

So there is a God, but which one? (19)

In our last lesson, we gave evidence for the existence of God. The design of the universe and its complex life forms demand that an intelligent being DESIGNED it (See Romans 1:18-20). One of our readers responded with the following question: "So we can tell there is a God by seeing what he made (Romans 1:18-20), but which God is it"?

Several world religions have a belief in a God who created the world. Of course, all of my lessons are designed to give EVIDENCE that the God described in the Bible is the ONLY TRUE GOD.

If the Bible is true, then what it teaches about God and man is true. So I will spend most of my time educating people about the Bible and giving evidence that it came from a supernatural source.

Now some people maintain that all world religions have some truth and they are all equally good or bad. They reason that since the world religions are basically equal, we should not try to choose one over the other. Though all religions may teach some truth, I personally don't want one that is based on superstition and myth. I don't want truth mixed with lies. After all, most poisons are about 95% neutral material. It only takes a little poison to kill and a little falsehood to destroy your spiritual life.

If the Bible is true, there is no room for other "gods". If other "gods" are true then the "god" of the Bible is false! WHY? The Bible plainly teaches that there is only one God and actually makes fun of those who worship idols. If the Bible is wrong about this, then it can't be trusted on any other subject. Please study carefully the following statements from the Bible. Take the time to read them in your own language as well as the English.

Isaiah 44:9-20

All who make idols are nothing, and the things they treasure are worthless. Those who would speak up for them are blind; they are ignorant, to their own shame. (10) Who shapes a god and casts an idol, which can profit him nothing? (11) He and his kind will be put to shame; craftsmen are nothing but men. Let them all come together and take their stand; they will be brought down to terror and infamy. (12) The blacksmith takes a tool and works with it in the coals; he shapes an idol with hammers, he forges it with the might of his arm. He gets hungry and loses his strength; he drinks no water and grows faint. (13) The carpenter measures with a line and makes an outline with a marker; he roughs it out with chisels and marks it with compasses. He shapes it in the form of man, of man in all his glory, that it may dwell in a shrine. (14) He cut down cedars, or perhaps took a cypress or oak. He let it grow among the trees of the forest, or planted a pine, and the rain made it grow. (15) It is man's fuel for burning; some of it he takes and warms himself, he kindles a fire and bakes bread. But he also fashions a god and worships it; he makes an idol and bows down to it. (16) Half of the wood he burns in the fire; over it he prepares his meal, he roasts his meat and eats his fill. He also warms himself and says, "Ah! I am warm; I see the fire." (17) From the rest he makes a god, his idol; he bows down to it and worships. He prays to it and says,

"Save me; you are my god." (18) They know nothing, they understand nothing; their eyes are plastered over so they cannot see, and their minds closed so they cannot understand. (19) No one stops to think, no one has the knowledge or understanding to say, "Half of it I used for fuel; I even baked bread over its coals, I roasted meat and I ate. Shall I make a detestable thing from what is left? Shall I bow down to a block of wood?" (20) He feeds on ashes, a deluded heart misleads him; he cannot save himself, or say, "Is not this thing in my right hand a lie?"

HOW DOES THE GOD OF THE BIBLE PROVE THAT HE IS THE ONLY GOD? He contends that he is the only one who can predict the future. Notice the challenge he makes to the idols and those who believe in them.

Isaiah 41:21-24

"Present your case," says the LORD. "Set forth your arguments," says Jacob's King. (22) "Bring in [your idols] to tell us what is going to happen. Tell us what the former things were, so that we may consider them and know their final outcome. Or declare to us the things to come, (23) tell us what the future holds, so we may know that you are gods. Do something, whether good or bad, so that we will be dismayed and filled with fear. (24) But you are less than nothing and your works are utterly worthless; he who chooses you is detestable.

What we will be doing in the coming weeks in this Bible Study is showing that the events that led to Jesus Christ were all planned out by God ahead of time. He wrote down his plans in what we know today as the Old Testament (the first 39 books of the Bible). These books were written between the years 1400 - 400 B.C. Everything came to pass just like the first 39 books predicted. There is no other religion in the world that has this kind of evidence for their religion. God used the nation of Israel as a witness to record the evidence for all nations who lived after them to see.

- 1) The Bible in the book of Isaiah makes fun of an idol worshipper. What three things did the idol worshipper do with the same tree he cut down (See Isaiah 44:9-20)?
- 2) What does he say to the tree he just cut down? "_____ me, you are my _____."
- 3) The God of the Bible challenges those of other religions, "Tell us what the _____ holds" (Isaiah 44:23).
- 4) What nation became a witness to write down God's working in history and the prediction he made?