

## EXPOSITION OF ISAIAH

Message #64

Isaiah 44:9-20

On February 19, 2010, Umar Faruq Abd-Allah, an Islamic scholar, spoke to a crowd at Western Michigan University and brought a message to the Muslims that said they needed to start using the name “God” rather than “Allah” because they were giving the impression that they are not worshipping the same God that Christians worship.

I have some startling news for Mr. Abd-Allah; they are not worshipping the same God. When a Muslim mentions the name “Allah” he is not referring to the Triune Godhead, comprised of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. When a Muslim mentions the name “Allah” he does not believe he has a Divine Son named Jesus Christ? When a Muslim mentions the name “Allah” he certainly does not believe that he provided a vicarious sacrificial Lamb who can take away all of our sins? In the Qur’an, Jesus is not God, but a messenger and son of Mary. According to the Qur’an, Jesus did not die on the cross; he was just a human that Allah raised to himself who did not die.

The fact is, the Islamic religion is an idolatrous religious system invented by a lust-crazed religious fanatic named Muhammad. He claimed he could talk to the dead and made up bizarre things. The Islamic religion is an evil, godless, hateful religious system of idolatry, and one day God will wipe it and all other false religions off the face of this earth.

You and I live in a world that is given to idolatry. People invent their own “god” and their own method of salvation and worship. Mormons have their deity, Jehovah’s Witnesses have theirs, Scientologists have their system as do Buddhists, Shintoists and Taoists. People make an idol out of money, out of sports, out of the sun, the moon and the stars. People worship the dead and God has some news for them all - one day I’ll wipe you all out.

God has always wanted His people to know about the evil of worshipping anything other than Him and that is certainly what He wanted Israel to know here. The thesis Isaiah presents here is this:

**GOD WANTS HIS PEOPLE TO REALIZE THAT THE GOD OF ISRAEL IS THE ONLY TRUE GOD WHO CAN SAVE; AND THOSE WHO TRUST IN ANY OTHER THING IN THIS WORLD ARE FOOLISH, BECAUSE ONE DAY THEY WILL ALL BE TERRIFIED AND ASHAMED AND ETERNALLY ELIMINATED.**

In **Isaiah 44:6-8**, God reminds Israel that He is the only God and He is Israel’s God. There is no God but Him. In other words, there is no Allah. There is no Moroni of the Mormons. There is no Buddha of the Buddhists. There is no Brahman of the Hindus. There is only one God and this God controls things past, present and future. **There is no other God except the God of the Bible and God wants His people testifying and witnessing of this reality. This God of the Bible is the only Rock (44:8) upon whom you may lean and trust for salvation.**

But in contrast to this truth, most of the religious world worships something else; they worship their own God. Years ago, a nice tall boy took the Islamic name Kareem which means noble one and Jabbar which means mighty one and called himself Kareem Abdul Jabbar. A young boxer out of Kentucky took the Islamic name “Ali” which means the high one of might and power and called himself Muhammad Ali. These guys would rather worship a non-existent deity than the true God of the Bible and most of the world applauds them.

Now to show the utter stupidity of worshipping any other thing other than the true God of the Bible, God totally and completely exposes the worthlessness of any idol worship. **There are at least 13 major rebukes against idol worship:**

**IDOL REBUKE #1** – Those who make idols are futile . **44:9a**

God made people in His own image and then people try to make gods in their own image. You cannot make a god; it is God who made you. God says they are all nothing, they are all futile.

This word “futile” (tohu) is one that means to be a total, empty waste (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 857). God is not flattering these idol makers; they are nothing but a waste of time, space and air. If a person worships anything other than God, their worship is a total waste.

**IDOL REBUKE #2** – Those who consider idols precious are of no profit . **44:9b**

People are so corrupt that they can consider things to be so precious and valuable when in all reality they are useless. I heard of a famous musician who said that he owed his whole life to a guitar. I heard another famous person say he owed his life to music. In the end, these guys are trusting in something that cannot possibly save them from their sins. There is no profit to what they trust. The words “no profit” are words that mean there is no usefulness at all, no profit at all for one connected to idols (*Ibid.*, p. 356).

**IDOL REBUKE #3** – Those who support idolatry don’t know they will be put to shame .  
**44:9c**

People are so eager to promote their idol. They become a witness for it. As John Calvin said they will defend “their errors with made eagerness” (*Commentary on Isaiah*, p. 370). Not long ago a press conference was held by Tiger Woods and he was eager to promote his false god, Buddha. He became the witness for his false system of worship. God says there will come a day when idol worshippers will ultimately be put to shame.

The word “shame” means that this person will eventually be very disturbed in mind because they are disgraced by the fact that everything they were involved in or expected, meant nothing (*Ibid.*, p. 109). There is coming a day when all worshippers of false gods will be seen as nothing.

This word comes from a root Hebrew word that means to be dried up or become dry. What God is saying is the one who is connected to idolatry will eventually be completely dried up and ashamed realizing that everything they dedicated their life to was a total waste (*Ibid.*, p. 328).

**IDOL REBUKE #4** – Those who fashion the idol are of no profit . **44:10**

All religious images mean zero to God. They are of no use whatsoever. God is insulted and God is appalled by any who think they can fashion a “god.” The point here is that one who is involved in making idols has no use or value at all; he is nothing and will be brought to nothing.

**IDOL REBUKE #5** – Those who were companions of those who worship idols will be put to shame. **44:11a**

People who are attending churches where the true God of the Bible is not being revealed need to realize there is serious culpability before God. God does not think it is right for people to go to a church just for the sake of going to a church.

You may think it is just fine to associate with those not given to clearly and carefully understanding the Scriptures and the only true existing God. You may think their religion is okay for them and it really doesn't connect to you. What people need to realize is that there is a serious guilt by association. God will bring to shame those involved with those who worshipped false gods.

The Apostle Paul spoke of this very thing in telling N.T. believers you do not want to go to some false religious service because we have nothing in common with demons (I Corinthians 10:20).

**IDOL REBUKE #6** – Those who worship idols will tremble and be put to shame. **44:11b**

Not only will the inventors of the idols be brought to shame, but so will all the people who worshipped them. The word “shame” is the same word used in the first part of the verse. **What is added here is that those who are given to idolatry will all be brought together to stand before God and not only will they be ashamed, they will all be trembling .** That word “tremble” means they will be totally afraid and terrified of what they have done. They will be shaking the moment they are assembled to face the one and only True God. The moment Almighty God summons all idol worshippers to face Him, they will literally shake in total terror and fear.

It would appear to me that the collective gathering of all worshippers of false gods will occur at the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15). At that judgment they will all be thrown into “the lake of fire.”

**IDOL REBUKE #7** – Those who make idols are mere weak men. **44:12**

The process of making an idol reveals the stupidity of it to the one making it. Only the God who made the universe, who is the first and last of everything, can actually be Deity, and a normal finite man cannot possibly make a deity. It is stupidity to think he can.

Any man who has come up with any idolatrous religious system is nothing but a weak man designing a false system. How could a limited man design a god?

He can't even go very long without eating or drinking. Doesn't it seem odd that if a man is supposed to be a "god" or supposed to be able to invent or make a "god" that he would be just a weak man?

Think of the absurdity of this. The man working on the idol gets hungry and thirsty while he is making something for people to worship. This is stupid. Every human is just a sinful human. He cannot possibly make a saving God. He is nothing but an ordinary man. It is almost like people throw away their brains and worship something invented by a crazy man.

For example, Muhammad claimed that if you could pray in Mecca it was 25 more times powerful than if you prayed from your home or from the market. Then, Muhammad made up several things to do before you prayed:

- 1) Wash your hands up to the wrist three times;
- 2) Rinse out your mouth three times.
- 3) Clean your nostrils by sniffing water three times.
- 4) Wash your face from forehead to chin from ear to ear.
- 5) Wash your forearms up to the elbows three times.
- 6) Pass a wet hand over the whole of the head.
- 7) Wash your feet up to the ankles three times - first the right and then the left.
- 8) Do not pass any gas or else you must wash all over again.

(Ergun Mehmet Caner & Emir Fethi Caner, *Unveiling Islam*, pp. 123-124)

Now these things were invented by a sinful, militant religious nut who was so lust-crazed that he married a nine year old girl and should have been arrested for statutory rape.

Now here is the crazy thing. Millions and millions of people cannot see the absurdity of a religious system devised by a very weak, sinful man. They just don't get it and God says one day they will.

**IDOL REBUKE #8** – Those who design the idols are men making something to worship for other men. **44:13**

Those who design idols make those idols with human tools so the idol can sit in someone's home and be worshipped. So the idol maker makes an idol and then sees with his own eyes that the idol just sits in some location and never moves.

For example, in A.D. 1090 the Catholic Church came up with the idea of "rosary beads" which are nothing more than a string of beads made by men so one may keep count of how many times a person prays to Mary. These beads are viewed as sacred, when in all reality the whole thing is something designed and made up by men.

**IDOL REBUKE #9** – Those who make idols make them out of materials that God must make grow. **44:14**

Idols have no life to them. In fact, a man has to cut the wood that God made grow. He has to go into the forest to get the trees to make his idols. Then the idol maker plants trees so he can keep his business going so he can cut them down again. He depends on the real God to make his materials grow so he can make his false gods.

**IDOL REBUKE #10** – Those who make idols use and worship materials that are used for other things. **44:15-17**

A guy goes out to cut a tree in order to make an idol for someone to worship. It is cold so he builds a fire and throws some of the pieces of wood into the fire and then while he is working he takes some of the pieces of wood to burn in order to bake bread. He is so stupid that he cannot see that he is worshipping something made out of the material he is burning.

Some make idols out of things metal and some make idols out of wood. The same material that one uses to make idols is the material one uses to bake bread and roast meat. People who pray to an idol to save them or deliver them are out of their minds.

You say, well who could be so stupid? Ask many Catholics who lights candles made by men and worship icons made by men. Ask some Protestants who actually worship a piece of bread and have actually convinced themselves that bread is really the body of Jesus Christ and the cup is really the blood of Jesus Christ. How absurd.

**IDOL REBUKE #11** – Those who worship idols don't realize God is the one who does not let them see or comprehend truth. **44:18**

I believe that this text corresponds with Romans 1:20-24 in which God says He gives these people up. You give yourself to worshipping an idol and God will blind you and never let you see truth until you drop into hell.

**IDOL REBUKE #12** – Those who worship idols do not have logical minds that have any understanding. **44:19**

When it comes to worshipping God, men are blind. They know how to bake bread and roast meat with the same materials that they make an abominable idol. They are involved in abominable sin and do not see it. They cannot see the stupidity of what they are doing.

For example, in Kamakura, Japan, a 49 foot bronze statue of Buddha was made in A.D. 1252. It has become a key place of pilgrimage. So every year, thousands of Japanese people travel to worship a lifeless religious statue made by men and people cannot see the stupidity of this.

**IDOL REBUKE #13** – Those who worship idols are deceived liars who cannot deliver themselves from anything. **44:20**

They just cannot see or say they are trusting in a lie. The only hope they have is to look at what they are worshipping and say it is a lie. But the problem is no one can deliver himself.

If you believe that anything other than Jesus Christ can save you, you are heading to eternal shame and eternal fire. I don't care if you like that or not; that is the truth.

Perhaps you are here and you are involved in false religion. What you are involved in is a lie. What you need to do is to cry out to the only God who can deliver you. Cry out to Jesus Christ and invite Him to be your Savior.