

Jeremiah 10

Jesus

I. The True God

1 Hear the word which the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel. 2 Thus says the LORD: "**Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; Do not be dismayed at the signs** of heaven, For the Gentiles are dismayed at them. 3 For the customs of the peoples are futile...

Do not Learn the Way of the Gentiles
Do not be Dismayed/Led Astray/Fearful of Signs in the Heavens

1 John 2:18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now **many antichrists have come**, by which we know that it is the last hour.

Precursors to the Final Antichrist
All attack Jerusalem/Dispersed Jews/Stopped Worship

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------|-------|-------|
| 1. Nebuchadnezzar | Babylon | 700BC | |
| 2. Antiochus Epiphany | Greece | | 200BC |
| 3. Titus | Rome | AD70 | |

Hitler tried: British and Allied forces stopped the German advance at the Second Battle of El Alamein in Egypt in 1942, preventing any Axis threat to the Middle East.

4. **Final Antichrist of Revelation**
- a. AC/FP Deceive/dismay w/**Signs in Heavens**.
 - b. **They will exploit peoples superstitious bent as a means of control...**

Revelation 13:13 He [False Prophet] **performs great signs**, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. 14 And he **deceives** those who dwell on the earth **by those signs** which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast...

2 Thessalonians 2:9 The coming of the lawless one [Antichrist] is according to the working of Satan, with all **power, signs, and lying wonders**, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, **because they did not receive the love of the truth**, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should **believe the lie**, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

The End times will be Filled with Cosmic Signs

Luke 21:25 And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth the distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and waves roaring; 26 men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those **things which are coming on the earth**, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift your heads, because your redemption draws near.

Jeremiah: Don't be Dismayed/Moved by Signs in the Sky
Fearful of natural but unusual occurrences

God is Sovereign over the Heavens/All creation

Psalms 148:3 Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all you stars of light!

- Even the rocks would cry out if we don't...

Don't learn the Way of the Gentiles

Trusting your future to/Becoming fearful of signs in the heavens/Other Idolatry...

3b ...For one cuts a tree from the forest, The work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. 4 They decorate it with silver and gold; They fasten it with nails and hammers So that it will not topple. 5 They are upright, like a palm tree, And they cannot speak; They must be carried, Because they cannot go by themselves. Do not be afraid of them, For they **cannot do evil**, Nor can they **do any good**."

Let's talk about Jeremiah 10:3-5

Any 5-yr old hearing would say this is a Christmas Tree

- Babylonian gods during Jeremiah

Nabu: The son of Marduk, Nabu was the god of wisdom, writing, and scribes. His name forms part of Babylonian royal names prominent during Jeremiah's lifetime, such as Nebuchadnezzar [meaning "Nabu protect the crown"] Nebuzaradan.

Marduk [AKA Bel/Merodach]: The supreme king of the Babylonian gods, viewed as the creator and protector of the city of Babylon. Jeremiah specifically names him and Bel in prophecies predicting the fall and humiliation of Babylon's idols [Jeremiah 50:2 and 51:44].

Ishtar [AKA Queen of Heaven]: The goddess of love, fertility, and war. While Ishtar was an ancient Mesopotamian deity, worship of the "queen of heaven" is explicitly rebuked by Jeremiah in Judah during this period [Jeremiah 7:18 and 44:17], reflecting the strong cultural and religious influence Babylon held over the region at the time.

Babylon is the Seat of False-Religion/Mother Child Cult
Satan is the Covering Cherub. Substitute for Truth

Revelation 18: AC Fall of **Economic Babylon**. Trade. Materialism. Exploitation. Control

Revelation 17: FP Fall of **Spiritual Babylon**. Deception/Pride/Persecution against truth

Revelation 13:1 Then I [John] stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast [AC] rising up out of the sea [Nations], having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns [Kings], and on his heads a blasphemous name.

Revelation 17:3 So he [an angel] **carried me [John] away in the Spirit into the wilderness**. And I saw a woman **sitting on a scarlet beast** which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. 5 And on her forehead a name was written:

**MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**

...6 I saw the woman, **drunk with the blood of the saints** and with the **blood of the martyrs of Jesus**. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

*John was carried away and back 2400 yrs to the Tower of Babel
Seat of False-Religion/Mother/Child Cult began by Nimrod*

Genesis 1:8 Cush [son of Noah's son Ham] **begot Nimrod**; he began to be a **mighty one** on the earth [Nephilim?]. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord." 10 And the beginning of his kingdom **was Babel**, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of **Shinar**. 11 From that land he went to **Assyria** and built **Nineveh...** etc.

Genesis 11:1 Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. 2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of **Shinar** [Babylon] , and they dwelt there. 3 Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. 4 And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." 5 But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. 6 And the Lord said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; **now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them**. 7 Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." 8 So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. 9 Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

Nimrod Built Babylon then Assyria

The Origin of Christmas: Winter Solstice
Nimrod/Semiramis Queen of Heaven and Son, Tammuz

The Scottish minister and writer Alexander Hislop added to Semiramis's mythology in his 1853 book **The Two Babylons**. Hislop claimed that Semiramis was married to Nimrod [Gen 10:9-11]. The Bible describes Nimrod as "the first on earth to be a mighty man" [Gen 10:8]; some take "mighty man" to be a reference to one of Nephilim. Nimrod established or conquered Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh in the land of Shinar, then went to Assyria and built several more cities, including Nineveh. According to Hislop, Semiramis's greatest accomplishment was aiding her husband in replacing the worship of God with a polytheistic system based on the stars. She became associated with Ishtar/Astarte/Ashtoreth: the original **Queen of Heaven** [Jeremiah 44:15-19]. Her son [fathered by Nimrod, another man, or the rays of the sun sent down by the deceased Nimrod] joined her in creating the world's first **mother/son cult**. The Semiramis/son pair inspired Isis and Osiris in Egypt, Venus and Adonis in Greece, and Ushas and Vishnu in Hinduism. Hislop also claimed that the Catholic Church adapted mother/son worship into their veneration of Mary. The identity of the son in the myth is unclear; possibilities include Damu [related to the Tammuz mentioned in Ez 8:14], Horus, and Gilgamesh. [*The son was said to be born on **December 25th** italic mine*]

- Nimrod built Babylon/Spread the Mother/child cult to Assyria etc.

Should a Christian Celebrate Christmas?
Should we change the pagan names of the 7 days of the week?

- All things are lawful but not profitable
- Is it sin to celebrate? Is it sin to be legalistic?
- Are you exalting Christmas above Christ?
- Is having a dark house on Christmas a good/bad/neutral witness?
- Am I learning my ways from the Gentiles as the LORD says not to do or...
- Am I celebrating the Light of the World on a day that belongs to the LORD alone?

I don't Celebrate Christmas because it's not in the Bible!
Jesus Celebrated the Festival of Lights

John 10:22 Now it was the **Feast of Dedication** in Jerusalem, and it was winter. 23 And **Jesus walked in the temple**, in Solomon's porch.

- **Feast of Dedication:** AKA Hanukkah/Feast of Lights
- **Not found in the Bible** OT but in 1/2 Maccabees: Apocrypha
- **Rededication of the Second Temple** by Judas Maccabeus in 165 BC after it was desecrated by Antiochus IV Epiphanes

Whatever we do We are to Glorify God

6 Inasmuch as **there is none like You**, O LORD (You are great, and Your name is great in might), 7 Who would not fear You, O King of the nations? For this is Your rightful due. For among all the **wise men** of the nations, And in all their kingdoms, **There is none like You.**

- **Chronology:** Tribulation winding down...
 1. Angels now ready to go down to Earth for Wrath on man
 2. Victorious Trib Saints now in Heaven for Worship of God...

Reiterating Jeremiah's Praise to God w/Singing
Song of Moses/Song of the Lamb

Revelation 15:2 And I [John] saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. 3 They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the **song of the Lamb**, saying: "**Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! 4 Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested.**"

There is none like You...

Psalms 50:20 You sit and speak against your brother; You slander your own mother's son. 21 These things you have done, and I kept silent; **You thought that I was altogether like you**; But I will rebuke you, And set them in order before your eyes. 22 "Now consider this, you who forget God, Lest I tear you in pieces, And there be none to deliver..."

Psalms 89:6 For who in the heavens can be compared to the LORD? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened to the LORD?

All the Wisdom of Every Wise Man from every Nation since Creation
Pales in Comparison to the *Foolishness* of Our God

1 Corinthians 1:25 ...the **foolishness of God is wiser than men**, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

8 But they are altogether dull-hearted and foolish; A wooden Idols a worthless doctrine. 9 Silver is beaten into plates; It is brought from Tarshish, And gold from Uphaz, The work of the craftsman And of the hands of the metalsmith; Blue and purple are their clothing; They are all the work of skillful men.

- **Dull-hearted:** Brutish/Foolish: lit. Burning/Stupid
- **Worthless doctrine:** lit. Vain teaching

10 **But the LORD is the true God**; He is the **living God** and the **everlasting King**. At His wrath the earth will tremble, And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation.

Psalms 96:5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens.

Every Religion is Idolatry/Every Religion's god an Idol.
Every Religious person an Idolater...*Even if they use the same name/terminology*

2 Corinthians 11:4 For if he who comes preaches **another Jesus** whom we have not preached, or if you receive a **different spirit** which you have not received, or a **different gospel** which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

Our God is the True God/Living God/Everlasting King
He Speaks and His Creation Trembles...

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."

All False gods will Perish

Zephaniah 2:11 The LORD will be awesome to them, For He will **reduce to nothing all the gods of the earth**; People shall worship Him, Each one from his place, Indeed all the shores of the nations.

- **Q.** For JW's Jesus was a god. [Using a lower case 'g' means false god]
1. All False gods shall perish at final judgment
 2. Only the One True God will be left standing
 3. If Jesus is simply a god will He too perish?

All False gods will Perish
Jesus the Creator/Sustainer will Remain

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 [lit. noise] 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."

To those who worship idols
Meditate on the Creation/Fall on Your Faces before Your Creator

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning **God created the heavens and the earth ...6** Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." 7 Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so.

Jeremiah 51:15 He has made the earth by His power; He has established the world by His wisdom, And stretched out the heaven by His understanding.

Job 9:8 He alone spreads out the heavens, And treads on the waves of the sea;

Psalms 104:2 [You] cover Yourself with light as with a garment, Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain.

Isaiah 40:22 It is He who sits above the **circle of the earth**, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.

We were Created for Praising God

Psalms 145:21 My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, And all flesh shall bless His holy name Forever and ever.

- **Flesh:** heb. *bāśār* Human body
- **Flesh:** heb. rt: *bāśar*: To bear news, bear tidings, publish, preach, show forth. To gladden with good news

IOWs Our lives will not be complete until we get this:
Our physical bodies are created as a vehicle for praising God

Isaiah 43:7 Everyone who is called by My name, Whom **I have created for My glory**; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.

The chief purpose of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever...

- Honor God
- Reflect His character
- Do everything for Him

14 Everyone is **dull-hearted, without knowledge...** [2X]

Proverbs 30:2 Surely I am more stupid than any man, And do not have the understanding of a man.

Isaiah 1:3 The ox knows its owner And the donkey its master's crib; But Israel does not know, My people do not consider.

14b ...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.

There will be "breath" given to the Tribulation Idol

Revelation 13:15 [After AC/FP deceive with signs] **He** [False prophet] **was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast**, that the image of the beast should both **speak** and **cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed**.

- **Breath:** gr. *pneuma*. 1. Mostly of Spirit of God. 2. vital principal which body is animated

The Tribulation Idol will Have Breath

That which the wicked always hoped for they will get/regret

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**.

- The *Portion* of Jacob is not like idols
- **Portion:** God Himself given to His flawed people [Jacob]

He is Maker of all things: The LORD of Angel Armies is His Name

II. Tragic Consequence of Lazy Shepherds

17 Gather up your wares from the land, O **inhabitant of the fortress!**

- **Inhabitants of the Fortress:** lit. Those who will dwell under Babylonian siege

18 For thus says the LORD: "Behold, I will **throw out** at this time the inhabitants of the land, And will **distress them**, That they may find it so."

- **Throw out:** heb. *qāla'* To sling or hurl forth

1 Samuel 25:29b [Abigail to David 500 yrs previous] ...the life of my LORD shall be bound in the bundle of the living with the LORD your God; and the lives of your enemies **He shall sling out, as from the pocket of a sling.**

- **Distress:** heb. *šārar* to bind, be narrow, besiege, be straightened, be bound

Para. vv 17-18 Pack your bags, he says. Get ready now to leave; the siege will soon begin. For suddenly I'll fling you from this land and pour great troubles down; at last you shall feel my wrath.

Those under siege speak from the future in the hearing of Jeremiah...

19 **Woe is me for my hurt! My wound is severe.** But I say, "Truly this is an infirmity, And I must bear it." 20 My tent is plundered, And all my cords are broken; My children have gone from me, And they are no more. There is no one to pitch my tent anymore, Or set up my curtains.

Jeremiah captures the despair, shock, and loneliness of those who would endure the severe season of judgment. [Guzik]

What led to this? ...

21 For the **shepherds have become dull-hearted**, And **have not sought the LORD**; Therefore they shall not prosper, And all their **flocks shall be scattered**. 22 Behold, the **noise** of the report has come, And a **great commotion** out of the north country, To make the **cities of Judah desolate, a den of jackals**.

Those Expected to Study/Know/Speak the Word of God/Guide the People
Now Dull-Hearted/Lazy/No Longer Seeking the LORD

Jeremiah sees the result in a vision...Vacuum being filled
Lies Believed/Protection Removed/Flocks Scattered/Confusion Rampant
Cities Desolate

Revelation 18:2 [The angel] ...cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!"

Judah received the Judgment created for God's Enemies
Sinful Man will receive the Judgment created for the devil/demons

Matthew 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the **everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels...**

Ezekial 33:11 Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord God, '**I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked**, but that the **wicked turn from his way and live**. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'

23 O LORD, I know the way of man is **not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.**

Man seems to control his own progress, but the fact is that man, corrupted by sin, is incapable of achieving his own true destiny. He desperately needs God, as the wise man realized. [Cundall]

Proverbs 20:24 A man's steps are of the LORD; **How then** can a man understand his own way?

Fear God and Receive Wisdom
Humble Yourself and Receive Correction

24 O LORD, correct me, but with justice; Not in Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing. 25 **Pour out Your fury on the Gentiles**, who do not know You, And on the **families who do not call on Your name**; For they have **eaten up Jacob, Devoured him and consumed him**, And made his dwelling place desolate.

They have eaten up Jacob: Jeremiah sees the future as the past
If you must punish your people w/Pagans have mercy

Habakkuk 3:2b ...In wrath **remember mercy.**

- Mercy will be found in obedience to the Word: Go to Babylon
- God will use our enemies hatred of us to purge us

When the purposes of God are fulfilled by our enemies
God will then deal w/them...

Romans 12:19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "**Vengeance is Mine, I will repay**," says the Lord.

2 Thessalonians 1:6 ...it is a righteous thing with God to **repay with tribulation those who trouble you**, 7 and to **give you who are troubled rest** with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels...

Revelation 20:10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.