

## SESSION #14 (23 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 (1) <u>past gracious actions</u> of Yahweh <i>and</i> (2) <u>sovereign destiny of the nation</u></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
<b>4:25-40</b>	<b>A unique relationship with God</b>

Review Moses' argument: Motivation for 2<sup>nd</sup> generation to carry out the plan of God:  
(1) past gracious actions of Yahweh reveal His faithfulness to the Abrahamic Contract;

(2) future history shaped by His Sovereign purpose for Israel reveals a sense of destiny as the basis of hope

- Paganism “goes in circles”—Carl Sagan in his famous series, Cosmos, noted the parallel between the ancient pagan Hindu imagery of a rope unwinding and then rewinding on one hand and the modern cosmological theory of an oscillating universe.
- Neo-Darwinism and Marxism are bastard mixtures of ancient pagan cyclic concept plus progressive biblical (stolen through European links with the Christian faith) concept

### II. RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD: RESPONSIBILITY & DESTINY (4:25-31)

#### What is going to be the relationship dynamics between Israel and Yahweh?

#### **4:25 when you begat children and grandchildren**

Multi-generation view ahead → There exists a plan and order to history

**act corruptly and make a carved image. . .**

“ruin” (causative form) – fallen man ruins history (antediluvians, 1<sup>st</sup> generation of Israel)

Begins with IDOLATRY.

[alteration of metaphysic and epistemology]

Changes the metaphysics (“*what is the meaning or purpose of your life?*”)

- (1) replaces Creator/creature with Continuity of Being, making man and his gods one with nature;
- (2) relocates the divine attributes so they become emaciated and scattered among competing gods and men;
- (3) Particularly SOVEREIGNTY that is now transferred to the state as the most powerful competitor; and

Changes the epistemology {“*why should I accept as true what you are saying?*”}

- (1) replaces authoritative revelation in creation & providence (interpreted in light of special-verbal-revelation) with rebellious man-centered speculation;
- (2) relocates “infallibility” in an elite so God is no longer at hand → fear overwhelms and evil takes advantage)

[Idolatry dynamic]

- Rebellion against God → *Sense of Guilt + Vulnerability to Satanic Deceptions* [since Satan is the “god of this world” who takes advantage]
- Suppression of Truth + Satanic Deceptions → *Perversion of sense of dominion* [Nimrod & Kingdom of Man, global world government wholly controlled by man—sovereignty transferred to the state]
- Perverted dominion → “*re-engineering*” *reality beginning with God-consciousness = idolatry* that gives the illusion of stability and predictability
- Idolatry + impotent flesh → immorality & social destruction since God’s restraints have been removed

## **BAALISM**

Nature > Man → manipulation to get economic (agricultural) blessing

*Perverted* dominion in a world of illusion

Success & happiness starts with getting the gods on “my side” via *manipulation rituals* mixed with ethical abdication to the lusts of the flesh

*VERSUS*

Starting with a Theology of Thanksgiving for creation and providence

[Baal vs Yahweh]

“What distinguishes Yahweh so sharply from Baal is His intimate association with history. He was not bound to the cycle of the seasons but guided his people through history toward a goal. The decisive event was not the victory over the primeval dragon [of chaos] but the victory over the Egyptians. . . .A. S. Kapelrud, *The Ras Shamra Discoveries and the Old Testament*. P52.

[Essence of God]

### **and do evil**

Idolatry always results in immorality and social disintegration.

**in the sight of Yahweh your god to provoke Him to anger**

Omnipresence and Omniscience implies an intimate and personal rebellion

### **What will be the historic consequences of complaining and rebellion?**

**4:26 I call heavens and earth to witness against you**

- Treaty enforcement over many generations by angelic “watchers” in the environment
- OT prophets (**Isa 1:2; Jer 2:9; Micah 6:1-2**) were involved
- Angelic forensic controversy until Jesus Christ finishes building His Body, the Church, and executes the sentence upon Satan, his angelic accomplices, and the deluded humans that have become their dupes.
- Higher criticism wholly misses the point; prophets weren’t inventing this—Moses laid it out centuries previously.

**soon utterly perish from the land**

Verb + infinitive (Heb) → reinforces the mood of the verb = certainly NOT utterly  
(whole point of this passage is their sacred destiny of survival)

**not prolong your days but be certainly destroyed**

**4:27 scatter you among the nations**

In spite of the destiny of the nation, the responsibility of its people will not be abridged.

**4:28 will serve gods. . .which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell**

**1 Sam 26:19** David “served other gods” = exile from the land

In a Gentile culture, *pagan values control*—all societies are “religious”

In Babylon & Persia-- Jews [schizophrenic existence]

No temple, Levitical welfare, sabbatical rests from labor, no protected rights from 10 commandments, and forced to support financially temple precincts involved in demonic worship.

Today in the USA with increasing paganism-- Christians [schizophrenic existence]

Decreasing freedom for believers to live out Jesus’ commands; historical indoctrination sterilized from Jesus’ position in it; re-engineered view of personal responsibility, of cosmology that negates Scriptural revelation, and requirements to support the pagan political support to culture that prevents genuine critical thinking and subsidizes “art” with crucifixes dipped in urine.

**4:29 find Him. . .with all your heart and nephesh [soul]**

Inner thoughts, motives, desires + outward efforts to get His Word and obey it in the details of life.

**4:30 distress**

First hint at the dynamic that occurs in 721 BC, 586 BC, and AD 70, eventually culminating in the Tribulation and its purpose for Israel.

**4:31 a merciful God. . .forget the covenant**

Abrahamic Covenant underlies the Mosaic Covenant.

HOPE = eschatological point of a progressive linear history—not the pagan cyclical one.

### **III. RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD: HEART ORIENTATION (4:32-40)**

**4:32 For**

Connects to the relationship with God based upon binding covenant or contract

**Since. . .[creation]. . .one end to the other. . .**

Time/Space history → uniqueness

**4:33 hear the voice of God. . .and live?**

Immediacy of God / contact with His Word (infallibility of verbal revelation) versus “relocated” infallibility in a would-be priesthood or educational elite that removes the immediacy of a relationship with God

*Can’t maintain spiritual strength, joy, and personal sense of destiny w/o an accessible infallible Word from God to you.*

**4:34 take for Himself a nation from the midst of another nation. . .**

Public, objective history!!

USA educational establishment demands we accept a history that is a revised re-engineered history, thoroughly purged of any of God's clear acts of revelation (creation, fall, flood, election of Abraham, exodus, Mt. Sinai. . .to Jesus Christ's resurrection and ascension).

**4:35 it was shown that you might know that . . .**

Purpose of redemptive history is to enter into a relationship with God!

**4:36-38 hear His words. . .out of Egypt. . .driving out nations. . .giving the land**

All traceable historic actions → God of history >> "nature deities" like Baal and other invented gods

**4:39 therefore know this day. . .no other**

Uncompromising, exclusivist metaphysic ("what is the meaning or purpose of your life?")

**4:40 therefore keep. . .I command you today**

Uncompromising, exclusivist epistemology ("why should I accept as true what you are saying?")

**go well with you and your children. . .**

Imperative → human responsibility respected

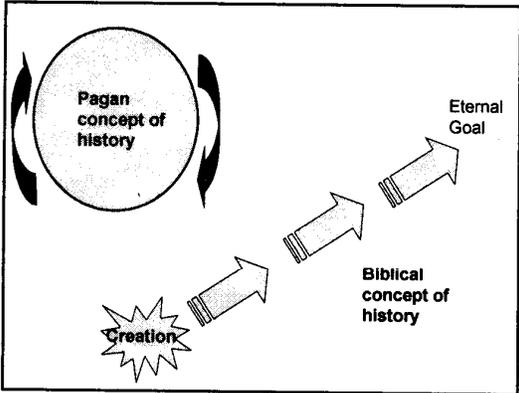
**for all time. . .**

Israel has an everlasting right to the land

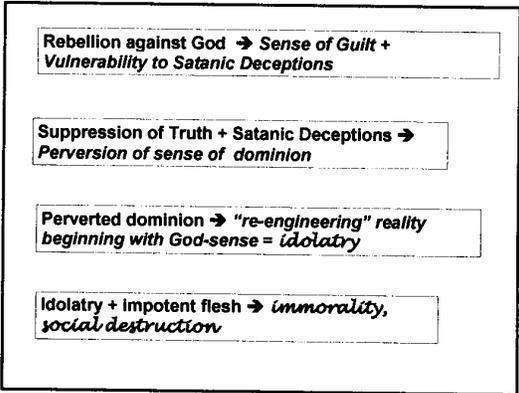
#### IV. CONCLUSION

- Israel is a divinely-designed laboratory example of a nation with a unique relationship to God—every other nation has been abandoned to the principalities and powers except for temporary regions where there has been +Volition toward the Word of God
- It is to be a "world-wide blessing" per the Abrahamic Covenant → historical example in fallen human history of what the Kingdom of God that is to come upon the earth → revelation of sovereign destiny to promote HOPE = personal sense of that destiny.
- The individual heart-condition lies at the core of this relationship—one that affirms and enjoys the self-revealing God or a rebel that substitutes a speculative and idolatrous faith.

"The orientation response is particularly stressing when a novel event or fact challenges one's whole world view. Given an elaborate ideology—Catholicism, Marxism, or whatever—we quickly recognize (or think we recognize) familiar elements in otherwise novel stimuli and this puts us at ease. Indeed, ideologies may be regarded as large mental filing cabinets with vacant drawers or slots waiting to receive new data. For this reason ideologies serve to reduce the intensity and frequency of the orientation response." Alvin Toffler, *Future Shock* (1970), p336



<b>Biblical metaphysic &amp; epistemology as basis for the nation</b>	<b>Idoltrous metaphysic &amp; epistemology as basis for the nation</b>
Creator / creature Sovereignty Choice Omnipotence Energy	gods...man...nature ↓ STATE Sovereignty [virtual] Omnipotence
Verbal Revelation Infallibility & accessibility → God is near, joy, confidence against evil	Human speculation [virtual] infallibility without accessibility → God is distant, fear, evil overwhelms



"What distinguishes Yahweh so sharply from Baal is His *intimate association with history*. He was not bound to the cycle of the seasons but guided his people through history toward a goal. The decisive event was not the victory over the primeval dragoon [of chaos] but the victory over the Egyptians. . . ."

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