourable Theodore Zurenuc has a mandate from the Most High to remove objects from Parliament House that are defiling it, that are keeping our nation through its leaders in bondage and that are offensive to the LORD our God. As this begins to take place, the darkness is lifting, the light of the knowledge of the glory of God is beginning to shine, and His favour is being extended to Papua New Guinea.

The LORD our God has great plans for our nation, but one of the major obstacles in seeing these fulfilled in this hour are the many false gods that litter our nation. We the people, must rise up and do our part to remove the false gods, the idols, the witchcraft objects and everything else that keeps us in bondage to satan's kingdom.

So on August 26, 2015, bring any object that you know does not glorify God and surrender it to be burned in the fire. As each community goes before God in repentance, a fire will be lit to destroy any defiled objects.

We pray for you "... asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding, we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way." Colosians 1:9,10 May God bless you as you do your part to see Jesus Christ exalted to the highest place.

Your friends at the National Community Transformation Network



witchcraft.

- 3) Destroy any object used in idolatry or witchcraft in the fire.
- 4) Break any covenant that was made by your ancestors with the powers of darkness and renew your covenant with the Lord your God.
- 5) Take Holy Communion on the sight where the worship of false god's, demonic spirits or sacrifices have occurred.

We must also respectfully ask those foreigners in our midst to remove and destroy any idols that they may have brought and continue to worship on our soil.

You can repent and destroy any defiled object anytime, or you can bring it on August 26, on the National Day of Repentance to be destroyed.

The Joshua Declaration

Before Joshua died, he gathered all Israel, their elders, judges and officials and addressed them. Joshua takes them a step further in talking to them about Idolatry. In Joshua 23:7, he warns them with these words,

- 1) Do not associate (*mix, keep company, have dealings with, or join*) with these nations that remain among you;
- 2) do not invoke (*mention, recall or bring to remembrance*) the names of their gods or swear (*to take an oath*) by them.
- 3) You must not serve (*work for, or worship*) them or
- 4) bow down (*worship in reverence or pay homage*) to them.”

Joshua then tells the people in Joshua 23:16 *“If you violate the covenant of the LORD your God, which He commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them, the LORD’s anger will burn against you, and you will quickly perish from the good land he has given you.”*

In his closing remarks, Joshua tells them to *“throw away the gods their forefathers worshiped on the other side of the river and in Egypt and to serve the LORD. ¹⁵ But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then CHOOSE FOR YOURSELVES THIS DAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE. Whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in who’s land you are living. BUT AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSEHOLD, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD.”* Joshua 24:14,15

The same decision is before the nation of Papua New Guinea. As we come to forty years as an independent nation we must decide; will we serve the gods of our ancestors, or will we in our enlightened mind deny the existence of God like the majority of the West and explain everything scientifically, or will we bow down to the foreign gods that have been introduced from outside, or will we serve the LORD GOD, maker of heaven and earth? CHOOSE THIS DAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE!!

What are idols and What is Idolatry/idol worship

Idols - The dictionary defines an idol as an icon, representation of a god, image, effigy, statue, figure, figurine, fetish, totem; graven image, false god, or golden calf. The Bible uses a few different words for idol or god or image.

In the Hebrew language there are few different words that are used for the word “Idol”. The word אֵלִיל “el-eel” simply means “of no value, good for nothing or worthless.” see Psalm 115:4-8 and Psalm 135:15-18. The word גִּלְלוּל “ghil-lool” means “an image, carved or sacred stone for worship” see Deuteronomy 26:1. Another word תְּרַפִּים “ter-a-fim” means “a kind of idol used as a household god to worship” see 1Samuel 15:23.

Idolatry - Idolatry then is worshiping, serving, pledging allegiance to, doing acts of reverence to, paying homage to, forming alliances with, making covenants with, seeking power from, or in any other way exalting any supernatural being other than God. The supernatural beings refer to angels, cherubim, seraphim, Satan, principalities, powers, deities, masalai, territorial spirits, goddesses, and demonic beings on any other level.

Hard-core verses Soft-core Idolatry

In the church, we tend to consider anything at all that takes the place of God in our lives, takes our attention, our energy or distracts from serving Him whole heartedly to be idolatry. We may have heard putting your husband/wife/children ahead of God, eating too much food, television/movies, personal pleasures, sports or any number of other things called idolatry. Although we all agree that anything that gets in our way of loving the Most High with all our heart, soul, and strength should be removed, this is not the way the scriptures use the word “idol”.

An “idol” in the scriptures is clearly an image or figure that represents a supernatural being whether it be an angel, demon, Satan, principalities, powers, deities, masalai, territorial spirits or goddesses. This is what we will call Hard-Core Idolatry. So let us recognize that when the word idolatry is used for any persistent sin which might interfere in our relationship with God or anything in general that takes the place of God, it is basically Soft-Core Idolatry.

The Sin that God hates the most.

Although God hates all sin, there are some sins that are worse in his eyes. The first two commandments that God gave His people at Mt. Sinai were;

- 1) **You shall have no other god beside me.**
- 2) **You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in the heavens above, or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.**

Could it be that these two commandments were given first because they deal with the sins that God hates more than any other?

We are very well aware in Papua New Guinea that images such as carvings, masks or items used in witchcraft are connected to unseen spirits that seek to control those who honor them. The carvings are only visible images that represent invisible evil spirits. When respect, worship or honor is given, what is actually taking place behind the scenes is, a spiritual transaction with one or more spirits in the invisible world. Idols, places of worship/sacrifice and covenants made with the powers of darkness are the point of contact between the physical and spiritual world. These give what the Apostle Paul calls in Ephesians 6; the rulers, authorities, powers of this dark world and spiritual forces of evil, the legal authority over certain geographical areas or people groups. This is idolatry and this is what God warned against in His first two commandments.

The sin of idolatry more than any other sin was responsible for Israel's judgment that came in the form of famine, natural disasters, plague, war and finally being taken captive by the Babylonians. The first nineteen chapters of Jeremiah detail the idolatry which Israel was involved in and the prophet Jeremiah warned the people continuously about the coming judgment. The people however refused to listen, and in 605BC Nebuchadnezzar attacked Jerusalem and took the people as prisoners to Babylon.

Idolatry/Adultery

The Bible often compares Idolatry with Adultery. This is because God is a jealous God and will not compete for men's affections with something He himself created (any kind of being other than himself).

Can you imagine, your wife doesn't come home one night and you are very worried. The next morning, she comes home to tell you that she spent the night with the man down the road. "He is a wonderful man and he invited me to his house to spend the night with him. We had a nice time. He says he only wants me to come over once a month, so don't worry - I'll be spending most of my time with you." Don't you think you might be a jealous man? But this is exactly how God feels when anyone he has made, chooses to worship, call upon, honor or exalt any other being other than Himself. Physical adultery is a horrible sin, but in God's value system, spiritual adultery which is called idolatry, is much worse.

Witchcraft

Witchcraft is the administrative component of Idolatry. Idolatry is a religious system based on fear and witchcraft is often the means of, first of all manipulating people, intimidating them and then having domination over them. Witchcraft is using the powers of darkness to accomplish the agenda of the false god that is being served.

The Bible mentions many kinds of witchcraft included in this list are Divination Necromancy, Soothsayers, Mediums, Spiritists, Sorcery, Witches, False Prophets,

tions around them and not to give their children in marriage to the people of those nations, or their hearts will be turned away to serve other gods.

And again in Deuteronomy 12:2,3 the people are told *"2 Destroy completely all the places on the high mountains and on the hills and under every spreading tree where the nations you are dispossessing worship their gods. 3 Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones and burn their Asherah poles in the fire; cut down the idols of their gods and wipe out their names from those places."* Again the verbs are "Destroy completely" "Break down" "smash" "burn" "cut down" and "wipe out".

These two passages of scripture show clearly that there can be no compromise, where objects connected to the worship of the enemy are concerned. Isaiah 42:8 ***"I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols."*** What would God have you do to break the cycle of idolatry in your family, household or community? Like Gideon in Judges 6, after we have destroyed the altars to the idols, we must raise up a new altar of worship to the Lord our God in its place. We may be given objects or inherit items from our parents or even we might buy something that is tied to the powers of darkness. As a result, there is no peace in our home, our children are tormented and we feel a dark presence over our household. **Ask yourself "Does everything in my home and in my possession glorify God?"** Deuteronomy 7:26 states *"Do not bring a detestable thing (images of their gods- see verse 25) into your house or you, like it, will be set apart for destruction. Utterly abhor and detest it, for it is set apart for destruction."* **Could it be that it is time for a spiritual house cleaning to remove anything that is dishonoring to God?** A helpful rule when removing objects that might be connected to idols or witchcraft is "When in doubt, throw it out."

In Joshua 7:12, God tells the people the reason they lost the battle against the people of Ai. *"That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction."*

Things that would bring honour to the spirits of darkness and be set apart for destruction would be pictures, statues, pictures of former lovers, pornographic materials, fetishes, drugs, Ouija boards, zodiac charms, good luck symbols, crystals for healing, talismans, tarot cards, witch dolls, voodoo items, love potions, books of magic, totem poles, certain pieces of jewelry, objects of Freemasonry, horoscopes, foreign souvenirs, kawai, certain buai, witchcraft objects, etc. Some of our flags, have the images of god's which need to be replaced.

How to Deal with Idols And Defiled Places

- 1) Confess the sin of idolatry or witchcraft that you or your ancestors were involved in.
- 2) Cut off and renounce any connection to any idol, the powers of darkness or

we destroy them now? They are our sacred symbols we have always believed in.” “They are a part of our history and we should keep them as a record of our identity.”

It is true that idols have been a part of many of our cultures for generations, but it is also true, that it is they, who have kept our people in bondage to darkness, superstition and fear. How have these gods helped you? What benefit have you gained from serving them? Your true identity does not come from the gods that your ancestors made covenants with, it is only the One who created you that can reveal your true identity and give you meaning and purpose. Would you rather worship and serve a created being or the Creator Himself? You may have idolatry as a part of your family history, but through the Power of the Cross and Jesus Christ’s cleansing blood, you can rewrite your family history. As to keeping these images for future generations; most of the evils we see in society, such as murder, rape, violence, drug and alcohol abuse, etc; are already evidence of the evil spirits connected to these images who have control over parts of society.

In 1Kings 18, the prophet Elijah asks the question, “*How long will you waver between two opinions. If the LORD is God, follow him; but If Baal is God, follow him.*” The Hebrew word for “waver” means “to limp or to be lame”. As long as we serve false gods, we can not fully succeed but will always have a spiritual limp. We will always be handicapped as a nation or as an individual in anything we set our hand to do.

What shall we do with our Idols?

Just as Josiah did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and destroyed the idols of Judah, if we are serious about serving the LORD our God than we must also remove every defiled object that binds us to the powers of darkness.

If we are going to see the National Revival that God Himself has been speaking about for such a long time, we must repent and utterly remove from the land everything that is offensive to our God. The Most High will not just be satisfied to come live with us among the multitude of false gods, ancestral spirits and foreign gods we have allowed to enter and remain. We must prepare the way for the King of kings and the Lord of lords by dethroning every other power and enthroning Him alone. If we are serious about fulfilling our God given destiny, we must not let anything or anyone, hold us back or distract us. The words of our Constitution that declare that we are Christian nation, will never be totally true until we repent for our idolatry and remove the gods that have become a snare to us.

This is what the people of Israel were instructed by God to do in Deuteronomy 7:5 “*This what you are to do to them: Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones, cut down their Asherah poles and burn their idols in the fire.*” Notice the verbs that are used “break down” “smash” “cut down” and “burn”; they are all words that refer to total destruction. Israel is told not to compromise with the na-

Enchanters, Familiar Spirits, and Wizards. It is very clear that God’s people must not have any involvement with any kind of witchcraft (including “glasman”).

Deuteronomy 18:10-13 “*Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD, and because of these detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you.*”

Deuteronomy 19:31 “*Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the LORD.*”

In the New Testament book of Acts, the apostle Paul ministered in Ephesus and many miracles were done. Acts 19:17 says that “*the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor.*”¹⁸ *Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds.*¹⁹ *A number who had practiced sorcery, brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas.*” Those who used to practice witchcraft, when they were confronted with the power of the Lord Jesus, could no longer keep those defiled objects. Even though it cost them a great deal, they publicly burned them.

It must be clear, that every object that has been used in witchcraft is an object that has been dedicated to an evil spirit and like any other idolatrous object is set apart for destruction.

Covenants

We find that an evil spirit that is over a territory or a specific ruling spirit can only come and reside in an area with an invitation. This is often done with a pact or alliance made with the powers of darkness. These covenants were made to defeat our traditional enemies in battle, to invoke the blessings of fertility on food gardens or on our animals, or to keep away disease and death, etc. Even though the original individuals who made the covenant with the powers of darkness are long dead and gone, each successive generations renew those alliances through annual or periodic feasts, festivals or ritual ceremonies, initiations and pilgrimages; and so the covenant is passed from one generation to the next. Blood covenants that were made with especially human, but also animal sacrifices, are stronger and deeper rooted.

In this generation each clan and family must break any covenants that their ancestors made with the powers of darkness and make a covenant with the LORD their God.

Idolatry defiles the Land

Idol worship is one of the sins that actually defiles the land or makes the land contaminated or polluted. Idols are themselves defiled objects, and they defile

the places where they are honored, and the people that possess them. In fact Deuteronomy 7:26 states *“Do not bring a detestable thing (images of their gods see verse 25) into your house or you, like it, will be set apart for destruction. Utterly abhor and detest it, for it is set apart for destruction.”*

The following scriptures declare that idolatry defiles the land.

- Jeremiah 3:9 *“Because Israel’s immorality mattered so little to her, she defiled the land and committed adultery with stone and wood.”* (This is a clear reference to idolatry)
- Jeremiah 16:18 *“I will repay them double for their wickedness and their sin, because they have defiled my land with the lifeless forms of their vile images and have filled my inheritance with their detestable idols.”*
- Jeremiah 7:30 *“The people of Judah have done evil in my eyes, declares the LORD. They have set up their detestable idols in the house that bears my Name and have defiled it.”*
- Ezekiel 36:18 *So I poured out my wrath on them because they had shed blood in the land and because they had defiled it with their idols.*

Could it be that the place where our ancestors made sacrifices to the powers of darkness, or the place where a masalai was appeased by killing a pig or chicken is defiled? Could it be that the places where young men are initiated into the clan and it’s spirits, are all defiled? Could it be that the planting of ginger (kawar) to honor the fertility spirit to make our gardens grow, has actually defiled the land? Could it be that our houses in which we have a basket hung for protection is actually set apart for destruction, because it honors an evil spirit (“was”)? Could it be that the places where foreigners have come to our nation and brought their gods to help them succeed in business or for protection, have defiled our land?

We desperately want to see God fill our nation with His Presence and let His glory be seen. But how can he come to a nation so defiled with other gods?

Greed is Hard-core Idolatry

One sin of the flesh that is called Idolatry can be found in Ephesians 5:5 and also Colossians 3:5. It says *“For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person, such a man is an idolater - has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.”* Why is a greedy person called an Idolater. Greed pays homage to a false god called mammon. Mamona is the Aramaic word for wealth. First century rabbis taught that Mamona was a demonic spirit and enemy of God. Some Bible versions translate Jesus’ words in Luke 16:13 *“You can not serve both God and Money (Mammon).* It is correct to capitalize Money or Mammon, because it is a proper name. Mammon is a spirit, not a thing, an attitude, urge or emotion. Jesus said this in the context of serving two masters or two gods. **The Bible declares that if you are greedy (your heart and mind are set on money**

or material possessions) then you are bowing to a false god.

Tear Down the Idols

There were three kings in Judah who brought about great reforms (revival or transformation) to their nation. These three kings names are Asa (1Kings 15, 2Chronicles 15), Hezekiah (2Kings 18:2-3, 2Chronicles 29, 30) and Josiah (2Kings 22, 2Chronicles 34). These reforms took place and led the nation to new heights because each of these kings were serious about removing the false gods, destroying their places of worship and put an end to all idol worship.

Josiah was only eight years old when he became king and when he turned twenty, he began to remove the idols of his nation. It is recorded in 2Kings 23:25 *“Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the LORD as he did - with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses.”* In the 18th year of his reign, Josiah had the temple repaired and while repairs were being carried out, Hilkiah the High Priest found the book of the Law which was read before the king. When the king heard all the words of the Book of Law, he tore his robes and humbled himself before the LORD. When his officials went to inquire of the prophetess Hulda, she told them that it was because of the people’s idol worship that the LORD’s anger burned against the nation. His judgment would still fall on the nation, but Josiah would not see it in his lifetime, because he responded to the word of the LORD.

Josiah and the people renewed their covenant with the LORD and then he began an all out war on idolatry. They cleanse the temple and then in a organized way, went throughout the land tearing down the idols, burning them, breaking down the altars made to them. He smashed their sacred stones, cut down the Asherah poles and defiled the high places.

On the 5th of September 2007, our Founding Father, Grand Chief Michael Somare prayed and publicly declared plainly:

“I renounce the worship of all idols and evil gods. I renounce all covenants with the evil spirits and demonic powers. I renounce and reject all their actions and reverse all their evil effects....On this day, I pledge our allegiance to serve no other gods but YOU - God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.... Lead us into this new beginning, to the fulfillment of your plans and destiny for our nation”.

May the Most High give us more bold leaders both in government and in the church who will be like Josiah and destroy all that is offensive to Him.

Idolatry and our Culture

You may say “Idols have been a part of our culture for generations. Why should