



## 16 Jan 2022 - Gods Who Cannot Save - Small Group Notes

Sometimes the values of our culture, pushed to their extremes, become clearly meaningless. Shawn opened the sermon with an example of this. Can you think of any times when you have seen this?

### Idols of Wood

In Isaiah 44 talks about the practice of making idols as a way of criticising the practice.

### Read Isaiah 44:9-20

How does this practice show the ignorance that was common at the time? What stands out to you about Isaiah's description?

### Read Isaiah 45:20

Can you see any similar ignorance that exists in our culture today? What do people today replace God with? What do we worship that isn't worthy of our worship?

In Deuteronomy 28 there is a list of blessings or curses that comes with worshipping God (blessings) or worshipping false gods (curses).

### Read Deut 28:12-13

What do you like in this description of the blessing available to Israel?

### Read Deut 28:64-68

What do you find difficult, or hard, about the description of what can come with worshipping false gods?

Although there may be many sources of anxiety, putting our trust in things that, deep down we know are insufficient, can be such a source. Why do you think this might be? What might this look like? How can we respond when our hearts are enticed by things that are not God?

## Those tall Sabeans

### Read Isaiah 45:14

In the first part of this verse, we get what would have been the envy of Israel. The cultures of Egypt, Cush, and Arabia had become wealthy and strong while Israel had been taken into exile.

How can we be tempted to adopt the wrong values from people that don't know God?

Where do you think people today are tempted toward envy instead of contentment? How can we address this in ourselves?

These people represent the envy of the Israelites of their wealth and strength. This is probably all the more difficult at this point as Israel is in exile as slaves.

Why do we envy those that are ignorant? What do you think?

## Every knee will bow

### Read Isaiah 45:14, 22-23

How might this have seemed crazy given their current situation?

Some of this points forward to when they will be able to return and rebuild. Mostly this points forward to when Jesus will come again.

### Read Phil 2:10-11

### Read Romans 14:11

We are surrounded by ignorance. We are enticed to follow other gods, or give into ungodly values and ways of thinking. And yet we are called to live in light of what is coming.

Our foundation is secure. Don't exchange the living God for lesser gods of wood and stone.