

God, gods, and idols

Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be.

Isaiah 44:7b

The idols and false notions which are now in possession of the human understanding, and have taken deep root therein, not only so beset men's minds that truth can hardly find entrance, but even after entrance is obtained, they will again in the very instauration of the sciences meet and trouble us, unless men being forewarned of the danger fortify themselves as far as may be against their assaults.

*Francis Bacon, The Idols of the Mind
Novum Organum*

The Repeating Message of Isaiah

- "I am God (Yahweh)": 44:6-7. _____

- You, humanity, are not God or gods: 44:8 _____

- Your attempts to discard or replace me are futile: 44:9-17

What are Idols?

- In common usage?
 - Man-made, statues: _____
 - False images or concepts: _____
 - People of notoriety: _____
 - Replacements for God: _____
- The Idols of Antiquity
 - Easy to identify: _____
 - Deliberate: _____
 - Impotent: _____
- The Idols of Modernity
 - Less identifiable: _____
 - Evolutionary: _____

- Secular: _____
- Disappointing: _____
- The idols of post-modernity.
 - Vulgar or profane: _____
 - De-revolutionary: _____
 - Godless: _____
 - Hopeless: _____

The danger in idols

- Secular
 - They will all disappoint: _____
 - They will make arbitrary demands: _____
 - They will abandon you: _____
- Religious
 - They try to redefine God: _____
 - They try to redefine us: _____
- Individual (The man in the mirror)
 - They are based on entirely false notions:
 - That we have power. _____
 - That we can save ourselves. _____
 - That we believe we are a channel for God's truth and power. _____

Coming to terms with God

- Surrendering to God, 44:21-25. *Remember these things:*
 - *I formed you:* _____
 - *You are My servant:* _____
 - *I have redeemed you:* _____

This one will say, 'I am the Lord's; and that one will be called by the name of Jacob; and another will write on his hand, Belonging to the Lord . . . Isaiah 44:5

What is to be written on your hand?

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