

Isaiah: A Prophet for Our Time  
No Other God  
Isaiah 44

We like to think that we are self-made people. Our culture is very individualistic, and we take pride in individual achievement. Ambition and achievement aren't inherently bad things, but when they cause us to displace our dependence on God and opt for dependence on self, they become mechanisms for idolatry. The Bible reminds us that we are extremely susceptible to things like self-reliance and self-indulgence and that we need to be intentional about cultivating a trust and confidence not in ourselves or things in the material world, but God and God alone.

1. Our identity is in the One who formed us in His image.
  
2. Our redemption is found only in the one, true God.
  
3. Our foolishness is revealed in senseless idolatry.
  
4. Our forgiveness is experienced through faith and repentance.

Confusion concerning the nature and will of God is present in every culture; it is not something limited to ancient cultures where carved idols were worshiped. Any religious person that elevates man-made things in this world, like their possessions, status, or role, to the status of being a source of strength, wisdom or deliverance has bought into a deceptive cultural lie that will only bring fear and shame. Since every man-made source of meaning and security will result in failure and hopelessness, the only real solid hope for humanity is in God and His plans for the world.

Reflection

What comes to mind when you read Isaiah 44:3. Take some time to read John 4:1-25 and John 7:37-39. What does it say about God's plan to save humanity when certain themes are mentioned in both the Old and New Testaments? What adjustments in your life need to be made (if any) that would reflect more intentionality in a willingness to seek the outpouring of the Spirit in your life? Read Isaiah 44:6 and take some time to think about the implications of the claims that God makes there. What are some examples of modern idols in our culture? What comfort can you take in the promises of Isaiah 44:21-22? What action does verse 22 call us to? How should Isaiah 44 strengthen your faith in God?