

Jeremiah 10:1-25 **Decorated Trees & Idolatry /vs / True and Living God**

Way of the Gentiles Forbidden

1 Hear the word which the Lord speaks to you, O house of Israel.

2 Thus says the Lord:

"Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; Do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, For the Gentiles are dismayed at them.

3 For the customs of the peoples are futile; For one cuts a tree from the forest, The work of the hands of the workman, with the ax.

4 They decorate it with silver and gold; They fasten it with nails and hammers So that it will not topple.

5 They are upright, like a palm tree, And they cannot speak; They must be carried, Because they cannot go by themselves. Do not be afraid of them, For they cannot do evil, Nor can they do any good."

None like Yahweh

6 Inasmuch as there is none like You, O Lord (You are great, and Your name is great in might),

7 Who would not fear You, O King of the nations? For this is Your rightful due. For among all the wise men of the nations, And in all their kingdoms, There is none like You.

Worthlessness of Idols

8 But they are altogether dull-hearted and foolish; A wooden idol is a worthless doctrine.

9 Silver is beaten into plates; It is brought from Tarshish, And gold from Uphaz, The work of the craftsman And of the hands of the metalsmith; Blue and purple are their clothing; They are all the work of skillful men.

None like Yahweh

10 But the Lord is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation.

11 Thus you shall say to them: "The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under these heavens."

12 He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, And has stretched out the heavens at His discretion.

13 When He utters His voice, There is a multitude of waters in the heavens:" And He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth. He makes lightning for the rain, He brings the wind out of His treasures."

Worthlessness of Idols

14 Everyone is dull-hearted, without knowledge; Every metalsmith is put to shame by an image; For his molded image is falsehood, And there is no breath in them.

15 They are futile, a work of errors; In the time of their punishment they shall perish.

None like Yahweh

16 The Portion of Jacob is not like them, For He is the Maker of all things, And Israel is the tribe of His inheritance; The Lord of hosts is His name.

The Coming Captivity of Judah

17 Gather up your wares from the land, O inhabitant of the fortress!

18 For thus says the Lord:

"Behold, I will throw out at this time The inhabitants of the land, And will distress them, That they may find it so."

Lamentation for coming destruction

19 Woe is me for my hurt! My wound is severe. But I say, "Truly this is an infirmity, And I must bear it."

20 My tent is plundered, And all my cords are broken; My children have gone from me, And they are no more. There is no one to pitch my tent anymore, Or set up my curtains.

Failure of Israel's leaders Invites destruction from the North

21 For the shepherds have become dull-hearted, And have not sought the Lord; Therefore they shall not prosper, And all their flocks shall be scattered.

22 Behold, the noise of the report has come, And a great commotion out of the north country, To make the cities of Judah desolate, a den of jackals.

Prayer of Jeremiah

23 O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

24 O Lord, correct me, but with justice; Not in Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing.

25 Pour out Your fury on the Gentiles, who do not know You, And on the families who do not call on Your name; For they have eaten up Jacob, Devoured him and consumed him, And made his dwelling place desolate.

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Facts Revealed:

Way of the Gentiles Forbidden

✧ 1 Hear the word which Yahweh (the Lord) speaks to you, O house of Israel.

2 Thus says Yahweh (the Lord):

"Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; Do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, For the Gentiles are dismayed at them.

(Decorated Tree)

3 For the customs of the peoples are futile; For one cuts a tree from the forest, The work of the hands of the workman, with the ax.

4 They decorate it with silver and gold; They fasten it with nails and hammers So that it will not topple.

5 They are upright, like a palm tree, And they cannot speak; They must be carried, Because they cannot go by themselves. Do not be afraid of them, For they cannot do evil, Nor can they do any good." [\[Jeremiah 10:1-5\]](#)

✧ Perfect description of the decorated tree that people put presents under and sing to it in worship.

✧ There is no value in it, because it can do no evil or good.

✧ It is only a burden that must be carried and set up. It cannot speak, nor move about on its own, It is absolutely useless.

None like Yahweh

- ✧ Inasmuch as there is none like You, O Yahweh (Lord) (You are great, and Your name is great in might),
Who would not fear You, O King of the nations? For this is Your rightful due. For among all the wise men of the nations, And in all their kingdoms, There is none like You. [Jeremiah 10:6-7]

Worthlessness of Idols

- ✧ But they are altogether dull-hearted and foolish; A wooden idol is a worthless doctrine. Silver is beaten into plates; It is brought from Tarshish, And gold from Uphaz, The work of the craftsman And of the hands of the metalsmith; Blue and purple are their clothing; They are all the work of skillful men. [Jeremiah 10:8-9]
- ✧ Like the decorated tree, the idols can do nothing good or evil. They are altogether useless work of the hands of men.

None like Yahweh

- ✧ But Yahweh (the Lord) is the true Elohiym (God); He is the living Elohiym (God) and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation.
Thus you shall say to them: "The elahayaa (gods) that have not made the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under these heavens."

He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, And has stretched out the heavens at His discretion.

When He utters His voice, There is a multitude of waters in the heavens:" And He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth. He makes lightning for the rain, He brings the wind out of His treasuries." [Jeremiah 10:10-13]

- ✧ Yahweh is the true and living God and everlasting King who made and controls all of creation.
- ✧ At His wrath the earth will tremble.
- ✧ Nations cannot endure His indignation.
- ✧ Any so called gods who have not created the heavens and earth will certainly be destroyed and are not worthy to be considered as gods.
- ✧ When Yahweh speaks, all created things respond at His word including the lightning and wind.

Worthlessness of Idols

- ✧ Everyone is dull-hearted, without knowledge; Every metalsmith is put to shame by an image; For his molded image is falsehood, And there is no breath in them.
They are futile, a work of errors; In the time of their punishment they shall perish. [Jeremiah 10:14-15]
- ✧ Idols are falsehood and deceit without life, breath, or knowledge.
- ✧ Those who turn to idols are dull hearted and ignorant.
- ✧ Those who make the images will be put to shame by their images.
- ✧ Idols are futile works of error that will perish in the time of judgment.

None like Yahweh

- ✧ The Portion of Jacob is not like them, For He is the Maker of all things, And Israel is the tribe of His inheritance; **Yahweh Tsebvta** (The Lord of hosts) **is His name**. [Jeremiah 10:16]
- ✧ God introduced Himself to Moses with the name of Yahweh, not known to Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob, who knew Him as El Shadday (God Almighty). [Exodus 6:2-3]

The Coming Captivity of Judah

- ✧ Gather up your wares from the land, O inhabitant of the fortress!
For thus says Yahweh (the Lord):

"Behold, I will throw out at this time The inhabitants of the land, And will distress them, That they may find it so." [\[Jeremiah 10:17-18\]](#)

✧ Yahweh calls for the people to prepare for leaving the land of Israel because He will deliver them to conquerors who carry them away captive and distress them.

Lamentation for coming destruction

✧ Woe is me for my hurt! My wound is severe. But I say, "Truly this is an infirmity, And I must bear it."

My tent is plundered, And all my cords are broken; My children have gone from me, And they are no more. There is no one to pitch my tent anymore, Or set up my curtains. [\[Jeremiah 10:19-20\]](#)

✧ Jeremiah expressed total grief at the prospect of the destruction of his people and desolation of the land foretold by the message from God.

Failure of Israel's leaders Invites destruction from the North

✧ For the shepherds have become dull-hearted, And have not sought Yahweh (the Lord); Therefore they shall not prosper, And all their flocks shall be scattered.

Behold, the noise of the report has come, And a great commotion out of the north country, To make the cities of Judah desolate, a den of jackals. [\[Jeremiah 10:21-22\]](#)

✧ The reason for the coming destruction is the failure of the leaders of the nation who have turned from Yahweh resulting in the coming desolation and scattering of the people.

Prayer of Jeremiah

✧ O Yahweh (Lord), I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

O Yahweh (Lord), correct me, but with justice; Not in Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing.

Pour out Your fury on the Gentiles, who do not know You, And on the families who do not call on Your name; For they have eaten up Jacob, Devoured him and consumed him, And made his dwelling place desolate. [\[Jeremiah 10:23-25\]](#)

✧ This prayer shows the heart of a man to whom the people will not listen, and who knows the coming desolation because of their rejection of Yahweh the only One who longed to help and save them.

✧ Mankind cannot rightly direct his own way without the guidance of his Creator.