

The Supremacy & Uniqueness of the Lord God

VS.

The Folly of Idolatry

“...Is there any God besides Me...?”

Isaiah Chapter 44

Crosswords Sunday School 5/29/2016

Dave Jeffries

Memory Verse (May 2016): Isaiah 53:9 *“His grave was assigned with the wicked men, yet He was with a rich man in His death, because He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth.”*

Outline of Isaiah

The Book of Judgment: Chapters 1 to 39

The Book of Salvation: Chapters 40 to 66

➤ **Deliverance of the LORD's People 40-48**

Restoration by the Suffering Servant 49-57

Restoration Realized and Completed 58-66

Theme Statement: The uniqueness of God is contrasted with the folly of idol worship. In revealing His uniqueness, God provides Israel, His chosen remnant, every reason not to fear, to fully trust in Him, to hope in His promises, and to worship Him alone.

God's Undeserved Blessing Upon Israel (1-5)

- ❑ (1a) Assurance that though they had sinned (43:23-28) God would have mercy upon His people - “But now...”
- ❑ (1b) Israel remains God's chosen people – “...whom I have chosen;”
- ❑ (2a) The Lord is their Creator – “...the Lord Who made you...”
- ❑ (2b) They have nothing to fear – “...Do not fear...”
- ❑ (3-5) God will pour out His Spirit on their offspring, His blessings on their descendants, they will flourish, and will experience a general turning to the LORD

The Lord's Uniqueness & Supremacy as the Only God

(6-8)

- ❑ (6) A solemn assertion by Jehovah Himself, that there is no other God like Him. He alone is the true God
- ❑ (7) The Lord argues for His uniqueness by challenging anyone to tell Him the exact details and the order of past and future events
- ❑ (8) Israel has no reason to tremble or be afraid because they belong to the true God Whose knowledge of the future proves His uniqueness (A striking contrast to the deluded idol-worshipper who trembles in verse 11b)

The Folly of Idolatry (9-20)

- ❑ (9-11) Idol worship is futile, unprofitable, and puts the idol worshippers to shame (the craftsmen are mere men)
- ❑ (12) There would be no god if the would-be worshipper had not made it himself!
- ❑ (13) False worship trades the incomparable Creator for a man-made idol fashioned like a man, the creature
- ❑ (14-17a) The incomparable uniqueness of the one true God versus the foolish use of and worship of common-place, every day materials
- ❑ (17b) The idolater bows down and worships a lifeless, powerless, uncaring piece of wood and asks it to 'Deliver me, for you (wood) are my god.' (how utterly foolish!)
- ❑ (18) Because of the sin of idolatry, God has smeared over their eyes so they cannot see
- ❑ (19) "An abomination" is the label God assigns to their idolatrous practices
- ❑ (20) The idolater's deceived heart has turned him aside, and he cannot deliver himself

Just One God Is He

From 'Sir Oliver's Song' (songs for children about the 10 Commandments)

Verse 1:

Some people chop up cedar wood
Then do strange things I've never understood
With half of the wood they cook their food
And with half they make a god

How can you worship cedar wood?
How could it ever possibly be good?
**If the tree could think it would have found
A way you couldn't chop it down**

Chorus 1:

**Just one God is He
He made the world and all we see
Greater than a tree so think before you worship wood**

Just One God is He [cont'd]

Verse 2:

Some people paint a picture fair
Then just to see if the picture cares
They tell it everything they want
Then before it humbly bow

How can you worship a picture fair
On paper you can easily tear?

**If it had any power at all
It would climb right off the wall**

Chorus 2:

**Just one God is He, He made the world and all we see
Greater far than these
So think before you worship a statue or a picture or anything else but Him**

Written by Sherry Saunders Powell

©Copyright 1979 Sparrow Song (a div. of EMI Christian Music Publishing))(Admin. by BMG Music Publishing) / Careers-BMG Music Publishing, Inc. (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing))(Admin. by BMG Music Publishing) / Candle Company Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing))(Admin. by BMG Music Publishing)

God Forgives, Redeems, Delivers, and Restores (21-28)

- **A Call to Remember** These Things---
 - (21a) Israel is God's servant (sovereign election)
 - (21b) God will never forget them (eternal security)
 - (22a) God has wiped out their transgressions (complete forgiveness)
- **A Call to Return to the Lord God---**
 - (22b) Jehovah has redeemed them (redemption)
- **A Call to Rejoice**
 - (23) Calling upon the heavens & earth to rejoice because God has redeemed Jacob, and in Israel He shows forth His glory
 - (24) God made all things by Himself without the aid of anyone "by Myself"
 - (25) God makes fools out of diviners, and frustrates the plans of the so-called wise
 - Through the prophets, His messengers, God predicts what will come to pass: (26-28)
 - (26a) He said to Jerusalem, "She shall be inhabited!"
 - (26b) The cities of Judah, "They shall be built" and "...will raise up her ruins again."
 - (27a) The depth of the sea will, "Be dried up!"
 - (28a) And God says of Cyrus, "He is My shepherd! And he will perform all My desire."

Implications:

1. When we see the many gracious uses of the word “But” in the bible, we should count our many blessings that we serve a merciful, forgiving God! 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Ephesians 2:1-4 Titus 3:3-5
2. Rest & find comfort in our great God Who knows all things, & perfectly orchestrates every aspect of our lives. Psalm 115
3. Be in awe of our incomparable God Whose uniqueness also gives us every reason not to be afraid, to fully trust in Him, to hope in His promises, and to worship Him alone.
4. Be careful to keep yourselves from idols – anything that attempts to pull your heart away from Christ, our Savior. 1 John 5:21 1 Corinthians 10: 1-14
5. Be a faithful witness to Jesus Christ, the faithful and true God, foretold of in the book of Isaiah!