



Jeremiah 10:3-4 IS NOT ABOUT CHRISTMAS!

This is the first verse we will be breaking down and discussing in my Christmas Series. A lot of false information and verse isolation has occurred over the years in the search for the very controversial question, “Should a Christian observe Christmas?”

This will be a lengthy series, as this topic is weightier than I ever anticipated, so I thank you for your patience in advanced.



I would also like to mention that whether you feel convicted not to celebrate Christmas, or convicted to celebrate Christmas, this article doesn't discuss whether you should or should not. This article is simply stating that regardless of your stance on Christmas, we cannot verse isolate and say certain scriptures means something when it really does not. This article is to correct a misinterpretation that has spread.

Let's take a look at the isolated verse in question that many argue is a verse **explicitly** about Christmas:

“For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe.

They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.”

Jeremiah 10:3-4 KJV

Simply put, this verse is not about Christmas... at all. So then begs the question, what is it about?

This verse is describing a sin in which we **all** commit. We all, at some point in our lives, read scripture through the lens of self. Meaning we interpret and then obey what we *think* it means. We read a scripture, isolate a verse, and apply it with a meaning that makes the quickest and most easiest sense to us. This leads us, as well as others, astray from the real truth and prevents us from knowing the actual truth of God.

This verse and others like it, (which use very similar language) but is not included in to the “anti-Christmas” list of verses such as Isa 40:19, Isa 41:7, Isa 44:9-17, Isa 46:5-7, are all describing the idolatrous nature of **relying on human effort** and work and creating and worshipping a false religion out of those “works” rather than the divine truth given by the Lord.

This verse, as well as the others mentioned above, are describing how the truth of God actually becomes distorted and reduced to material and man-made concepts through our lenses of self, or human reasoning, rather than revelation from God. It places a focus on the **outward appearance** of religion and truth, rather than the true, deep understanding of the truth of God given by God.

I think a scripture that explains this perfectly is Isa 44:9-20. Now read this verse with what we just mentioned above in mind: **“9 They that make a graven image are all of them vanity; and their delectable things shall not profit; and they are their own**

witnesses; they see not, nor know; that they may be ashamed.

10 Who hath formed a god, or molten a graven image that is profitable for nothing?

11 Behold, all his fellows shall be ashamed: and the workmen, they are of men: let them all be gathered together, let them stand up; yet they shall fear, and they shall be ashamed together.

12 The smith with the tongs both worketh in the coals, and fashioneth it with hammers, and worketh it with the strength of his arms: yea, he is hungry, and his strength faileth: he drinketh no water, and is faint.

13 The carpenter stretcheth out his rule; he marketh it out with a line; he fitteth it with planes, and he marketh it out with the compass, and maketh it after the figure of a man, according to the beauty of a man; that it may remain in the house.

14 He heweth him down cedars, and taketh the cypress and the oak, which he strengtheneth for himself among the trees of the forest: he planteth an ash, and the rain doth nourish it.

15 Then shall it be for a man to burn: for he will take thereof, and warm himself; yea, he kindleth it, and baketh bread; yea, he maketh a god, and worshippeth it; he maketh it a graven image, and falleth down thereto.

16 He burneth part thereof in the fire; with part thereof he eateth flesh; he roasteth roast, and is satisfied: yea, he warmeth himself, and saith, Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire:

17 And the residue thereof he maketh a god, even his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou art my god.

18 They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand.

19 And none considereth in his heart, neither is there knowledge nor understanding to say, I have burned part of it in the fire; yea, also I have baked bread upon the coals thereof; I have roasted flesh, and eaten it: and shall I make the residue thereof an abomination? shall I fall down to the stock of a tree?

20 He feedeth on ashes: a deceived heart hath turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, Is there not a lie in my right hand?

In verse 9, it mentions that “they are their own witnesses” meaning we tried to give meaning (create an idol) out of something with ***our doing, our works***, rather than God giving us divine revelation.

Lets break down more similar language between this verse and Jeremiah 10:3-4.

Another terminology we see repeated in Scripture particularly in the verses of discussion, are “nails and hammers.” This phrase signifies again the human effort for false beliefs to “stand” on its own, revealing its powerlessness, which scripture tells us further in Jeremiah 10 how powerless our ideas of what truth really is. It is a shakeable belief system that we try to adorn with “silver and gold” to have an outward appearance of true religion. While man made idols (that is our false ideas of what scripture is saying) are lifeless, and need to be carried, whereas in contrast the Lord creates and sustains all things.

We can see this is the correct interpretation because remember when the temple was being built, no hammer, axe, or work of mans hands were heard while building the temple.

“And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building.”

1 Kings 6:7

“And if thou wilt make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone: for if thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou hast polluted it.”

Exodus 20:25 KJV

“And there shalt thou build an altar unto the LORD thy God, an altar of stones: thou shalt not lift up *any* iron *tool* upon them.”

Deuteronomy 27:5 KJV

This brings us back to “craftsman” in the Bible who shape lifeless metals or wood into something with their ***own minds***, ideas, human constructs, and try to create an *appearance* of authentic religion. God, however, is living and full of life and we need not create anything at all because He simply is. This verse and those alike are showing **that idols are human words masquerading as truths.**

These verses are describing how a person “cuts down or builds up” a distorted philosophy in which **they think** are scriptural truths, and construct **their own** false belief systems in which they mistake for genuine religion.

This is what scripture means when it writes “works of the hands” or “the workman.” When a man uses the work from his own hands, scripture is explaining that it is the act of a false belief system that came from external corrupted sources, rather than the receiving of the divine knowledge from the Lord via the Holy Spirit (truth). Instead it *appears* as a religion but it is derived from self. This is why the Bible repeatedly says “judge not by appearance” (John 7:24)

While many christians point their fingers at other sects of religion, or controversies, they too are making the same mistake by worshipping false idols- their opinion of what Scripture says. While many christians point at other christians for placing a Christmas tree in their house and saying that they are bringing an

“idol” into the house, that is not what is being said in scripture. The idol is not the tree, the idol is the dead words you worship over the living Word. An idol is not a literal object, but a metaphor how we idolize our interpretations, beliefs, philosophies and opinions of Scripture rather than waiting patiently on the Lord for the divine truth which only can come from Him.