



Jer. 10:11-16

True and False religion, part 2

11 Thus you shall say to them: "The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under these heavens."

12 He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, And has stretched out the heavens at His discretion.

13 When He utters His voice, There is a multitude of waters in the heavens: "And He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth. He makes lightning for the rain, He brings the wind out of His treasures."

14 Everyone is dull-hearted, without knowledge; Every metalsmith is put to shame by an image; For his molded image is falsehood, And there is no breath in them.

15 They are futile, a work of errors; In the time of their punishment they shall perish.

16 The Portion of Jacob is not like them, For He is the Maker of all things, And Israel is the tribe of His inheritance; The LORD of hosts is His name.

When the Romans attempted to make the first Christians forsake their worship of the God of Israel, and worship instead one of the many gods of Rome, whose temples and statues were to be found throughout the empire, these early Christians often replied, *"Let him make a world and he shall be my god."*

In that simple phrase they drew out the essential difference between Jehovah and all of the false gods of the nations. Jehovah is living and powerful, he has made the heavens and the earth, and continues to govern them, he had saved them through the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus and while they had Him to worship, it was absurd to worship the powerless creations of men.

These early Christians though often had less difficulty accepting the idea that all the gods of the nations are false than people today and certainly less trouble than the people of God in Jeremiah's day, they wanted to freely mingle the worship of the true God with the worship of all the nations and to commit spiritual adultery with any god that appealed to them. But here the foolishness of doing so is spelled out yet again. And a warning is given, just as the worshippers of those false gods would perish, the false gods themselves would also perish from the earth and be heard of no more.

They gods who did not create the heavens and the earth are frauds, delusions, the creations of men's hands, no more alive than the scarecrow in the melon patch. No more alive than a sandcastle, and the waves of time washed them away just as they Lord. They have disappeared, and today despite the

popularity of *Thor* at the box office, we see that most of the false gods and their temples have disappeared.

We may have a rather ho-hum view of that fact, yeah the temples of the pagan gods are gone, but in Jeremiah's time it seemed as though Dagon, Baal, Molech and Ashtoreth would never disappear from the earth, they had countless temples, and altars, and worshippers in many countries, but now they are forgotten, but the same Living God whom Jeremiah worshipped is worshipped today, and in more countries, and by more people than ever seemed possible.

The people might not have thought that was possible, but Jeremiah knew it by faith and was assured it would some day happen. And in this closing portion of his great temple sermon, he closes with a poetic blessing of the living God a Psalm of praise, in much the same way that you and I close our own worship with our songs of praise to the living God.

Jeremiah declares, the false gods are nothing, they are vanity. But Jehovah, He is the God who made the earth from nothing, and governs it by His wisdom. He is the one, not Baal or his consort Ashtoreth, who brings the rain and the thunder and all the other phenomena of nature.

God had declared that he would be the inheritance of his people, that is the Portion of Jacob. Far more important than merely Promised Land, God said that he would give them something far more important, they only would have this living relationship with their maker.

The gods of the nations were idols, fashioned by men's hands. They could no more have a relationship with them than they could have a relationship with a scarecrow. But God had covenanted with Israel that instead of having a meaningless association with powerless bits of wood and paint and metal, they would know and be united to the GOD who had fashioned them! For far from being made Himself He is the maker of all things. He tells them his name is "*Yahweh Sa-ba-ot*" is the name given in the Hebrew, literally *THE LORD OF HOSTS*. A reminder that although they might look up to the heavens and see all of the stars, the hosts of heaven, and be tempted to worship them, their God made all of those stars, and everything else in creation and yet was infinitely greater than all of them.

Applications:

1) How many times have men created false idols and false religions and claimed that they would triumph over the God of Israel? In Jeremiah's time the Assyrians and the Babylonians had been sure their gods would triumph over Yahweh, before them the Philistines had trusted that Dagon would conquer Yahweh, the Moabites had felt their god Chemosh would be victorious, the Ammonites had put their confidence in their statues of Molech, in whose bellies they burned their children. Before them the Egyptians had felt sure that the Sun God Ra and the rest of the Egyptian pantheon could easily dominate whatever God their Hebrew slaves might depend on. But again and again and again, God had shown that these gods were idols and he put them to shame. They are on the ash-heap of history, but men throughout the world are still vindicated when they trust in the God whom Jeremiah trusted in.

Throughout history "isms" and movements have arisen that have attempted to dethrone God, today we are hard pressed on every side by Darwinism, Atheism, Marxism, Islamism, Buddhism, Wiccanism, Hedonism, Satanism, Nihilism, and dozens of other "isms" that are powerless to create, to govern, to

deliver. They are delusions, the creations of men's hands, and they too will "perish from the earth and from under these heavens."

2) But our temptation, like the people of Jeremiah's time is to bow before them, and mingle them together with the worship of the living God. To bring them into the temple.

2 Kings 23:4 And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, the priests of the second order, and the doorkeepers, to bring out of the temple of the LORD all the articles that were made for Baal, for Asherah, and for all the host of heaven; and he burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried their ashes to Bethel.

5 Then he removed the idolatrous priests whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense on the high places in the cities of Judah and in the places all around Jerusalem, and those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun, to the moon, to the constellations, and to all the host of heaven.

6 And he brought out the wooden image from the house of the LORD, to the Brook Kidron outside Jerusalem, burned it at the Brook Kidron and ground it to ashes, and threw its ashes on the graves of the common people.

7 Then he tore down the ritual booths of the perverted persons that were in the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the wooden image.

8 And he brought all the priests from the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had burned incense, from Geba to Beersheba; also he broke down the high places at the gates which were at the entrance of the Gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were to the left of the city gate.

9 Nevertheless the priests of the high places did not come up to the altar of the LORD in Jerusalem, but they ate unleavened bread among their brethren.

10 And he defiled Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter pass through the fire to Molech.

11 Then he removed the horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun, at the entrance to the house of the LORD, by the chamber of Nathan-Melech, the officer who was in the court; and he burned the chariots of the sun with fire.

12 The altars that were on the roof, the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, the king broke down and pulverized there, and threw their dust into the Brook Kidron.

13 Then the king defiled the high places that were east of Jerusalem, which were on the south of the Mount of Corruption, which Solomon king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Sidonians, for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the people of Ammon.

We meanwhile try to mingle Darwinism a myth incapable of creating anything with Christianity and make organizations like Biologos which states, "We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. We also believe that evolution, properly understood, best describes God's work of creation."

Mingling them together

The foolishness of Spiritual Adultery:

What does God want, our whole hearts, all of our Love.

Remember the Deceitfulness of Sin – How can something beautiful be bad? "oh please let me go said the little boy, I won't run away!"

Our God is ALIVE: He is the living God. The maker of all things. All of the religious figures of other religions have died and remain dead today, but Christ is alive having risen from the dead.

1 Cor. 15:20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

They shall perish; the time shall come when they shall be no more respected as they are now, but shall be buried in oblivion, and they and their worshippers shall sink together.

The day will come when all false religions will be done away with. Where will we be?

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