

“RUIN, REDEMPTION, AND RESTORATION”

Studies in the Book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah 10:1-11:18

“Who is Like the Lord?”

I. Judgement pronounced on false gods (Jeremiah 10:1-16)

- A. God commands the people to not be downhearted or afraid of the signs of heaven (the signs in the sky). The same people that looked to astrology for guidance created idols. Verses 1-5 are used to support the claim that Christmas trees originated in pagan worship. The passage is describing the process of creating a carved image of a false god. Christmas trees possibly originated from stage props representing the tree of knowledge of good and evil used in dramatizations of the story of Adam and Eve recorded in Genesis 3. Pagan customs are futile, meaningless, and worthless. The wooden statues have no life; they are powerless to do good or evil.
- B. In contrast to the worthless idols God is unique. God is the King of all the nations; therefore, we owe God honor, reverence, allegiance, and obedience. You can search all the nations and kingdoms of the world and there isn't a wise or intelligent person alive that compares to God. The wise men of the nations are described as dull-hearted and foolish. A wooden idol is a worthless doctrine because they are powerless.
- C. There is only one true and living God. There is only one everlasting King. He is the one who will make the earth tremble, He is the one who will execute judgement upon the wicked. He is the one who will hold the nations accountable. The false gods will perish. God is the Creator of heaven and earth. All of creation is subject to His authority. He made the earth and established the world, He stretched out the heavens and controls the water cycle, He controls the storms. The idol makers are ignorant (dull hearted and without knowledge). The act of creating an idol brings shame on them because the idol is falsehood. They are a work of errors. The Creator is incomparable to created idols. He is the God who called Israel into relationship and the Lord of the heavenly host (the armies and multitudes of angels).

II. Lamentation and Imprecatory Prayer (Jeremiah 10:17-25)

- A. The southern kingdom will be evicted from the land because the Mosaic covenant was conditional. Jeremiah expresses lament for the punishment and sin of the people. The leaders did not seek the Lord. We have to seek God for help to live a life pleasing to Him. Jeremiah welcomes correction because he understood he needed God's fatherly corrective discipline to help him stay on task.

- B. Verse 25 is an imprecatory prayer. Why would Jeremiah make what seems like a harsh request? The Babylonians used excessive force. The people deserved a consequence but the excessive nature of the execution of the consequence was noticed by God.

III. Divine Indictment: Covenant Unfaithfulness (Jeremiah 11:1-18)

- A. The statement “you will be My people and I will be your God” is the victory that the new covenant in Christ brings to reality (Revelation 21:3). The people are found guilty of violating the covenant; therefore, they will experience all the consequences laid out in Deuteronomy 28. There is a pattern of falling in and out of idolatry throughout biblical history.
- B. Only the true and living God has the power to save in the time of trouble. The land had become infested with idols and altars to Baal. This is why God refused to hear the prayers of the idolaters.
- C. Verse 15 is another adultery illustration. The people who were once compared to a fruitful plant would be burned and destroyed. They brought consequences upon themselves because they practiced idolatry.

“Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry” (1 Corinthians 10:14).

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Sunday, November 23, 2025