

Message #14

Jeremiah 10:1-25

This world is filled with political and religious leaders who do not want you to know the truth of God. They are out to lead you away from God. But God wants His people to know the truth about Him and He wants them to defend the truth about Him. He will honor those who do that.

There are people who believe foolish and stupid things that are not true, sound or Biblical. They invent a god in their own mind and then they worship the god they invent. Just this past week someone was talking to someone who said, "I don't want to believe in a God who could permit suffering." This person wants their own god who fits their thinking. The problem is the true God does permit suffering and has reasons for it.

There are crazy people who will go outside and worship the sun. We saw a group in Florida. Almost every morning they would go out to worship the sun. There are people who will worship a ridiculous statue of Buddha. There are people who have made a religion of Yoga. As if standing in some weird position and meditating has anything to do with spirituality and God.

Most people in this world worship themselves. They become their own god. But what is the most tragic thing about this is that sometimes God's own people fall for that crud. God's own people can begin to listen to these stupid people (v. 14) and be led away from Him. When that happens, judgment is coming.

Idols attract people. They always have. There are many warnings in Scripture against idolatry because man has a nature that is drawn to it. So in this text, Jeremiah has a direct message from God to give to His own people:

GOD DOES NOT WANT HIS PEOPLE FOLLOWING THE WORLDLY, FOOLISH BELIEFS OF STUPID RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL LEADERS WHO ARE LEADING PEOPLE AWAY FROM HIS TRUTH; BUT HE DOES WANT HIS PEOPLE TO KNOW HIM, HONOR HIM, BELIEVE IN HIM AND OBEY HIM BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENT IS COMING.

In this chapter, God addresses His own people and He wants them clearly to know who He is and what He will do to those who move from Him and Truth.

One commentator makes a good point when he says much of what is in this chapter "is intended to instruct Israel and Judah in the time of the Exile" (J. Andrew Dearman, *Jeremiah/Lamentations*, p. 116).

So this is what God's people need to realize and know at all times, especially at judgment times.

PART #1 – God speaks to His people. 10:1-18

In **verse 1**, God addresses His people. He aims this straight at the entire nation of Israel. This address is for the prophets, priests and people. People are responsible for what they believe and do. There are ten direct messages God gives to His people:

Direct Message #1 - Do not learn the way of the nations. 10:2a

That Hebrew word “learn” (lamad) means to learn something by being trained. This word carries with it the idea of letting yourself be taught and trained so that you become a disciple of the ways of the heathen nations (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 439).

God does not want His people to be trained in the vain religious and political philosophies of a heathen world that does not know Him or His word. God does not want His people influenced by the world; He wants His people influencing the world.

It is an evil thing in the mind of God for His people to permit themselves to become a student of things that are against Him and His word. This is true academically, politically, religiously.

One of the ways that God’s people are drawn into godless things is that they follow the worldly crowd. They just go along with the worldly flow of thought and believe and do what everyone else is believing and doing. God says to His people don’t do that.

Direct Message #2 - Do not be terrified by things that terrify the nations. 10:2b

God’s people were living in a world in which most people would see things taking place in the heavens and would be terrified of them. God says My people don’t need to be terrified by anything I am doing in the heavens.

Some of His own people were becoming so mystical and were afraid of things God was doing in the sky. The phrase “signs of the heavens” can refer to all kinds of things like eclipses or falling stars or meteors or storms. Secular and Satanic religion such as astrology, horoscopes and divination had come up with fearful explanations of what was happening in the planets.

God says you don’t need to worry about that. One of the newest talking points that seems to scare people is global warming. What a crock that is. God is going to burn up the planet (II Peter 3:10) but He will not do it in our lifetime. So don’t worry about the idiotic talk of the religious and political leaders. Don’t let their view of anything threaten you.

Direct Message #3 - Do not be afraid of them or their delusional false religions. 10:3-5

In these verses God carefully lays out for His people how something actually becomes an idol and how delusional and idiotic people have to be to believe in it.

- 1) They cut down a tree (**3a**),
- 2) They carve out some image (**3b**),
- 3) They decorate it with silver and gold (**4a**),
- 4) They put it together with hammers and nails (**4b**),
- 5) They carry it and stand it up like some scarecrow in a field because it cannot stand (**5a**).

So what a person worships is something that cannot talk. It must be carried because it cannot walk. It cannot do anything harmful and it cannot do anything good. People worship this. One would have to be out of his mind to worship that. These are “gods” made by men who have no ability or power to change anything or anyone.

How foolish for people to worship something that cannot do anything. How ridiculous for God’s people to be afraid of any idol. It cannot do a thing.

The one to fear is the God of the Bible, not the idols invented by men. Even when God’s people are under judgment, they need to fear God.

Direct Message #4 - God’s people need to know there is none like the majestic God. **10:6-7**

Jeremiah presents some key facts about God here that God’s people need to grasp:

(Fact #1) - There is none like God. **10:6a**

He is unequaled in everything and every way.

(Fact #2) - God is great (gadol). **10:6b** - great in magnitude, majesty and magnificence
(*Ibid.*, p 158)

(Fact #3) - God is a great named God in might. **10:6c**

The adjective great is the same meaning great at a majestic and magnificent level. It is specifically said that “God’s name” is great in power. The Hebrew noun “name” (shimik) is one that refers to a celebrated name that stems from an earned reputation (*Ibid.*, p. 832-833). The noun “might” means to have strength that always prevails (*Ibid.*, p. 156). God wants His people to know that He has all sovereign power and might and will always prevail.

No matter who the power or what the power, God is greater than all of them by just His name. He had demonstrated no one ever beats Him.

(Fact #4) - God is a God who is to be feared. **10:7a**

The entire world owes God reverent fear and respect. You have to be a stupid idiot not to fear the God of the Bible. He is the one to be revered.

(Fact #5) - God has wisdom greater than all the wise men in all the kingdoms. **10:7b**

Direct Message #5 - Realize those who trust gods made by men are foolish and stupid. **10:8-9**

Years ago we had a person come to this church who thought it was undignified to use words that called people fools and stupid. When we pointed out that those words are the words God uses to describe people, he ultimately left the church. In contrast to this great God of the Bible, there are foolish and stupid men, who have a delusional religious faith.

They import silver from Tarshish, which is Spain. They import gold from Uphaz, somewhere in the east. They get craftsmen to make things but it is all the work of man.

They make idolatry look beautiful. They make it look rich and colorful. Then they worship it. They are foolish and stupid. G. Campbell Morgan said, “men make idols; God makes men.”

Whatever man honors and serves above all else is his idol. Whatever he admires and loves at the ultimate level is his idol. It may be success, house, car, property, popularity, pleasure, sex, food, alcohol or money. It is foolish and stupid to worship anything other than the true God of the Bible. Their religion is a delusional man-made religion invented by sinful, corrupt men.

Direct Message #6 - Realize there is one true, living, ruling God who controls nature and nations. **10:10**

Notice what is said here:

- 1) God is the true God.
- 2) God is the living God.
- 3) God is the ruling God.

There is only one true God and it is the LORD God of the Bible. He is the Living God and He is the everlasting King. He causes earthquakes and when those earthquakes shake the earth, it is a statement that He is a God of wrath.

God wants His people to know when I pour out My indignation and wrath, nations will not endure it or survive it.

Direct Message #7 - Realize God is the one who made the heavens and the earth and He Sovereignly controls everything. **10:11-13**

God says I want my people to know that all of the false gods who did not make the heavens and the earth will perish (**10:11**). **The test of the true God is creation.**

There are things listed here that the true God has done:

- 1) God made the earth with His power. **10:12a**
- 2) God designed and established the world by His wisdom. **10:12b**
- 3) God stretched out the heavens by His understanding. **10:12c**
- 4) God controls the weather—it is His—rain, clouds, lightning and wind. **10:13**

Man demeans God and calls it mother nature. But what is more pathetic than this is that God had to remind His own people of this.

Direct Message #8 - Realize that every man who worships something other than God is stupid, ignorant and worthless and will be punished. **10:14-15**

God wants people to know that if you worship something other than Him, you are stupid and lack knowledge and you are involved in a worthless life that mocks Him and it will end in punishment.

Direct Message #9 - Realize that God makes all people and He has chosen Israel as His inheritance. **10:16**

God has made all people, but in His sovereignty He has chosen Israel to be His inheritance. As confused and corrupt as these people were, they were still His people.

Direct Message #10 - Realize that God is removing His people from their land. **10:17-18**

It was time for God's people to pack their bags and move. Jeremiah may have been writing this when Jerusalem was surrounded in 597 BC. He is basically saying, we need to get out of here now.

God is sovereign over everything and His word needs to be believed and obeyed in every situation and context.

PART #2 – Jeremiah prays for himself and for people. **10:19-25**

There are six key topics that Jeremiah covers in this prayer:

Prayer Topic #1 - Jeremiah prays in view of judgment suffering. **10:19-20**

Jeremiah begins his prayer by admitting that they deserve God's judgment. They were all injured and ruined by sin that brought about this judgment. Some of the people literally had injuries and wounds and some had sicknesses due to a judgment of God (**10:19**). God's judgment meant that they lost their homes and even their families (**10:20**). **This included Jeremiah.**

Jeremiah was a righteous man and prophet of God, and he had negative things God did affect him. He was not immune.

Prayer Topic #2 - Jeremiah prayed in view of foolish leadership. **10:21**

Take a serious look at this verse. Israel's political and religious leaders were stupid. They did not seek the true God and, as a result, they led the people away from the blessings of God. God's nation was led astray by the leadership. "All" of the flock was scattered.

Their stupidity as political and religious leaders moved the nation away from the blessings of God. The political and religious leaders were a bunch of spiritual buffoons.

Prayer Topic #3 - Jeremiah prayed in view of coming judgment. **10:22**

The judgment of God was on the way and it was underway. God was bringing Babylon out of the north to destroy the cities of His own people. One archeologist said that when this happened, there is evidence that not one city in Judah was continually occupied. In other words, God's people were chased out of their cities as a judgment.

Prayer Topic #4 - Jeremiah prays in view of man's ignorance. **10:23**

This is quite a prayer. Jeremiah acknowledges the truth about all people; they do not know how to govern their own lives. They are sinful people who deserve God's wrath (v. 23). Wise people will ask God to lead them and guide them into ways that please Him.

Prayer Topic #5 - Jeremiah prays concerning the need for God's correction. **10:24**

Jeremiah realizes God's people need correction, but he asks God to correct them with justice and not with anger. If God chastises in anger, He brings His own people to nothing (v. 24).

Prayer Topic #6 - Jeremiah prays concerning the need for God's wrath. **10:25**

God's people need God's correction; those who are God's people need God's wrath.

Jeremiah asks God to pour out His wrath on nations who do not know God and on families who do not call on the true God (v. 25). They have devoured God's people and they have laid them waste.