

**The Four Idols in Judges 17–18** – A table for keeping track, PS

*Handbook:*

Some scholars think instead of two idols, only one is being described here, which would be a case of “hendiadys,” a stylistic feature in which two terms designate one object. This understanding fits better with the narrative since Micah seems to make only one idol.

Don Slager, “How Many Idols Did Micah Have? (Judges 17.1–18.31)” *TBT* 65 (2014): 337-348:

In conclusion, the Hebrew words *pesel* and *masekah* refer to two different idols in the story of Micah. The participant reference structure indicates that the *pesel* is more focal.

<b>Occurrences of idol terms in Judges 17–18</b>						
<i>Letters in the table indicate the order in which the terms occur in the text.</i>						
Verse	פֶּסֶל	מַסֶּכָּה	אַפֹּד	תְּרָפִים	Remarks	Vernacular
	carved idol	metal idol	priestly apron	household idols		
17:3	a	b			first pair	
17:4	a	b			first pair	
17:5			a	b	second pair	
18:14	c	d	a	b	two pairs	
18:17	a	d	b	c	changed order	
18:18	a	d	b	c	changed order	
18:20	c		a	b	selective / focal	
18:30	a				selective / focal	
18:31	a				selective / focal	