

Course Expectations and Objectives



Course Expectations

- As we gather together via the internet during the next four weeks, we can expect that God will bless our study. God promised, “[My Word] will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:11).
- You can expect that the study leader, who is a *student of God’s Word*, will love the Lord, his Word, and you his people. Both the leader and the participants will learn together.
- If you are gathering together with other Christians for this study, it is recommended that you organize yourselves in groups of 4-6 people. We will have some discussion times during the study. It is helpful if you can easily face each other to discuss, perhaps around a table. If you are studying alone, that is fine, too. Simply work through the assignments and write down your thoughts.
- In the interest of time for our study, we may not have the opportunity to discuss all truths as deeply as we may desire. You may want to consider an additional extended study time after our “online time” to discuss points further.

Course Objectives

- It is the goal of this course to gain a greater understanding and appreciation for who the only true God is and what he does for us.
- We will ...
 - compare the futility of “idols” to our rock solid God.
 - identify and apply the truths that God has revealed about who he is.
 - get a glimpse into the mind of God as he reveals his will to us.
 - discuss the focus and means of our God to save sinners.

May God be glorified and his people edified through our study together!



Introductory Remarks

Session Objective

🎯 To discuss from Isaiah 44 F_____ F_____ F_____ of
modern-day "Idols" in comparison to our R_____ S_____ God

Isaiah 44



44:6 ⁶ “This is what the LORD says—
Israel’s King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty:
I am the first and I am the last;
apart from me there is no God.

Take **60 seconds** and rank from 1-5 your most comforting descriptions of God and then describe why you picked your #1.

- King
- Redeemer
- The LORD Almighty
- First and last
- The Only God

Reason why I picked my #1 choice:

44:7 ⁷ Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it.
Let him declare and lay out before me
what has happened since I established my ancient people,
and what is yet to come—
yes, let them foretell what will come.

Take **60 seconds** and jot down 3 things you are glad God knows about your future.

1

2

3

44:8 ⁸ Do not tremble, do not be afraid.
Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago?
You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me?
No, there is no other Rock; I know not one.”

What is the irony of God saying, “Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one.”

NOTHINGNESS



44:9-11 ⁹ All who make idols are nothing,
and the things they treasure are worthless.
Those who would speak up for them are blind;
they are ignorant, to their own shame.
¹⁰ Who shapes a god and casts an idol,
which can profit nothing?
¹¹ People who do that will be put to shame;
such craftsmen are only human beings.
Let them all come together and take their stand;
they will be brought down to terror and shame.

God talks about the uselessness of idols. He describes how mere human beings form and fashion “idols,” looking to them for some help and meaning for their lives. Describe how the following *could be “worthless”* for human beings.

- Intelligence
- Materialism
- Relationships
- Work
- Rest and relaxation
- Other?

FOOLISHNESS



- 44:12-17** ¹² The blacksmith takes a tool and works with it in the coals;
 he shapes an idol with hammers,
 he forges it with the might of his arm.
 He gets hungry and loses his strength;
 he drinks no water and grows faint.
- ¹³ The carpenter measures with a line and makes an outline with a
 marker; he roughs it out with chisels and marks it with compasses.
 He shapes it in human form, human form in all its glory, that it may dwell
 in a shrine.
- ¹⁴ He cut down cedars, or perhaps took a cypress or oak.
 He let it grow among the trees of the forest, or planted a pine, and the
 rain made it grow.
- ¹⁵ It is used as fuel for burning; some of it he takes and warms himself,
 he kindles a fire and bakes bread.
 But he also fashions a god and worships it; he makes an idol and
 bows down to it.
- ¹⁶ Half of the wood he burns in the fire; over it he prepares his meal,
 he roasts his meat and eats his fill.
 He also warms himself and says, "Ah! I am warm; I see the fire."
- ¹⁷ From the rest he makes a god, his idol; he bows down to it and
 worships. He prays to it and says, "Save me! You are my god!"

Describe (or draw) a scene from our culture that actually isn't too far from what the people in Isaiah's day were doing.

BLINDNESS



44:18-20 ¹⁸ They know nothing, they understand nothing; their eyes are plastered over so they cannot see, and their minds closed so they cannot understand.

¹⁹ No one stops to think, no one has the knowledge or understanding to say, “Half of it I used for fuel; I even baked bread over its coals, I roasted meat and I ate. Shall I make a detestable thing from what is left? Shall I bow down to a block of wood?”

²⁰ Such a person feeds on ashes; a deluded heart misleads him; he cannot save himself, or say, “Is not this thing in my right hand a lie?”

We have seen a lot of devastation across our nation and throughout the world: floods, tornadoes, earthquakes. In light of these verses, describe how those events can actually be gracious activities from the hand of God.

THIS IS MY GOD!

- 44:21-23** ²¹ “Remember these things, Jacob, for you, Israel, are my servant. I have made you, you are my servant; Israel, I will not forget you.
²² I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you.”
²³ Sing for joy, you heavens, for the LORD has done this; shout aloud, you earth beneath. Burst into song, you mountains, you forests and all your trees, for the LORD has redeemed Jacob, he displays his glory in Israel.

Defend this statement: God gives us human beings a lot of comfort in the words “You are my servant.”

God says in verse 22, “**I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you.**” With those words, how does God reveal that he is...

- Personal

- Absolutely Independent

- Holy

- Gracious

God is so focused on the salvation of people. He purges us from all our sins. Connect these words in Isaiah to...

- Jesus' work on the cross

- Your Baptism

- The promises given in the Lord's Supper.

In verse 23, God tells inanimate objects (from which some people fashion idols) to burst forth and rejoice over the redemption God gives. Describe how God's redemptive acts give you a new purpose to your life.

Next Study: January 20 ... 6pm & 8pm CST

"Take Off Your Sandals" – Exodus 3