

## SESSION #13 (2 Feb 10)

### I. INTRODUCTION & REVIEW

<b>1:1-5</b>	<b>Introduction to God's spokesman, the 1<sup>st</sup> Prophet Moses</b>
<b>1:6-4:40</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Exposition of the Torah = <u>motivation</u> to obey from <u>past gracious actions</u> of Yahweh</b>
1:6-3:29	Historical analysis of Israel from Sinai to the Transjordanian victories
4:1-40	Implications for the future of the nation
4:1-8	A unique way of life for a unique nation
4:9-24	A unique divine revelation for a unique nation

Basis of politics and law:

Hence Moses' emphasis upon *idolatry* that modifies the metaphysics (replaces Creator/creature with Continuity of Being, making man and his gods one with nature) & the epistemology (replaces revelation in creation, providence interpreted in light of special-verbal-revelation)

### II. THE DYNAMICS OF IDOLATRY—ANALYSIS OF PAGAN SOCIETY

**Deut. 4:19** → fallen mankind (Noahic civilization) has been “abandoned” by God in *sense of being recipients of ongoing special revelation like Founder Noah.*

**Romans 1:18-32**

**1:18** wrath of God. . .

**How can God justify His wrath?** (metaphysics – the state of affairs)

**who suppress truth in unrighteousness**

**How do ALL people know God?** (epistemology)

**1:19** knowledge of God is clear in them for God has shown it to them

**How does this revelation happen?**

**1:20** for the unseen things of him from the creation of the world by the made things understood are clearly seen

*aoratos. . .kathorao. . .*

“understood” modifies “unseen things” → revelation by *similarity* between God's character and creation design

**everlasting** (constant) **power and divine nature** (used of famous pagan deity Artemis who appeared to work miracles at Ephesus) → awareness of *a Personal Being* “behind” perceived (empirical) experience.

**without excuse. . .**

Without an apologetic!

## **Why does God-consciousness lead to guilt before God?**

### **1:21 not glorify**

*All men—even unbelievers in rebellion and believers out of fellowship—are “religious” because they have a [hostile] relationship with God*

## **What are the consequences of such guilt?**

**they became** [passive voice] **futile** [*mataioomai*] **in their thinking** [*dialogismos*].

**their non-understanding heart became darkened** [passive voice].

**1:22 professing to be wise they were made fools** [passive voice]

Note passive voices. . .see **1:18 wrath of God is revealed.**

The consequences ARE the wrath of God!!

**1:23 changed the glory of the incorruptible. . .into an image made like corruptible. .**

Idolatry is an unavoidable consequence.

Today neo-Darwinism is attributing to “Nature”—man—birds—four-footed beasts—creeping things—divine attributes (creative power to bring order from chaos).

- Rebellion against God → *Sense of Guilt + Vulnerability to Satanic Deceptions* [since Satan is the “god of this world”]
- Suppression of Truth + Satanic Deceptions → *Perversion of sense of dominion* [Nimrod & Kingdom of Man, global world government wholly controlled by man]
- Perverted dominion → “*re-engineering*” *reality beginning with God-sense = idolatry*
- Idolatry + impotent flesh → immorality & social destruction

7 steps down that utilize more and more perversions of moral principles “to appease an avenging conscience” (Budziszewski) (see slide)

Idolatry precedes immorality because it breaks down the authority of God’s revelation by making man his own authority. Man then is no longer motivated and empowered to subdue his fallen flesh and resist the principalities and powers.

## **Social collapse that follows from the idolatry.**

**1:24 gave them up by means of the lusts of their hearts to uncleanness—dishonoring their bodies among themselves. . .**

Lusts of their darkened hearts is unrestrained because of the hardening of conscience.

“Uncleanness” = rejection of designed purpose of the human body.

“The immoralist movements are not isolated phenomena, but branches of the goetic arts; they are united in their hatred of the human design, and, by extension, of its Designer” (J. Budziszewski, Things We Can’t Not Know, p200). (see slide)

- Fleeing the consequences of God-consciousness & His revelation through the design of our bodies and souls only leads to *greater foolishness*.

- Analogy with secular law

### **1:32 approve those who practice them**

(see slide)

### **III. THE BANKRUPTCY OF IDOLATRY (ISAIAH 41:1-7, 21-29)**

Exilic period when Jews had to realize in their everyday life that Yahweh reigns everywhere outside of the Land. Isaiah and Jeremiah prepared them for life in exile.

#### **41:1 keep silence. . .O coastlands. . .**

Authority over ALL nations.

#### **41:2-4 who. . .who. . .who. . .**

Sovereignty over international politics and military movements. “History” = His Story

#### **41:4 who has done and accomplished, calling generations from the beginning—I Yahweh—beginning and end, I am he.**

Complete control from cause to effects.

#### **41:5 were afraid**

International turmoil—mass hysteria.

#### **41:6 be strong [fortify—military alliances]**

Paganism sees *no ultimate purpose* in historical experience—even the gods and goddesses are fickle and transient beings that wallow on top of chaotic nature. This is their *metaphysic* underneath their *politics* and policies.

#### **4:7 craftsman. . .metal smith**

Re-engineer reality of Cyrus’ international threat into a fantasy of a ‘human good’ crusade built around honoring some demon that gave an image to pagan priests.

#### **that it might not totter**

Key theological/doctrinal point: *the idol isn’t self-supporting*

Same as Paul’s point: no justification for the intellectual perversion

**Metaphysical question:** what is the meaning or purpose of your life?

**Epistemological question:** why should I accept as true what you are saying?

**Ethical question:** who are you to tell me how to live?

//// SLIDE #8 ////[knowing]

#### **41:21-24**

#### **41:21 present your case**

#### **41:22 former things [oracles]. . .declare things to come [oracles]**

Asking for knowledge beyond the observable—hitting the boundary of human knowledge [*epistemological* question]

#### **41:24 nothing**

Entire core of paganism has no answers, is not self-supporting

**an abomination is he who chooses you all** (plural)

“abomination” = defiled, abhorrent to God’s holiness; under evil powers’ influence.

#### **41:25-29**

**41:26 no one. . . no one. . .no one. . .**

No nation with a contract with God and a sequence of prophets with validated prophecy

**41:28 no counselor**

**41:29 accomplishments are nothing**

Talking about the oracle-priests, i.e. Gentile “advisors”.

Paganism hates history because it testifies to God, so it creates pseudo-histories (mythologies) to propagandize its Continuity of Being religion.

**images are wind and tohu**

Models supposedly of reality—nature, climate, economy—and how to order it (perverted dominion).

### **III. CONCLUSION**

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- **Idolatry + impotent flesh → *immorality, social destruction***

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The Stair	Description
Sin	The greater our trespasses, the more we have to lie about
Self-protection	Each new lie needs its own protective ring
Habituation	Practice turns lying into a thoughtless habit
Self-deception	Unable to bear the fact of systematic lying, you begin to believe your lies
Rationalization	Blame the existence of absolute truth for the discomfort of squirming lies
Technique	Develop the craft of lying by using a big one (Hitler) or many lies (Corporate managers vs. whistleblowers).
Duty turns upside down	If lies are accepted, then they become job requirements (corporate entities).

<b>Immoral movement</b>	It's goetic nature ("uncreating nature" — i.e., pagan chaos)
<b>Homosexuality</b>	Not seeking protection of homosexuals from cruelty but the annihilation of natural boundaries
<b>Euthanasia</b>	Not seeking an end to pain but endless death
<b>Cloning</b>	Not seeking solution to childlessness but confusion of human identity
<b>Eugenics</b>	Not seeking a cure for disease but the overthrow of the Creator by the creature

Fear of getting pregnant works only with some level of chastity, but fornicators try to "outrun the cop" with contraceptives first and if contraception fails, they try to "shoot the cop" by getting abortions. "Those who will not accept conscience as a teacher must face it as an accuser, and if they will run away they run into even deeper wrong. In this way, conscience urges them to yet further wrong" J. Budziszewski, What We Can't Not Know

Emile Durkheim, a founder of sociology, posited that there is a limit to the amount of deviant behavior any community can afford to recognize. As behavior worsens, the community adjusts its standards so that conduct once thought reprehensible is no longer deemed so. . . . Krauthammer wrote, 'it is not enough for the deviant to be normalized. The normal must be found deviant.' This situation is thoroughly perverse. Underclass values become increasingly acceptable to the middle class, especially their young, and middle-class values become increasingly contemptible to the cultural elites." Robert H. Bork, Slouching Toward Gomorrah, p3f.

