

Jeremiah 10

The first 16 verses has been referred to as "one of the basic passages on idolatry in the whole Bible." The impotency of idolatry is clearly shown in these verses. These verses are a rebuke to the people for their sin of idolatry and is an interlude before the coming judgment of exile is continued from chapter 9 in verse 17.

- 1 Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel:**
2 Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

The first two verses start out with the admonition to "Hear the word of the LORD" and "Thus saith the LORD." The people of Israel are being told, in unequivocal terms, to listen to what God says and

Two things God's people are instructed about:

1. Learn not the way of the heathen
2. Don't be dismayed at the signs of heaven (as the heathen are dismayed at them)

This has to do with things such as astrology where people slavishly follow the "messages" in heavenly bodies.

"Astrology, type of divination that involves the forecasting of earthly and human events through the observation and interpretation of the fixed stars, the Sun, the Moon, and the planets. Devotees believe that an understanding of the influence of the planets and stars on earthly affairs allows them to both predict and affect the destinies of individuals, groups, and nations. Though often regarded as a science throughout its history, astrology is widely considered today to be diametrically opposed to the findings and theories of modern Western science." <https://www.britannica.com/topic/astrology>

What about John Hagee and Jonathan Cahn's use of the *Four Blood Moons*? Is this being "dismayed at the signs of heaven?" So what about Cahn's latest prophetic pronouncements?

"When you look at the judgment of Judah, the southern kingdom that had rebelled against God, there was a day that sealed that judgment," Cahn explained. "It was the day the walls of the city were breached by the Babylonians." Once that happened, Cahn said, "Judah's hedge of protection was gone. The king fled the city—and those who were supposed to be defending the walls took off, so the defense was broken through.

"Among other revelations, Cahn—in *The Harbinger II: The Return*—pinpoints a specific day on the Hebrew calendar that brims with significance. And he reveals how America is following a template from Jeremiah 39 that leads to judgment.

Added Cahn, "It happened on the ninth day of the fourth month. The fourth month of the Hebrew year is Tammuz, so the Ninth of Tammuz was the day that the end began. It became a day of sorrow, fasting and mourning—the day that sealed the destruction of Judah."

Cahn then revealed how this occurrence foreshadowed the breaking of America's own "hedge of protection." "For the first time in history, the Supreme Court redefined marriage. They basically struck down biblical, or traditional, marriage as it has always been. This is major," Cahn continued, "because God made marriage. If you change it, you're messing with a vessel of God. So what happened on that day in American history was gigantic, and it is still affecting all of us. It's affecting religious freedom. It's affecting everything."

Cahn is referring, of course, to June 26, 2015—the very date on the Hebrew calendar that is the Ninth of Tammuz. On that exact date, said Cahn, the Supreme Court insisted that the U.S. Constitution protects same-sex marriage—and "it's the day when the defenses of American civilization were gone. This is an absolute, gigantic warning."

CharismaNews, Jonathan Cahn Reveals the Biblical Foreshadowing of a Single Day—and the 'Only Hope for America', 1/4/2021

Why are his books best sellers when Cahn has been consistently proven to be wrong?

Perhaps the answer is found in verse 2 and the problem of the Israelites: "**Learn not the way of the heathen.**" Most Christians, let alone the non-Christian, today are more influenced by our heathen culture than the word of God.

"According to a study, 58 per cent of 18-24-year-old Americans believe astrology is scientific." <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/horoscopes-millennials-why-do-so-many-believe-zodiac-star-signs-a7531806.html>

- 3 For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe.**
- 4 They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.**

Do these verses sound like a rebuke of Christmas trees? Yes, but these verses are not speaking of the sinfulness of having a Christmas tree (unless you worship it).

What these verses speak of is the futility/emptiness of worshipping things made with your hands.

- 5 They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good.**

Idols don't speak, can't walk, nor can they do good or evil.

- 6 Forasmuch as there is none like unto thee, O LORD; thou art great, and thy name is great in might.**
- 7 Who would not fear thee, O King of nations? for to thee doth it appertain: forasmuch as among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like unto thee.**

The God of Israel is great and there is none comparable. Notice, God is "**King of nations.**" As King, He is sovereign, and will deal with all nations.

It should be noted that the term "sovereignty" or "sovereign" is not used in the Bible. "King" is used oftentimes in the Bible (in 1,919 verses according to my Bible program search tool - the plural is used in an additional 309 verses), and it is acknowledged that a "king" is "sovereign" over his subjects. But, an earthly king being sovereign doesn't mean he controls every aspect of his subjects life.

"A King is sovereign because he has the right to rule over his realm. He is not sovereign because he gets to determine in advance every action his subjects will take. He might say, 'In my kingdom there shall be peace.' But his subjects can still disobey him and do violence. However, it will mean that the King can banish them from his kingdom because... well, he's the King, and he gets to say what the kingdom will be like."

<http://thinktheology.org/2013/09/27/god-our-sovereign-king/>

"God's sovereignty, as properly (biblically) understood means that God rules over men and angels and sometimes limits the *effects* of their free will. This means that God is sovereign in the same sense that a human king is sovereign, only on a much grander scale. A king does not make the *choices* of the people; rather, people make their own choices but are subject to the king's punishment if they do evil (or conversely, subject to the king's blessing if they are righteous)." Daniel Gracely, Calvinism: A Closer Look, page 111

"God is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent, exercising His authority over His creatures and His universe according to His own will - but NEVER acting outside the self-imposed limitations of His character as revealed in His Word.

"A sovereign God is free to act as He will and "none can stay His hand or say to Him - What doest thou?" (Daniel 4:35). This means He is bound by neither human reason nor arbitrary definitions of men. Within this sovereignty lies a great deal of latitude. He can create the potential for evil without being the source of evil, (Isaiah 45:7). He can permit temptation which could not be executed without His permission, (Job 1:12), and yet, have no personal responsibility whatsoever in the actual temptation. Although He has foreknowledge and all power, He can permit the rebellion of Satan and the Fall of Man without any self-incrimination for the introduction of evil into this world.

"The suggestion of a careful reading of the Bible is that God can have dominion over all His creation without causing its actions. Sovereign dominion allows for God to set boundaries upon man, Satan, his demons, and creation itself. As the Sovereign God He has the power to obliterate Satan instantly. So long as He does not do so, it must be assumed that He has a higher purpose and a greater good in view. It must also be assumed that, while Satan is being permitted to act according to his own will, there are boundaries beyond which his evil designs may not go. That which is true of the rebel Satan is equally true of the rebel Man. The only alternative to this suggestion is that instead of sovereign dominion, God exercises sovereign *implementation*. This suggests that in a past eternity, God predetermined every thought, word, and deed to be eventually executed by both Man and Satan. Anyone who believes in the absolute holiness of God must reject this latter view"

Kent Kelly, Inside the TULIP Controversy, pg. 60-62, 1986

There is no difference with God as King (Sovereign) and His rule, and man as king (sovereign) and his rule. The issue is authority, not programmed obedience.

The basic teaching here is that God, who is King, is infinitely wiser than all the "intellectuals" of the world. EVERY DISCIPLINE OF LIFE must be understood from the clear teaching of the Word of God:

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| 1. | Is it a baby or a fetus in the womb? | God says baby - Psalm 139:13-17. |
| 2. | Is abortion the right of a woman? | God says killing a baby, born or unborn, is murder - Exodus 21:22-25 prescribes the same penalty — death — for someone who causes the death of a baby in the womb as for someone who commits murder. |
| 3. | Is sex determined at birth or by cultural decisions? | God says at birth - Matthew 19:4. |
| 4. | Is marriage between two men or two women? | God says it is between a man and a woman - Genesis 2:24, Ephesians 5:31. |
| 5. | Is (radical) environmentalism justified? | |

"There is a difference between the biblical view of the environment and the political movement known as "environmentalism." Understanding this difference will shape a Christian's view of environmentalism. The Bible is clear that the earth and everything in it was given by God to man to rule over and subdue. "And God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth'" (Genesis 1:28)."
<https://www.gotquestions.org/environmentalism-Christian.html>

"Mark Musser's research into the Nazi elements in the environmental movement is unique and absolutely needed to understand current events. He demonstrates that radical environmentalism is an effort to control peoples' lives and that the Nazis used it for that purpose. Ominously, he also proves that the Nazis used environmentalism to target groups of people they wanted to eliminate from the face of the earth. We cannot allow government to acquire this kind of power again. - Charles Clough"
Mark Musser, Nazi Oaks, Advantage Books, 2010, page 5

As "King of nations" God has the authority, the power, and the obligation to judge Israel for her sins and nations of the world for their sins.

- * Since the LORD is "King of [the USA]," how should believers (children of the King) respond to the evils of the USA?
- * Should we base what we do on the word of God or on the constitution of the USA?
- * When there is conflict in what we should do between the Bible and the constitution, which do we obey?

8 But they are altogether brutish and foolish: the stock is a doctrine of vanities.

The idols of the nations are senseless and foolish. "Stock" speaks of the wood idols are made from and the belief in idolatry is worthless.

9 Silver spread into plates is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz, the work of the workman, and of the hands of the founder: blue and purple is their clothing: they are all the work of cunning men.

Idols might also be crafted from silver, gold, fine linen, but at best they are work of skilled craftsmen but impotent idols.

10 But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.

The God of Israel is the only true, living God, and the eternal king.

"Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods."
Galatians 4:8

Nations can not avert or stand in the day of His wrath and indignation.

11 Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens.

Are we to declare that Allah, the false god of Mormons, the false god of Jehovah Witnesses, etc. are false gods and their very name shall one day perish? YES.

12 He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.

Are we to declare that the God of Israel is the one true God who created the heavens and the earth? YES

13 When he uttereth his voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures.

When the God of Israel speaks He controls things such as the weather.

14 Every man is brutish in his knowledge: every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image is falsehood, and there is no breath in them.

15 They are vanity, and the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish.

Unsaved people are senseless (*brutish*) when it comes to things about God. They believe lies about their worthless god (religion) and in due time they will perish in their foolishness.

16 The portion of Jacob is not like them: for he is the former of all things; and Israel is the rod of his inheritance: The LORD of hosts is his name.

The God of Israel is different from all other gods.

17 Gather up thy wares out of the land, O inhabitant of the fortress.

18 For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will sling out the inhabitants of the land at this once, and will distress them, that they may find it so.

In these verses God returns to His promise of judgment upon Israel. His judgment will fall upon Israel because of her idolatry and forsaking the God of Israel.

19 Woe is me for my hurt! my wound is grievous: but I said, Truly this is a grief, and I must bear it.

20 My tabernacle is spoiled, and all my cords are broken: my children are gone forth of me, and they are not: there is none to stretch forth my tent any more, and to set up my curtains.

21 For the pastors are become brutish, and have not sought the LORD: therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered.

22 Behold, the noise of the bruit is come, and a great commotion out of the north country, to make the cities of Judah desolate, and a den of dragons.

Once again Jeremiah hurts for his people and nation. There is none in the nation that can bring repentance and healing. The spiritual leaders have no understanding (*brutish*) and don't seek the LORD. As a result the flock, the nation, will be scattered. Out of the north country speaks of Babylon.

23 O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

24 O LORD, correct me, but with judgment; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing.

Jeremiah recognizes that man is helpless in directing his steps (**the way of man is not in himself**) but is in need of divine enablement to live correctly (salvation).

Jeremiah pleads that God judge him (and the nation) based on justice/mercy and not in anger.

25 Pour out thy fury upon the heathen that know thee not, and upon the families that call not on thy name: for they have eaten up Jacob, and devoured him, and consumed him, and have made his habitation desolate.

This is read every year at Passover in the Elijah section of the haggadah. It is also found in Psalm 79:6-7

"Pour out thy wrath upon the heathen that have not known Thee, and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon thy name. For they have devoured Jacob and laid waste his dwelling-place.