

Isaiah 44:6-11
Good Shepherd
July, 2023

Nebo – Ra – Molech – Xipe Totec (sheepheh toe tek) – Baal – Zeus – Apollos – Shiva – Jupiter – Inti – Allah - the Great Spirit – Mother Earth – Vishnu – Dagon - and Apu. These are names of different gods from different times and different places. Some are still worshiped today.

All these gods have one thing in common --- nothing, as in they can do nothing! They are only figments of human imagination.

If you compare them with each other, they are basically all the same. If you compare them with the Lord God, you will discover that there is no God like our God!

About 740 B.C. Isaiah, the prophet, had a vision of God sitting on His throne. The angels were singing, Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory! Later God said, I am the first and I am the last; apart from Me there is no God! In Hebrew the name “Lord” is Yahweh. Yahweh means “I am.” The Lord God is not restricted to a place or time. He is not the god of farming, or the god of war, or the god of hunting. Yahweh is not a figure made of wood nor is He like a stone buddha.

Yahweh is not the God of the Jews or the God of the USA. “I am” is what He is. He is the Great I Am, He is good, gracious, He is love, He is the King of kings, He is the Creator, He is our Redeemer.

What did the Assyrian gods, the Mayan gods or the gods of the American Indians do to save people from their sins? Nothing! People believed that their gods could give them rain so the crops would grow, they believed that their gods could protect them, but all those fake gods can't do anything!

- *What did the gods of Egypt do to protect the Egyptians the night*

God sent an angel to kill the first born of Egypt? Nothing!

- *What did the Assyrian gods do to protect the soldiers when God sent one angel who killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers? Nothing!*
- *What did all the man-made gods do to stop God from sending a flood to destroy the earth? Nothing!*
- *What will the fake gods do to help their people when Jesus comes to take believers to heaven and send the unbelievers to hell? Nothing!*

Made-up gods don't help people, they terrorize them. Moloch wanted his worshipers to put their children on the super hot iron arms of a Moloch statue! What parent would do that? Made-up gods had their followers cut themselves, starve themselves, and kill themselves. These do nothing because they are not real!

The ancient people made gods that brought fear and death to their followers. The gods people create today aren't much better. We sacrifice unborn children to the gods of “choice” and “convenience.” Some sacrifice the elderly to the god of “he would be a burden to me.” We give our time to the gods of Hollywood, leisure, and fun. We sacrifice our money to all sorts of grownup “toys.” We sacrifice God's Word to the god of “don't offend anyone.”

We sacrifice to our fake gods for sin's pleasure. What does God do? He rescues us. God knows something about us we often forget: We need help. We need to be rescued and God is the only One who can rescue us. God rescues us from the the Law we could not keep. He rescues us from pain, sorrow, sin and death. Pray to fake gods and see what they can do. I know that the Lord God helps! He has helped me often. He has been my Rock, my Tree, my Fortress and my Savior.

Job said, I know that my Redeemer lives. That means more than He is alive. It means that He is walking by our side, helping us and fighting for us! The Lord, the true God rules the army of heaven and fights for us!

- *Did Horus protect the army of Egypt as it drowned in the water of the Red Sea?*
- *Did the Inca gods keep their nation safe from the Spanish?*

- *Will money comfort you when the next recession comes along?*
 - *Will sports give you hope for eternal life when you are dying?*
 - *Will the gods of booze and drugs help you conquer the pain of life? NO!*
 - *Our God has been helping us since – forever!*
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- *God fought for us when He promised Adam and Eve a Savior.*
 - *Jesus fought for us at the cross when He carried our sins to hell.*
 - *Jesus fought Satan at the tomb, pushing him aside as Jesus left the tomb.*
 - *Jesus is with us as we fight against sin. He is there to offer us forgiveness when we fall into sin.*

The Lord says, Besides Me there is no god. Our God existed before the Romans, the Greeks, the Native Americans, the Hindus, and Chinese created their gods of wood, stone, and gold. The Lord God is not a myth. He is eternal, He has no beginning and no end.

Will the god called “money” stop us from getting cancer? Will a movie star lead us to heaven? When did facebook take away your blindness? When did a fishing pole, a baseball glove or a golf club save you from hell? Only the Lord God can do these things! Only He is the Alpha and the Omega. Only God had a plan in place to rescue you from hell before you were born!

God challenged all the fake gods of the world to predict the future. Who is like Me? He asks. God wants the fake gods to prove they exist by foretelling the future. Human beings try, but they can do nothing!

Only God makes promises and keeps them.

- *God promised to rescue Israel from slavery, and He did it!*
- *God promised to send a Savior and Jesus came.*
- *God promised that His Savior would suffer, die, and rise to life and He did!*
- *The disciples were witnesses. They shared the good news with*

other people. That good news was written down and we can read it until Jesus returns to take us home.

Why did the Canaanites sacrifice their children to Moloch? Why did the Aztecs skin their enemies alive? They thought they were doing wonderful things for their gods! Why do people abort their children today? They are afraid their children will mess up their life. Unbelievers should be afraid, because on the Last Day, Jesus will come and their future will be with Satan in hell!

We don't fear our God. We don't fear Jesus who loves us with a love that stretches into infinity. God tells us this morning, Don't be terrified or afraid. Is there a God besides Me? I know of none!

No matter what the future holds, the Lord is already there. He is the Rock on which we can safely stand. With the Lord God we find protection, comfort, peace, hope, and forgiveness. When the last human being is born, God will still be the only true God.

Our God is our King, our Redeemer, the Lord of Hosts, our Rock, the First and the Last. Trust in Him. Love Him. Worship Him. Man-made gods are nothing. The. Lord. God. is. everything!

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