



November 25, 2025

From the publisher of the Weekly Bible Notes:

Through “**Bible Verses in FOCUS**,” we are focusing on a different Bible verse several times a week from your Bible Lesson study — providing a meaningful alternate translation, commentary/background from our research archives and when possible, a **METACOMMENT** from the Christian Science periodicals (in the public domain) — all sent in an email.

Researched and compiled by Mark Mohlenbrock and Tiffany Loosvelt

Zechariah 13:2

And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land. (KJV)

ALTERNATE TRANSLATIONS:

The Lord Almighty says, ‘On that day, I will remove the names of false gods from the country. Everyone will forget them. I will remove all the false prophets. And I will remove the bad spirit that is not holy. (Easy English Bible)

And the Lord Almighty declares, “In that day I will get rid of every vestige of idol worship throughout the land, so that even the names of the idols will be forgotten. All false prophets and fortune-tellers will be wiped out, (The Living Bible)

The Eternal, Commander of heavenly armies, promises to remove all idolatry from the land. Eternal One: On that day, I will certainly blot out the names of the detestable idols and false gods from the land. They will never again be remembered or worshiped in this place. What’s more, I will cut off from the land the disreputable prophets and the impure spirits they work for. (The Voice)

COMMENTARY:

in that day) “Zechariah often repeats, “in that day” Zechariah 12:3-4,12:6, 12:8-9, 12:11; 13:1-2, 13:4; 14:6, 14:8, 14:13, 14:20, resuming his subject again and again, as a time not proximate, but fixed and known of God, of which he declared somewhat. It is “that day” which “Abraham desired to see, and saw it” John 8:56, whether by direct revelation, or in the typical sacrifice of Isaac, “and was glad:” it was “that day” which “many prophets and kings and righteous men desired to see” Matthew 13:17; Luke 10:24, and in patience waited for it; “the” one “day of salvation” of the Gospel. He had spoken of repentance, in contemplation of Christ crucified; he now speaks of forgiveness and cleansing, of sanctification and consequent obedience.” (*Notes on the Old and the New Testaments* (BARNES))

“The Lord announced His intention to **banish the names of the idols from the land** (cf. Mic 5:13-14). He

will overcome all factors that detract from His worship and all idolatry will become extinct.... Associated with the extinction of idolatry will be the extinguishing of false prophecy, which includes human **false prophets** and the (superhuman) **spirit of impurity** (cf. Zec 13:1), probably to be understood as a personal agency of evil that will inspire false prophets, in contrast with the Spirit of grace.” (*Bible Knowledge Commentary* (BKC))

“The previous section dealing with sham leaders (10:2–3a) had announced the Lord’s active opposition to them. Now they are to be unmasked and removed for ever. An important first step in God’s self-disclosure is the unmasking of evil. **I will cut off the names of idols**** means that men will no longer ascribe supernatural powers to mere things, nor worship them as divine. The **‘name’** implied existence and personality, attributed to idols by their devotees, much as a child invests a puppet with personality, whereas they were only ‘shapes’ formed by men’s hands. Here was the basic illusion which lay behind the sham leadership. The ‘power game’ still has its names and its precious gods. **The prophets and the unclean spirit.** Any inspiration these prophets claimed encouraged unhealthy influences in the land that were clearly not of God’s spirit. ‘Thus you will know them by their fruits’ (Matt. 7:20). The expression ‘unclean spirit’, so familiar from the Gospels, comes only here in the Old Testament.” (Joyce G. Baldwin, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi: An Introduction and Commentary, vol. 28, *Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1972), 211.)

METACOMMENT:

“The Bible, in whatever history it gives of the children of Israel, is almost entirely concerned with their spiritual progress. Whenever this spiritual progress seemed to lag or come to a halt, the Scriptural record shows that there was invariably but one reason therefore,—namely, idolatry. This would naturally result in bondage and much suffering, so that Israel in its extremity would turn to the true God, seeking deliverance. Before this was granted, however, a certain command was given,—“Put away the strange gods that are among you.” The children of Israel were made to understand most clearly that it was impossible to be delivered through divine aid until they had forsaken their strange gods and destroyed their idols. It may be asked: Why was it so necessary for them to put away the strange gods first, before they could be delivered? Why could not God deliver the people without the putting away of their idols? The simple answer to these questions must always be that idolatry displaces the true concept of God in human consciousness, so that the just demands of God, good, are set aside for the demands of material sense. Here, then, we have the nature of idolatry exposed; for is not idolatry just the demand of material sense that we substitute matter for Spirit? Will not this demand, if obeyed, shut out the adoration of Spirit, and tend to make the idolater mentally incapacitated to receive the understanding of God? Material sense, if unrestrained by spiritual understanding, will always lead into some form of idolatry, alias substitution. Is it not necessary, therefore, to examine so-called mortal mind and its desires from a spiritual viewpoint, and thus become alert to its idolatrous tendency, which always leads mankind into bondage? “The human mind,” says Mrs. Eddy in “Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures” (pp. 186, 187), “has been an idolater from the beginning, having other gods and believing in more than the one Mind.” This fact, revealed by Christian Science, accounts for all the subtle forms of both ancient and modern error, alias idolatry, showing that mortal mind is constantly playing the game of substitution, always offering something declared to be just as good for that which is true, whether it be an idol, as in the case of the children of Israel in ancient days, or a perverted substitute for the plain teachings of Christian Science in

modern times.” (Swantees, Samuel Frederick, *“Put away the strange gods”*, Sentinel Vol. 27 (27 December 1924))

JSH Online complete article:

<https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1924/12/27-17/put-away-the-strange-gods>

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