

A Dozen Canaanite Idols and Their “Powers”

The gods of the Canaanites

idol: a physical figure which the worshipper believes guarantees the presence of a spirit
 Most common themes: **sex & fertility** which gave rise to many **immoral** idolatrous practices

- Anat *Canaanite goddess of war, sister/consort of Baal, sometimes called wife of JHVH,
- Apis [Hapi] *Egyptian bull, strength, & **fertility**, associated with Nile
- Asherah *Hittite **motherhood**, 70 sons, Queen of Heaven [Jer 44.18], Phoenician
- Astarte, Ashtarte, & Ishtar ***fertility** [childbirth], **love**, war, **consort** of Baal, **immorality**, **lust**, also know as Ishtar, Astoret, sacred **prostitution**
- Baal [s] *Canaanite generic name for many gods, rain, **FERTILITY**, **HARVEST**, a primary attraction to the Hebrews, a vile and intentionally **immoral** religion almost beyond your imagination
- Chemosh *Moabite/Ammonite, assoc w/ Ashtar, some human sacrifice, Solomon built sanctuary to him [I Kg 11.7,33] which stood for 400 yrs, sometimes confused with Molech
- Dagon *the fish god, Phoenician/Iraqi/Assyrian, chief of Philistine pantheon
- the ephod high places *part of High Priestly garment, copied by others
 *originally seemed to honor JHVH on hilltops, became residences of Hebrew idols, existed for hundreds of years through several purges
- Marduk *[50 different names] water, judgment, magic
- Molech *firstborn infant sacrifices guarantee prosperity & fertility, **sacred prostitution** [children were sacrificed], also known as Milcom
- oracles *the mouthpieces of gods & demons, idols, places, shrines, buildings, stones, trees, figurines, statues, graves, icons
- seer *a person who can see into the future [and communicate with the spirits or JHVH]
- teraphim *wooden images, often associated with high places, sometimes trees, Asherah closely associated, always disgraceful activity, household idols, perhaps ancestor veneration



These are generic definitions, similar to trying to describe “What does a Bible believing church look like?” There are many similarities, but also many individual ways to express it.