

Jeremiah 10

God is telling us not to go the way of this world. There are worldly-customs of corruption. God calls us to holiness. As we grow up; we lose our childlike straight-forward black-and-white views. We trade simple-apparent truth for what we want truth to be. The more we want something, the more our minds bend to accommodate it. The way of this world has always been driven by self-will. Eve learned the perils of self-will. It subjected her to a lesser role and diminished influence. Cain was driven by self-will. Self-will was toxic to him and those around him. The ironic thing is that our imaginary solutions and self-directed schemes take us further away from peace of mind and healing. We are self-deceived. We actually do not know what is happening; yet we are self-confident.

Holiness is the opposite of self will. God frequently calls us out of our comfort zones. We are to frequently go against this world's customs. Getting a handle on our desires requires intervention from the Holy Spirit. Excessive desires produce even more contrived solutions. We struggle to go the wrong way because our compass is off. The key to this chapter is in verse 23:

O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walks to direct his steps. (Jeremiah 10:23)

What happens to our logic when men remove any Biblical grounding? We laugh at history; when people worshipped totem poles. We do not use wooden idols these days; but we do see people creating ridiculous rules and baseless beliefs. We are creating new ethical codes and declare them to be moral. For example: homosexual rights. They try make us all bow down to their strange priorities.

Read Jeremiah 10:1-2: We are told not to be contaminated by this world's views. We are set apart and saved; but we pick up worldly habits and have lapses in godly living. We need to continually restore fellowship with God.

Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; -He arose from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. -After that he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. -Then he came to Simon Peter: and Peter said to him, Lord, do you wash my feet? -Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do you don't know now; but you shalt know hereafter. -Peter said to him, You shall never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, you have no part with me. -Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. -Jesus said to him, He that is washed has no need except to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. (john 13:3-10)

We need to keep a clear mind; and wash our feet (repent) daily. Holiness can mean that we have to separate from the culture in some ways. It is no longer about me or what I want to do. I represent a great cause and a perfect king. We need to completely eliminate anything that pulls us away from God.

Take heed to yourself that you be not snared by following them, after that they are destroyed from before you; and that you enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? Even so will I do likewise to you. You shall not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hates, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods. -Whatever thing I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it. (Deuteronomy 12:30-32)

Being close to God means fewer surprises. Fellowship with God is all about communication and appreciation. We are not to be shocked when God rocks the world or our culture. We are to be expecting it.

Specifically (in these end times) we are not to overly-regard natural phenomenon in the universe:

And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou see the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, should

be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven. Deuteronomy 4:19)

Read Jeremiah 10:3-5: We are all working hard to solve our problems by taking things into our hands. It is a fine line between making a full effort; and pushing through God's closed doors. We cannot simply lay back and wait to be rescued. Once we struggle to establish a solution it can often require a considerable effort to maintain our course. We are promised that we will have tribulations in this life; and we will have sweat to eat. As we grow in fellowship with God we need to discern the difference between a good healthy test verses our blindly rushing in the wrong direction. Knowing God's will on a matter can often be very difficult to figure out. The solution is the means; not the decision. In other words, pray for direction and signs the whole way. You can't go wrong if you do it with him.

Biblical culture was saturated with self-styled gods. The most-telling fact is that these gods agreed with their maker. Gods who promote fornication or drunkenness or war or riches are nothing more than an extension of our own lusts. Idol-making involved cutting down a tree, and carving it. Then it was overlaid with precious metals and jewelry to disguise the fact that it is a log. We also disguise our underlying facts; and present our ideas in a way that will have the most influence. I find myself spinning facts in a way that supports my position; instead of merely reporting the facts. The fact that it was a specially-selected log does not make it more useful. After that, the image needed to be staked down so that it wouldn't tip over. It was very heavy to move when the family needed to move on. Our lesson here is that if something is a pain to establish and maintain it might not be from God.

Idol worship then compares to taking matters into our own hands now.

Read Jeremiah 10:6-11: These verses clearly tell us that there is only one God in the universe. We should be in awe of his greatness and worship him if we are thinking right. All of the fabricated gods are ridiculous and imaginary. Personalized solutions suggest that we think that we are like God. Putting fancy clothes on a manikin is child's play. A primary theme of the Old Testament is the destruction of idols. Sometimes desperation drives us to find good-luck methods. We should be laying these problems at God's feet. God destroyed Egypt's idols before the whole world. He does this for unbelievers and believers alike. All we have to do is look at the plagues of our culture to trace it back to the wiping out of our gods. We have taken the scriptures out of the media and school and government. Everything is going haywire. We are all about money now. We chose our 401 (k) and investments and a future with Bill Clinton; instead of moral leadership. What happened next? The stock market was cut in half in a day. Today we are also caught up into social media and electronic devices, and tools of technology. They are convenient until we lose our power grid or get hacked. We are much-less able to survive a power grid loss than the people of the 1800's.

The scriptures are telling us that we do not know anything except for what God tells us. We do not have a sense of direction either.

Read Jeremiah 10: 16-23: God is revealing his personal anguish over our sin and failure.

And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me. -And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? -And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecute. (Acts 22:6-8)

The point of this whole chapter is that we do not know anything or have any power. We are dependent on God for any logic or

direction. Fighting God's will seem crazy when you consider the reality of that notion.

Read Jeremiah 10:24-25: The continual provocation of unbelievers refreshes our need for God to deliver us.