

## JEREMIAH

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Jeremiah chapter 2 as we continue our study through the Word of God. As we saw last time, Jeremiah chapter 1 had the focus of God calling Jeremiah into the ministry. In fact, before Jeremiah was even born God had established what he would do in life and now it was up to Jeremiah to walk accordingly.

It does sound easy until difficulty comes your way and then you can get discouraged, you can drop out. Not only can we be discouraged by the difficulty that comes our way but also, because we know that we are called to do something that is beyond our limits, it is going to stretch us. Jeremiah felt that way and God encouraged Jeremiah to look to Him and not at the work or the faces of the people. Have a correct perspective of the situation that if God is for you then who can be against you and the answer is simple; no one can stand in our way if God is for us!

As we move into Jeremiah chapter 2 we now see the ministry of Jeremiah begin as he speaks of the Southern Kingdom of Judah turning from the Lord, willfully sinning against the Lord. Think of it as a court case and the evidence is being presented by God against Judah and it is not looking good. And because of their refusal to turn back to God they will go into captivity. And really Jeremiah chapter 2 through chapter 19 deals with this rebuke against Judah. Kyle Yates wrote these words regarding what was going on in Judah,

***The honeymoon is over.*** God reminds rebellious Israel of the fervor and the warmth and the purity of the love streams in the early days. She was desperately in love with her Love and the tender love made life full of music and joy and hope. She was pure and clean and holy. No disloyalty or unclean thought marred the beauty of her devotion.

But now the picture is heart-rending. God's heart is crushed with grief and disappointment. Israel now is living in open sin. She is unfaithful to the covenant vows. Other gods have stolen her affection. She has ceased to love Yahweh and her conduct is shameful in the extreme.

- Kyle M. Yates, Preaching from the Prophets, p. 139

So with that as our background, let's begin reading in Jeremiah chapter 2 beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word this evening.

## **JEREMIAH 2**

### **VERSES 1-3**

1. God wants His people to remember the relationship that they had with each other, the love that they had for each other. I do think we forget at times many things and that can cause a lot of trouble in our lives.

Let me illustrate it like this. Remember when you were first in love and you would write on your notebooks, and maybe even on your arm the name of the girl or boy you were in love with. You always wanted to be around them. And then you got married and what happened? You forget about that love, you forgot about that intimacy you had with each other, you forgot about the time you would spend together and thus, you need to remember where you were at and return to that place!

Remember the letter that Jesus wrote to the church in Ephesus in Revelation chapter 2. They were doing a lot of work for the Lord but something was missing in their relationship with the Lord. In Revelation 2:4-5 Jesus tells them, “**Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place - unless you repent.**”

I want you to notice they didn't fall out of love, they left it. And Jesus tells them what they need to do and the first thing they need to do is they need to **REMEMBER** how things use to be. Remember when you first got saved, that love you had for the Lord and how you just wanted to tell everyone about Him. How you went to every Bible study you could because you loved to learn about the Lord and you desired to draw close to Him. What happened to those fires that once burned bright in your heart? Now it is easier to stay at home than to go to Bible study. You can find all kinds of excuses not to go to study. God wants you to remember how it once was with Him.

Then God wants you to **REPENT** before Him. In other words, stop where you are at and then make a 180 degree turn back to God. It is a radical turn back to the Lord. Have the driving force in your life be the love of Christ

Then God wants you to **REPEAT** your first works. Fall in love with Jesus all over again. Remember Jacob as he was fleeing from his brother Esau and he came to a place called Bethel or house of God. There he had a dream and saw a ladder from heaven reaching down and angels of God ascending and descending upon it. Here Jacob has an encounter with God, but he then leaves this place.

And some 30 years pass by and many difficult times for Jacob, and in Genesis chapter 35 we see God call Jacob back to Bethel. Back to the house of God, the place of fellowship, of love with God. We need to return to the house of God and fall in love with Jesus again. Not a works relationship with Jesus but a love relationship!

And if we don't, if we refuse then there is the **WARNING** and it is very simple. If you don't **remember**, **repent** and **repeat** your light will go out! You see, we are to be light bearers of Christ, but if we remove Him from our lives, the light of Christ in us will go out. Our witness of Christ will be gone. People may still gather in these churches, but the lights have been turned off! You see, the purpose of the church, and of us as individuals is to hold the light of Jesus for the world to see!

Here in Jeremiah we see that God remembered His people, they just forgot about Him! But in the beginning of their relationship that is not how it was. They wanted to show everyone who they loved. God was lamenting over what He saw His people doing now and He was remembering how their relationship was, the love they had for Him at one time.

And because of that relationship, no one could stand against Israel and survive, God was with them. And again, as you read this it seems that God is heartbroken over what has taken place. He sees that their love for Him has now grown cold and if it continues, judgment will come, not might!

VERSES 4-5

1. Why does the Lord speak of the “**house of Jacob and all the families of the house of Israel**” if the Northern Kingdom of Israel was taken into captivity years earlier? Keep in mind that some of the people in the Northern Kingdom of Israel left that area and came down to the Southern Kingdom of Judah because that is where the Temple was located and they saw the hand of God moving upon Judah as opposed to what was going on in Israel.

In II Chronicles 11:13-16 we see the Levites leaving Israel and coming to Judah during the time of Jeroboam who appointed his own priests in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. We also see in II Chronicles 16:1 that Baasha, the King of the Northern Kingdom of Israel was trying to stop the flow of his people from going into the Southern Kingdom of Judah and to block the trade route to Judah. You see, word got out how God was blessing Asa and the Southern Kingdom of Judah and that caused many to come and be part of what God was doing. We also see this spoken of in II Chronicles 15:9 where we read, “**. . . for they came over to him in great numbers from Israel when they saw that the LORD his God was with him.**”

So all 12 tribes were located in the Southern Kingdom of Judah and that is why the Lord speaks of the house of Israel. Also keep in mind that most of the 10 tribes, who lived in the Northern Kingdom of Israel, some remained there and the others were taken into captivity at this time by the Assyrians.

2. Notice what the Lord is doing here. He is asking them what He has done to cause them to turn from Him and go after idols, empty things, worthless things? He wants them to think about what they have done and if they can find a point in their lives when God fail them? Obviously God did not fail them but they turned from Him and that is what God wanted them to see!

VERSES 6-8

1. God had done all these things for them and yet, they no longer sought the Lord nor did they remember all that God had done for them. How He made them a people that were not a people. But sin, turning from God causes us to forget the things of God and all that God has done for us. We remove God from the picture and as we have seen, it really doesn't matter how much God has done for a people, they can easily turn from Him and forget Him!

2. The land that God had brought them into was flowing with milk and honey. It was rich, the land was fertile but instead of praising and thanking God for all He has provided for them, they defiled the land by worshiping other gods!

Isn't it interesting the amount of money, the publicity we see going on about saving our planet from all the pollution that man has brought upon it and yet, when we see the pollution of our lives, the moral filth that is consuming our lives, we don't want to do anything about it. May we as Christians have that burning desire to be holy as He is holy, to walk according to that high calling by which we have been called!

3. Political leaders are important for they will either make or break a nation. They will either lift a nation up because of their relationship with God or bring a nation down because of the immorality they are promoting.

Here in Jeremiah we see the effects of not only the rulers but the religious leaders. These religious leaders were supposed to bring God to the people and the people to God by sharing with them the Word of God and yet they did not even know how to handle God's Word! Sound familiar? It should because that is what is going on today! We have pastors and teachers who do not even believe the Word of God is the Word of God and they are leading the people down that same path. We have pastors and teachers that are saying that Jesus is not God and that there is no blood atonement, there is no resurrection!

The problem was and it still is that these liberal views are not the truth. Like today, many pulpits are filled with “**. . . blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into the ditch.**” Matthew 15:14.

Let me just share this with you because it will show you where we are at today as Christians. We are told,

For many years now, publishers have been releasing books that claim the Bible does not oppose committed homosexual relationships. That is nothing new. But it is a sad and shameful day when a major Christian publisher releases such a book and claims that it is a solid evangelical publication. This is abhorrent, disgraceful and terribly misleading. And it needs to be addressed and exposed.

But first, the background to the story.

In 2012, a young man named Matthew Vines, who professes to be a “gay Christian,” released a video of his talk about the Bible and homosexuality, and it quickly went viral. His demeanor was engaging and his appeal to the Scriptures very serious, but for those who know the Word well, there was nothing in the least bit persuasive in his presentation. In fact, it underscored just how impossible it is to use the Bible to justify any form of homosexual acts or to sanctify intimate homosexual relationships. . . .

There has also been a good amount of publicity over the last few months announcing the publication of Matthew’s book, *God and the Gay Christian: The Biblical Case in Support of Same-Sex Relationships*. . . .

But here is the disturbing news. The book is being published by Convergent Books, which is part of a publishing conglomerate that includes the much-respected evangelical publishing group WaterBrook Multnomah (also sharing some of the same staff). And the chief executive of the company, Stephen W. Cobb, is vigorously defending his choice to publish the book. In fact, he is making an extraordinary effort to publicize it and claiming that it is thoroughly evangelical.

Have we totally lost our bearings as the people of God? Are we now debating the undebatable and trying to sanction the unsanctionable?

The WaterBrook Multnomah group publishes books by authors like John Piper, Chuck Swindoll, Ravi Zacharias, David Jeremiah, Randy Alcorn, David Platt and Bill Gothard, and now its sister publisher is releasing a purported evangelical book defending homosexuality? . . .



Responding to an investigative piece written by Christian attorney Matt Barber, Cobb explains that his company is publishing the book “because [they] believe it offers a thoughtful examination of Scripture on the topic of same-sex relationships from a bold, young, evangelical writer whose first calling is to promote a civil, loving, and biblically based conversation on the subject.”

What?

Certainly, the tone of the book is meant to be civil, and it does attempt to interact with the Scriptures, although, to emphasize this again, you can no more use the Bible to legitimize homosexual relationships than you can use it to legitimize adultery. But to describe the author as “a bold, young, evangelical writer” is to make the word *evangelical* utterly meaningless. . . .

The travesty here is for Cobb, the head of both WaterBrook Multnomah and Convergent (an imprint for “less traditional Christians,” which is quite an understatement), to choose to publish this book, then to defend that choice, then to present Matthew Vines as an evangelical, and then to go all out with a publicity campaign to promote the book. (Cobb writes, “We have extensive marketing and publicity campaigns in place, with which we hope to reach the widest possible readership.”)

The point is that nothing has changed in terms of what Scripture teaches, which is why almost no one through the centuries has thought to use the Bible to sanction homosexual relationships - that is, until our day, and this is simply the fruit of the sexual revolution of the 1960s, not the fruit of dramatic new insights that would cause us to turn the Bible on its head. . . .

In short, those who want to revise biblical sexuality and morality have moved away from the Word of God, and if they have any sense of integrity, they need to renounce their claim to be evangelicals - and that includes Cobb, if he personally claims to be one—and say, “We are liberal Christians who no longer hold to the authority of Scripture, because of which we embrace homosexual relationships.”

In refusing to do so, they have muddied the waters of the faith, brought reproach on the gospel, further confused a very lost society, and become propagators of deception in the church. And they will answer to God for all this one day.

As things stand now, the same publishing conglomerate that released books by an evangelical author like Joshua Harris with titles and subtitles like *I Kissed Dating Goodbye* and *Sexual Purity in a Lust-Saturated World* is releasing a book championing the idea that God blesses two men (or women) having sex with each other as long as they are committed.

This is madness.

- <http://www.charismanews.com/opinion/in-the-line-of-fire/43537-a-shameful-day-in-evangelical-christian-publishing>

We have not learned the lessons that God has given to us in the Scriptures but we are repeating them and moving farther away from God! Remember what God said of His people, that they “**. . . walked after things that do not profit.**” We are doing the same thing when we walk away from God and His Word!

4. Let me make one more point here. When false prophets rise up they are rising up because people have itching ears and they are looking for teachers to tell them what they want to hear! And when you have a people that no longer want to hear the truth there will be a proliferation of false prophets that rise up to fill that vacuum and tickle people's ears with their lies. We are seeing that today. We have people supposedly speaking for God and yet they are not giving the people the things that will profit them eternally! It is as Paul said, **“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”** II Timothy 4:2-5.

For those who believe you have to give people what they want, Paul is saying you need to give them what they truly need, in season and out of season, when they want to hear it and when they don't and that is the Word of God!

#### VERSES 9-11

1. God is trying to get their attention, to wake them up by looking at the other nations of Cyprus and Kedar, from east to west you might say. You see, these nations worshiped false gods and yet they have not turned their backs on them. But God's people, who worship the true and living God, have turned from Him and have gone after that which will not profit them, these false gods, these worthless idols! Israel, whose glory was the Lord, gave this all up, turned from Him to serve false gods, that should have gotten their attention, but it didn't!

VERSES 12-13

1. God calls out to the heavens and tells them to be astonished at what has taken place, what His people have done and He has two powerful rebukes for them. God's first rebuke against them is they have turned from Him, the fountain of living waters.

Jesus said in John 7:37-38, "**... 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'**"

You see, moving water that is found in streams and rivers is cool, fresh, it is satisfying, and it is pure! As we come to Jesus and allow His Spirit to fill us and overflow us, we too will be satisfied. But when you turn from the Lord that void must be filled with something and that is the second point that the Lord is making against them.

2. This second rebuke has to do with cisterns, broken cisterns. Keep in mind that a cistern is nothing more than a storage tank to hold rain water that had been cut out of the rock. And you could spend months cutting this out with a hammer and chisel. Then when the rain would come you would check out your cistern to see if it could hold water. Sometimes a crack would develop which would cause the water to drain out and made the cistern worthless. But instead of just letting all the work go to waste, they would cut shelves into the walls of this cistern and use it as a burial spot for the dead.

And think about it. Even if those cisterns did hold water, it was never cool, refreshing, satisfying, it was never pure! W. H. Thomson put it this way, “The best cisterns, even those in solid rock, are strangely liable to crack . . . , and if by constant care they are made to hold, yet the water collected from clay roofs or from marly [which is a crumbly mixture of clays, calcium and magnesium carbonates, and remnants of shells that is sometimes found under desert sands and used as fertilizer for lime-deficient soils.] soil has the colour of weak soapsuds, the taste of earth or the stable, is full of worms, and in the hour of greatest need it utterly fails.” And yet that is what God’s people went after!

3. What does this mean to us spiritually speaking? I think that the waters that God has for us, that pure water is not only speaking of Him but His Word. And as a person moves away from God’s Word they will carve out for themselves a belief system that fits them. And anytime a person does so it will be polluted, foul tasting, full of garbage and always empty or non-satisfying! And eventually all systems will become a tomb in which you will be buried in. Think of the millions and millions of people that have rejected the pure waters, the living waters of God, who have rejected His Word and gone after systems such as material things or religious practices, the worlds philosophy and they have become buried in it!

Paul warns us in Colossians 2:8-10, **“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.”** May we not forget that!

VERSES 14-19

1. God wants them to remember where they were and where they are at now. You see, God freed the Jewish people from their bondage in Egypt; they were not to be slaves anymore. And yet, because they turned from God this has come upon them and they have placed themselves in bondage.

God also speaks of the Egyptians, Noph and Tahpanhes and the picture here is that of Pharaoh Necho killing of Josiah in 609 B. C. Then, after their defeat Pharaoh Necho removed Josiah's son Jehoahaz from the throne in the Southern Kingdom of Judah and replaced him with Jehoiakim. And I think the point that God is making is they were at the mercy of this nation and other nations because they turned from the Lord. Bondage is a result of turning from the Lord!

And this was obviously a hard lesson to learn for them and for us. There are consequences to our sin, never forget that. Hosea put it this way, "**They sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind . . .**" Hosea 8:7.

And as often is the case, the way of the transgressor is hard, very hard because we refuse to turn from our evil ways and we continue down a path of destruction. Some people will argue that AIDS is a judgment from God, I don't think so. I believe that AIDS is the consequences of an immoral, a sinful lifestyle. When your parents told you not to put your hand in the fire and you did anyway, was that a judgment from your parents? Of course not, it was the consequences of your actions and sin has built in consequences!

VERSES 20-22

1. God is continuing to indict His people for transgressing His Law, for turning from Him.

Remember when Moses went up to get the Law of God on Mount Sinai and he asked the people if they were willing to follow the Lord. Very simple question and they responded with a simple answer. They said “**... ‘All that the LORD has spoken we will do.’...**” Exodus 19:8. But as soon as Moses went up to get the Law they had already broken it!

We also see this with Joshua and what he said to the children of Israel as he was ready to pass off the scene, he was preparing to die. He was trying to exhort the people to follow the Lord, not to turn from God, and they said, “**... ‘The LORD our God we will serve, and His voice we will obey!’**” Joshua 24:24. And yet, as soon as Joshua died, they went after the false gods, serving them instead of the true and living God.

2. Now please understand, God did not do something wrong, He did everything He could to produce good fruit you might say in their lives. They turned from the Lord; they sought after other gods, playing the harlot before the Lord! Why didn't God do something? He did all that He could do except force them to return to Him. God will not force His people to love Him because that is not true love. He has given us a choice and how often we turn from the One who loves us so much and embrace empty idols!

3. Now verse 22 is interesting because it speaks of them trying to cleanse themselves with soap but they could not remove the iniquity that was in their lives. What is that speaking of? This is most likely speaking of the reformation that Josiah brought to the nation. For the most part it was all outward and superficial and because of that God is telling them that no matter how hard they try, they will never be able to wash themselves clean from their sin by their own efforts. God wanted their hearts! They were willing to give God a superficial cleansing that they had done themselves and God says, **“Yet your iniquity is marked before Me.”**

#### VERSES 23-25

1. God is painting a picture of what they are like because they saw no problem in the things they were doing and yet God did. And the Lord is telling them that they are like a young camel that is running loose in the desert, running all over the place. Let me show you what I mean as one writer wrote,

Literally, this camel is criss-crossing her tracks. The young camel is the perfect illustration for all that is “skitter” [to move quickly] and unreliable. It is ungainly in the extreme and runs off in any direction at the slightest provocation, much to the fury of the camel-driver. To sit in a village courtyard and watch such a young camel go scooting through, with some alarmed peasant dashing madly after it, is an unforgettable experience; such a young camel never takes more than about three steps in any direction. To this day the young camel provides a dramatic illustration for anything unreliable. Thus, “interlacing her paths” is an accurate description of a young camel – it provides Jeremiah a perfect illustration for the fickleness of Israel.

- K. E. Bailey and W. L. Holladay, “The ‘Young Camel’ and ‘Wild Ass’ in Jeremiah 2:23-25”, pp. 258-259



You see, God is trying to get them to wake-up, to take notice of their condition. The worst kind of deception is ***SELF DECEPTION!*** How many people go to church on Sunday and live like the devil the rest of the week? They are deceiving themselves!

2. The next illustration that the Lord gives to us regarding Israel is that of a donkey in heat, she can't control her sexual drive. And this picture is not pretty either. Listen to what one writer had to say,

The habits of the female [donkey] in heat are dramatic and vulgar. She sniffs the path in front of her, trying to pick up her scent of a male (from his urine). When she finds it, she rubs her nose in the dust and then straightens her neck and with head high, closes her nostrils and “sniffs the wind.” What she is really doing is ***sniffing*** the dust which is soaked with urine of a male [donkey]. With her neck stretched to the utmost, she slowly draws in a long, deep breath, then lets out an earthshaking bray and doubles her pace, racing down the road in search of the male.

- K. E. Bailey and W. L. Holladay, “The ‘Young Camel’ and ‘Wild Ass’ in Jeremiah 2:23-25”, p. 259

God is saying that His people can't run fast enough after these false gods. They were like wild animals in heat! What a sad picture. They could not hold back from going after these false gods. They saw no hope to stop so they just kept going and they left one thing out and that is the Lord. They did not look to Him to set them free but they tried to do it in the power of their flesh and they couldn't and neither can we!

VERSES 26-28

1. In II Chronicles 28:22-25 we are told, **“Now in the time of his distress King Ahaz became increasingly unfaithful to the Lord. This is that King Ahaz. For he sacrificed to the gods of Damascus which had defeated him, saying, ‘Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, I will sacrifice to them that they may help me.’ But they were the ruin of him and of all Israel. So Ahaz gathered the articles of the house of God, cut in pieces the articles of the house of God, shut up the doors of the house of the Lord, and made for himself altars in every corner of Jerusalem. And in every single city of Judah he made high places to burn incense to other gods, and provoked to anger the Lord God of his fathers.”**

They should have been ashamed of their actions, carving an idol out of a tree and calling it their father. Or carving an idol out of a rock and thinking that this rock gave them life! How foolish they were, and how foolish people are today, as they do basically the same thing.

2. Think about this for a minute. People worship all kinds of things today but when they get in trouble, when they are sick or a loved one is sick do they call on the things they worship to deliver them? No, they look for believers to pray for them and ask God to deliver them.

That is what we see here with Israel. They had so many gods but they did realize that in times of trouble only the true God could help them. That is why their heads were still looking back on the God they were leaving. And God was trying to shake them up and get them to serve Him every day, for these other god’s were empty, and why go after them? The main reason was they did satisfy the flesh and they still do today!

VERSES 29-30

1. Israel tried to justify their actions, they tried to get God to condone their sin, their rebellion and God was not having any of that! He tells them, “**You all have transgressed against Me.**” And God loved them so much that He tried to warn them by sending them prophet after prophet but they refused to listen.

Now these prophets of God were a problem for the people and thus, one way to deal with the prophets you don't like is to kill them, try to silence the truth that is coming against you.

Remember the story of Stephen, the first Christian Martyr. Stephen in his defense against the religious leaders said that very thing in Acts 7:52-53, “**Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it.**” And in the end they even killed Stephen but they could not silence the truth!

But God's chastening did not change them; they refused to listen and did not receive the correction that God had given to them. And like I have said, bondage is what is coming because of their actions or I should say non-actions, their refusal to repent and return to the Lord!

VERSES 31-32

1. Notice what they are saying here. They are calling themselves “lords” in the sense that they are in control, they are in charge or really, they are god! We are no different in the church today, we see that same idea being brought into the church today and it is the lie from the Garden of Eden where Satan said to Eve, “**. . . you will be like God . . .**” Genesis 3:5.

In Matthew 24:5 we are told about the last days, **“For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.”** The Greek word for **“many”** is POLUS and it speaks of a very great number, as in millions and millions of people, not just a select few and they will claim to be god!

What I am saying is that man is going to claim his divinity, that he is god or has the God consciousness in him. We saw it years ago with Shirley MacLaine’s book, “Out on a Limb” which was made into a movie and in one of the scenes she is on the beach shouting out, “I am! I am!” And I wanted to shout, “No you are not! No you are not!” but no one was listening to me but they did listen to her. Now that was years ago and what the New Age believers of that day were saying, we see that the church is saying today, we are gods!

In Luke 21:7-8, where we are told of this same teaching, the Olivet Discourse we are told, **“So they asked Him, saying, ‘Teacher, but when will these things be? And what sign will there be when these things are about to take place?’ And He said: ‘Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and, ‘The time has drawn near.’ Therefore do not go after them.’”**

In verse 8 the word **“He”** or **“Christ”** is italicized, it shouldn’t be there but was put there by the translators to make it clearer, but it truly doesn’t make it clearer, we tend to miss the point because of it. It should read, ***“Many shall come saying, ‘I AM.’”*** Isn’t that interesting because that is what the New Age movement is saying and it is what the church is now also saying, that we are god!

M. Scott Peck, a psychologist, wrote a book, The Road Less Traveled, that has been read by many Christians and New Age followers, and yet his words are not of God and that leaves only one other place they came from!

He wrote, ***“God wants us to become Himself (or Herself or Itself). We are growing toward godhood. God is the goal of evolution.”*** (The Road Less Traveled, p. 270). How sad that Christians have read this book and yet see nothing wrong with his teachings! I have seen this book in Christian bookstores, in Christian book distribution companies, being promoted by Christians! It is not at all Christian and yet, Christians are reading it and thus, do they believe we are god?

Matthew Fox tells us that, ***“We need to become aware of the Cosmic Christ, which means recognizing that every being has within it the light of Christ.”*** ***“Everyone is born a mystic and a lover who experiences the unity of things and all are called to keep this mystic or love of life alive.”***

M. Basil Pennington wrote, ***“When we go to the center of our being and pass through that center into the very center of God we get in immediate touch with this divine creating energy . . . that the divine energy may have the freedom to forward the evolution of consciousness in us and through us, as a part of the whole, in the whole of the creation.”***

***“[T]he God who dwells in our inner sanctuary is the same as the one who dwells in the inner sanctuary of each human being.”*** (Here and Now by Henri Nouwen, p. 22).

***“Deep within us all there is an amazing inner sanctuary of the soul, a holy place, a Divine Center.”*** (Streams of Living Water by Richard Foster, 1998, beginning of chapter 2 – a quote by Thomas Kelly).

***“[Even people] who have yet to turn their lives over to Jesus Christ – can and should practice them. [spiritual disciplines].”*** (Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster, p. 2).

***“[I]f I find Christ, I will find my true self and if I find my true self, I will find Christ.”***  
(Abba’s Child by Brennan Manning, p. 125).

In His book, *The Coming of the Cosmic Christ*, Matthew Fox, a former Catholic priest and was excommunicated from the Church for his heretical teachings, now a Episcopalian priest, wrote,

***“We are all royal persons, creative, godly, divine, person of beauty and grace. We are all Cosmic Christ’s, “other Christ.”***

- Matthew Fox, *The Coming of the Cosmic Christ*, p. 137

***Divinity is found in all creatures. The divine name from Exodus 3:14, “I Am who I Am,” is appropriated by Jesus who shows us how to embrace our own divinity. The Cosmic Christ is the “I am” in every creature. The divine mystery and miracle of existence is laid bare in the unique existence of each atom, each galaxy, each tree, bird, fish, dog, flower, star, rock and human. Meister Eckhart says that “in this breakthrough I discover that God and I are one.”***

- Matthew Fox, *The Coming of the Cosmic Christ*, p. 154

M. Scott Peck again tells us,

*If you want to know the closest place to look for grace, it is within yourself. If you desire wisdom greater than your own, you can find it inside you. . . . To put it plainly, our unconscious is God. God within us. We were part of God all the time.*

- M. Scott Peck, The Road Less Traveled, p. 281

And as Kenneth Copeland so boldly proclaims, *“You don’t have a god in you, you are one.”* And Benny Hinn takes it a step further when he says, *“I am a ‘little Messiah’ walking on earth.”*

***NOT!***

I truly believe this is what **“the lie”** is all about and we see this spoken of by Paul in II Thessalonians 2:11. It was the lie that was given to Eve in the Garden, that you shall be as god and it is the lie that is out there today, that we are gods! I think that this Last Day’s world religion will be focused on this lie, that we are gods!

It is truly a sad day when people have moved so far away from God that they are calling themselves gods! Israel bought into this lie and so is the church today!

2. The Lord goes on to say that a virgin is not going to forget her ornaments nor will a bride forget her attire. But tragically God’s people forgot about Him, they turned from Him, the One who loves them so much they have forgotten. That is the love of God for sinful man and that same God sent His only begotten Son to die in our place to pay in full the penalty for our sins!

VERSES 33-34

1. The picture here is that of man flaunting his sin and teaching others to sin, to do evil. No longer is sin done in secret but it is flaunted and without shame. I saw this commercial that was for women who have incontinence but the way she was talking, I won't say what she said but it was very vulgar and sexually explicit. And they are trying to get us use to sin, comfortable with it and they keep pushing the envelope. Don't allow them to, stand up for righteousness!

2. Not only were they promoting all kinds of sin but they took advantage of the poor and God is once again saying you are doing this openly, you are proud of what you are doing!

Not only that but they were openly sacrificing their children in the fire to the god Molech. This also was not done in secret. And some of you may think, "*How barbaric!*" Don't get too self-righteous, as of April 22, 2014 at 3:30 pm we have murdered this year 337,246 children in the womb and there have been 56,743,013 abortions done since 1973! And all this is done without shame.

Listen carefully how the love of many has grown cold and we are willing to flaunt our sin. We are told,

Wannabe celebrity Josie Cunningham last night confessed the chance of appearing on TV's Big Brother was worth more than her unborn child's life.

Puffing on a cigarette and rubbing her baby bump, the controversial model and call girl – who will have her abortion at a clinic this week – said: "I'm finally on the verge of becoming famous and I'm not going to ruin it now."



“An abortion will further my career. This time next year I won’t have a baby. Instead, I’ll be famous, driving a bright pink Range Rover and buying a big house. Nothing will get in my way.”

- <http://liveactionnews.org/wannabe-celebrity-josie-cunningham-planning-an-abortion-so-she-can-get-on-a-reality-show/>

What a sad statement on the sanctity of life! It is all about us no matter who we have to murder to get there!

### VERSES 35-37

1. Look at how far away from God they were. They did not see themselves in the wrong so God can’t be mad at us. He needs to chill, it’s all good! No it is not! But it is amazing how far into evil a person can go and still see themselves as good, not as sinners.

2. The Lord concludes here by telling them not to put their trust in anyone or anything else besides Him. If you remember at one point King Ahaz turned to the Assyrians for help, and they let them down. (II Kings 16:7-9, II Chronicles 28:16-21). The Southern Kingdom of Judah put their trust in the Egyptians at one point, but they were conquered by the Babylonians and Judah was taken into captivity with their hands on their heads. (Jeremiah 37:7-8). The point in all this,

### ***TRUST IN THE LORD ALONE!***

You see, the Lord was not looking for excuses for their sin but He wanted them to ***REMEMBER*** their relationship when they were walking with Him. He wanted them to ***REPENT*** of their sin. And He wanted them to ***REPEAT*** their first works, do what they were doing when they were in love with the Lord!

God wants to restore them just as He wants to restore people today. We see that in Jeremiah chapter 31 where we are told, **“The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: ‘Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you. Again I will build you, and you shall be rebuilt, O virgin of Israel! You shall again be adorned with your tambourines, And shall go forth in the dances of those who rejoice.”** Jeremiah 31:3-4.

How can God cleanse sinful us? First of all we are cleansed by the shed blood of Christ applied to our life by faith. Then, after we are saved the dirt of this world can get into our lives and Paul said in Ephesians 5:25-27, **“... Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”** Only God, only Jesus can cleanse us white as snow!

