

The Wrong God, The Wrong Cause **Isaiah 15-22**

For you have forgotten the God of your salvation, and have not remembered the Rock of your refuge.

Therefore, though you plant delightful plants and set the vine slips of a strange god, and though you make them grow on the day that you plant them, and make them blossom in the morning that you sow, yet the harvest will flee away in a day of grief and incurable pain.

Isaiah 17:10-11

- **The general setting: Chapters 15-22**
 - Assyria is threatening world domination
 - The rest of the kingdoms and nations repeatedly attempt alliances and treaties in order to counter the threat.
 - Egypt, Samaria, Judah, Edom, Moab, Syria, Cush
 - All but Judah conquered by Assyria
 - Babylon rises to power again
 - Formed from the remainder of the old Chaldean kingdom.
 - 626 BC, Nabopolassar becomes king and secedes from Assyrian control.
 - 612 BC, Nineveh destroyed.
 - Nebuchadnezzar, reign 605-562.
 - Under Nabonidus and Belshazzar, Babylon falls to the Medo-Persian king Cyrus in 539.
- **The general trends.**
 - From the time of Joshua's conquest of most of Canaan, the surrounding kingdoms began taking notice of God's providential treatment of the Israelites.
 - Blessing for faithful behavior.
 - Chastisement for unfaithful behavior.
 - But the cults and practices of the Canaanites were very seductive, and Egypt remained an attractive alternative to the hardship of the constant struggle.
 - The result was temporary alliances, conquests and counter conquests, rivalries, temporary treaties.
 - The mix of God and gods, the Temple and the asherim, became the ultimate weakness of Judah.
- **So, how does this relate to us?**
 - For the last 2000 years
 - What the world has witnessed.
 - The blessing of the West.
 - The domain of God's influence
 - The primary impulse of Christendom has ended up here. _____
 - **Syncretism:** the blending of God and gods.
 - The 20th century idea of God.
 - The suburban myth. _____
 - The many pathways myth. _____
 - Treaties and alliances.
 - Diluting the truth.
 - One God. _____
 - One form of salvation. _____
- **Two Cities, two attractions: Babylon and Jerusalem.**
 - Throughout Isaiah, though he preceded the halcyon days of Babylon, he made repeated mention of it, along with Jerusalem.
 - Throughout the entire Bible, these two cities appear at opposite ends of the spectrum, politically and spiritually.
 - The spiritual context.
 - **Jerusalem:** _____
 - **Babylon:** _____
- **Two Gods, two attractions: Yahweh and Lucifer.**
 - The God of Israel, historically associated with Jerusalem, also the God of Christianity.
 - **Yahweh:** _____
 - The god of Babylon, or the god of confusion, has been competing for the world's devotion.
 - **Baal-Lucifer:** _____
- **The odd rules of the competition.**
 - God takes one form, represents one doctrine of absolute standards, and offers one salvation. Not fair, but Just.
 - Satan, or Lucifer, takes on many forms, constantly changes the rules, and offers many pathways to destruction.

The Wrong God, The Wrong Cause Isaiah 15-22

For you have forgotten the God of your salvation, and have not remembered the Rock of your refuge.

Therefore, though you plant delightful plants and set the vine slips of a strange god, and though you make them grow on the day that you plant them, and make them blossom in the morning that you sow, yet the harvest will flee away in a day of grief and incurable pain.

Isaiah 17:10-11

- **The general setting: Chapters 15-22**
 - Assyria is threatening world domination
 - The rest of the kingdoms and nations repeatedly attempt alliances and treaties in order to counter the threat.
 - Egypt, Samaria, Judah, Edom, Moab, Syria, Cush
 - All but Judah conquered by Assyria
 - Babylon rises to power again
 - Formed from the remainder of the old Chaldean kingdom.
 - 626 BC, Nabopolassar becomes king and secedes from Assyrian control.
 - 612 BC, Nineveh destroyed.
 - Nebuchadnezzar, reign 605-562.
 - Under Nabonidus and Belshazzar, Babylon falls to the Medo-Persian king Cyrus in 539.
- **The general trends.**
 - From the time of Joshua's conquest of most of Canaan, the surrounding kingdoms began taking notice of God's providential treatment of the Israelites.
 - Blessing for faithful behavior.
 - Chastisement for unfaithful behavior.
 - But the cults and practices of the Canaanites were very seductive, and Egypt remained an attractive alternative to the hardship of the constant struggle.
 - The result was temporary alliances, conquests and counter conquests, rivalries, temporary treaties.

- The mix of God and gods, the Temple and the asherim, became the ultimate weakness of Judah.
- **So, how does this relate to us?**
 - For the last 2000 years
 - What the world has witnessed.
 - The _____ of the West.
 - The domain of God's influence
 - The primary impulse of Christendom has ended up _____.
 - **Syncretism:** the blending of God and gods.
 - The 20th century idea of God.
 - The _____ myth. _____
 - The _____ myth. _____
 - Treaties and alliances.
 - Diluting the truth.
 - _____ God. _____
 - _____ form of salvation. _____
 - **Two Cities, two attractions: Babylon and Jerusalem.**
 - Throughout Isaiah, though he preceded the halcyon days of Babylon, he made repeated mention of it, along with Jerusalem.
 - Throughout the entire Bible, these two cities appear at opposite ends of the spectrum, politically and spiritually.
 - The spiritual context.
 - **Jerusalem:** _____
 - **Babylon:** _____
 - **Two Gods, two attractions: Yahweh and Lucifer.**
 - The God of Israel, historically associated with Jerusalem, also the God of Christianity.
 - **Yahweh:** _____
 - The god of Babylon, or the god of confusion, has been competing for the world's devotion.
 - **Baal-Lucifer:** _____
 - **The odd rules of the competition.**
 - God takes one form, represents one doctrine of absolute standards, and offers one salvation.

- Satan, or Lucifer, takes on many forms, constantly changes the rules, and offers many pathways to destruction.

Timeline

BC

- 1925: Hittites conquer Babylon.
 1728: The Code of Hammurabi, the Great of Babylon.
 1650: Joseph and brothers in Egypt.
 1570: Beginning of New Kingdom in Egypt.
 1250: Moses and the Israelite Exodus.
 1200: The period of the Judges begins.
 1000: David becomes King of Israel.
 961: Death of David.
 935: Beginning of Assyrian revival and rise.
 922: Death of Solomon.
 Kingdom divided:
 Israel: Northern Kingdom.
 Judah: Southern Kingdom.
 753: Traditional date of the foundation of Rome.
 732: Assyria captures Damascus.
 722: Assyria captures Samaria (capital of Northern K.)
 701: Capital of Assyria moved to Nineveh.
 689: Assyria destroys old Babylon.
 626: Babylon re-established under Nabopolassar.
 605: Nebuchadnezzar reigns until 562.
 587: Jerusalem captured by Babylon.
 539: Babylon falls to Cyrus the Persian.

Timeline

BC

- 1925: Hittites conquer Babylon.
 1728: The Code of Hammurabi, the Great of Babylon.
 1650: Joseph and brothers in Egypt.
 1570: Beginning of New Kingdom in Egypt.
 1250: Moses and the Israelite Exodus.
 1200: The period of the Judges begins.
 1000: David becomes King of Israel.
 961: Death of David.
 935: Beginning of Assyrian revival and rise.
 922: Death of Solomon.
 Kingdom divided:
 Israel: Northern Kingdom.
 Judah: Southern Kingdom.
 753: Traditional date of the foundation of Rome.
 732: Assyria captures Damascus.
 722: Assyria captures Samaria (capital of Northern K.)
 701: Capital of Assyria moved to Nineveh.
 689: Assyria destroys old Babylon.
 626: Babylon re-established under Nabopolassar.
 605: Nebuchadnezzar reigns until 562.
 587: Jerusalem captured by Babylon.
 539: Babylon falls to Cyrus the Persian.