

Jeremiah 10

Read Jeremiah 10:1-5: We are not supposed to *learn the ways of the world*. If you remove God from men's thinking it gets confusing and random. The Bible tells us that we revert to an animal-like reasoning and to a heartless existence. The correlations drawn from godless minds are like a broken compass. The word used here for learning worldly methods is '*lamad*' (H 3925). It means to teach, observe customs, to apply diligence and gain expertise and become skillful at.

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. (1 John 2:15-17)

The question becomes; how much we should learn about the Woke Movement, Islam, transgenderism, and manmade schools of thought? Do we need to become experts in what is wrong to evangelize people who are under a strange belief system? It is best to become skilled in the truth. Becoming an expert in what is a lie has limited value.

We should not substitute time in daily devotionals and commentaries for God's word. All manmade take offs from God's word have at least a small element of error. Commentaries and daily devotionals are valuable...but unfortunately many people use them instead of scripture. They are not a substitute for *the uncut stuff*.

How could a rational person manufacture an idol, and expect to gain anything? The problem is that our desire can overtop our logic. Our will to have our way can block out the incoming light, to avoid interruptions in sin. "*Don't interrupt me with the facts, I am busy trying to sin over here!*" We were built to worship something. How convenient is it to worship something that tells us to do whatever we feel like? That is what an idol is.

Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen. (1 John 5:21)

We all seek to confirm our aspirations and desires in one way or another. Turning to the Bible is to confirm that we are going the wrong way. People do not want to do that. People look for *more affirming* maps to success.

One example mentioned in Jeremiah is how *men look at the stars*. It seemed like a guidebook to unknown gods. The Bible tells us what the stars and planets are. The developers of our modern planetary science were believers.

Let's see what some of main figures in the development of astronomy had to say for themselves. If you're unfamiliar with astronomy, these particular astronomers were all major figures in the development of astronomy. **Nicholas Copernicus** - the person responsible in modern times for the idea that the earth orbits the sun; Copernicus was a prominent churchman: "[The world] has been built for us by the Best and Most Orderly Workman of all" He pursued his research (he

said) “loving duty to seek the truth in all things, in so far as God has granted that to human reason.” [See Hummel 1986, “The Galileo Connection”] **Johannes Kepler** - the man who discovered the laws of planetary motion. A devout Lutheran and diligent student of the Bible. He was the person who discovered that Jesus was not born in 1 AD. “I believe Divine Providence intervened so that by chance I found what I could never obtain by my own efforts. I believe this all the more because I have constantly prayed to God that I might succeed if what Copernicus said was true.” On his deathbed he said: “[my salvation lies] only and alone on the services of Jesus Christ.” [See Hummel 1986]. **Galileo Galilei** -- the first person to publish astronomical results obtained with a telescope. Opened up a whole new realm of astronomy. Many discoveries. He acquired many scientific enemies who eventually got even by bringing him before the inquisition since they couldn't win on scientific grounds. It is important to understand that Galileo's appearance before the inquisition was not a simple case of “the church against progress in science”. The Roman Catholic Church was in fact quite divided over the issues in the Galileo case. Galileo never blamed the Roman Catholic Church for what happened but blamed his fellow university professors instead. Here are some of his views on science and Christianity: “The Holy Bible and the phenomena of nature proceed alike from the Divine Word...God is known...by Nature in His works and by doctrine in His revealed word.” “The Bible teaches how one goes to Heaven, now how the heavens go.” [See Hummel 1986]. **Sir Isaac Newton** - Derived the theory of (“Newtonian”) gravity. Made the first reflecting telescope. Co-inventor of calculus. Many other contributions to science. Newton was a complex and unappealing character and he was unorthodox in his beliefs, but he wrote more on Biblical subjects than on everything else he did all put together. He published valuable contributions to religious knowledge (esp. on interpreting Biblical prophecy). “There are more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history.” [Biblical prophecy was not intended by God to] “gratify men's curiosities by enabling them to foretell things” but rather that: “after they are fulfilled, they might be interpreted by events...The events of things predicted many ages before, will then be a convincing argument that the world is governed by Providence.” One of Newton's views of his own greatest published work he expressed as follows: “When I wrote my treatise about our Systeme, I had an eye upon such Principles as might work with considering men for the belief of a deity & nothing can rejoice me more than to find it useful for that purpose.” [See Hummel 1986] **Sir William Herschel** - discoverer of the planet Uranus, but more famous among modern astrophysicists as the father of stellar and galactic astronomy. “All human discoveries seem to be made only for the purpose of confirming more and more strongly the truths in the sacred scriptures.” [Quoted by H.H. Halley 1965, “Halley's Bible Handbook” 24th ed., p.19] **Albert Einstein** - developer of the theory of relativity. It should be emphasized that he was not a man of orthodox beliefs, but he believed that science and religion needed each other and that “science without religion is lame”. He also said: “Everyone who is seriously involved in the pursuit of science becomes convinced that a spirit is manifest in the laws of the universe--a spirit vastly superior to that of men...” [“Albert Einstein: The Human Side”, Princeton University Press] “The highest principles for our aspirations and judgments are given to us in the Jewish Christian religious tradition.” [Address to Princeton Theological Seminary,

May 19, 1939. Published in “Out of My Later Years” Philosophical Library, 1950] “What is the meaning of human life, or of organic life altogether? To answer this question at all implies a religion. Is there any sense then, you ask, in putting it? I answer, the man who regards his own life and that of his fellow creatures as meaningless is not merely unfortunate but almost disqualified for life.” [“The World as I See It”, Philosophical Library, 1949] “Being a lover of freedom, when the [anti-Nazi] revolution came to Germany, I looked to the universities to defend it, knowing that they had always boasted of their devotion to the cause of truth; but, no, the universities immediately were silenced. Then I looked to the great editors of the newspapers whose flaming editorials in days gone by had proclaimed their love of freedom; but they, like the universities, were silenced in a few short weeks. Only the Church stood squarely across the path of Hitler's campaign for suppressing truth. I never had any special interest in the Church before, but now I feel a great affection and admiration because the Church alone has had the courage and persistence to stand for intellectual truth and moral freedom. I am forced thus to confess that what I once despised I now praise unreservedly.” [Interview in Time magazine, Dec. 23, 1940, p. 38]

Read Jeremiah 10:6-16: Anybody who is thinking right can clearly see that Jesus is LORD; and that Jehovah God is the only god. All of this stuff that we gravitate towards is like a disease that causes you to lose track of reality, and chase what harms you. Anything else is imaginary.

Read Jeremiah 10:17-25 : This is a description of how man has to be taken down a few notches to see straight. Our imagination and desire for selfish things just overpowers our other navigation systems. There is one God. He can give us an excellent life; if we stick with the owner's manual.

This chapter clearly tells us that our compass is just wrong. That explains so much. We see Elon Musk or Bill Gates as the way to go...but their lives have a ton of bad stuff too. It is an image or a painting.

Nobody wants to be taken out behind the woodpile, but we need to ask God to straighten us out. It is like the drunk driver who pauses for a second, but still feels that he is in control.