

Words of Life

(September 17, 2007)

In that day a man will look to his Maker, and his eyes will have respect for the Holy One of Israel. He will not look to the altars, the work of his hands; He will not respect what his fingers have made, nor the wooden images nor the incense altars.

Isaiah 17:7,8

Isaiah 17 is a prophetic passage concerning the coming destruction of Damascus. Damascus was a pagan city in which the worship of false gods abounded. There were many who made their profit off the sale of carved or molded images which became objects of worship. As amazing as it seems people would actually believe there was a god with life in it behind the image they made that would help them in their time of need. How amazing is that? That is science fiction at its pinnacle! For someone to create something that then becomes greater than the one who created it is like something out of the twilight zone!

It is amazing how a single event can reveal the absurdity of worshipping a man made God. In this prophecy in Isaiah God uncovers the basic knowledge of truth that exists within man's heart. There is an instinctive awareness of the existence of a God that is bigger than man and bigger than any man made object. The thing that brings the truth to the surface is a catastrophic event. In this case, it was the overthrow of Damascus by the Assyrian armies in 732 BC. The Assyrians were a ruthless people and when they descended on Damascus fear gripped the people of the city. This caused the inhabitants of the city to call out to God their Maker, not god whom they had made. There was a big difference and being faced with death drew the difference out! They recognized immediately that their little puny man made idol gods were of no value when it came to their need to be rescued from the terrible brutality of this invading army.

We see the same thing happening today. All it takes is one shooter to walk into a school and start killing people, or one plane to fly into a building, or one tornado to pass through a town, and the prayers start shooting up to God. He is the One that can rescue and He is the One that gets prayed to. Men and women, students and teachers, young and old all call out to God. In the desperation of that situation there is absolutely NO hope in some kind of little pocket god. Can you imagine someone in a situation like that pulling a rabbit's foot out of their pocket and praying to that thing for their rescue? How ridiculous is that? No one in their right mind would do such a thing.

We are seeing a lot of catastrophic events in the world today. It seems that hardly a week goes by where there isn't another hurricane, earthquake, bridge collapse, terrorist attack, or the like. It seems to me that if we stop long enough to compare these events with Scripture, we just may see the final attempts of a loving God trying to get the people He has made, and counts precious, to turn to Him. Men so often want to blame God for these events when it may be that they are God's last means of getting men to turn to Him.

If you find yourself in a discussion with others about these current events and why God would allow such a thing, share with them these verses in Isaiah and how it just may be that God is desiring men to turn to the only true and living God.

God bless you as you continue to serve our God in these perilous days.

Pastor Ted.