

Thursday Evening Bible Study  
**Series: The Book of Isaiah**

Teaching Summary for Week 67

**Isaiah Chapter 43:22-44:23**

This section of Isaiah treats Israel's sin and redemption.  
Isaiah addresses four topics under the heading of **sin dealt with by redemption**.

He begins by describing the sin of the nation. **Isaiah 43:22-24**.

Next, He describes how the Lord will meet their need. **Isaiah 43:25-44:5**.

Then he will contrast the Lord, their Redeemer, the only God with idols. **Isaiah 44:6-20**.

Finally, he will describe redemption from sin. **Isaiah 44:21-23**.

We have finished Isaiah 43:25-44:5. Next up is **Isaiah 44:6-20** . **Isaiah contrasts the Lord with idols**.

*This is where we pick things up this evening.*

In **44:6-8**, the LORD once again proclaims that He is the one and only God. He also identifies Himself as Israel's King and Redeemer.

It's remarkable: God identifies Himself with one fallen and rebellious people. Yet He had done this before also. See **Exodus 3:6**.

He chose to display His matchless power and omniscience in His dealings with His chosen people.

In **44:9-20**, the idol-worshipper is a blind fool, and the idol-maker is nothing but a deceived and delusional man.

The Lord's words are condemning, definitely; but they are also memorable, sarcastic, and, at times, hysterical.

He describes the work of making an idol. But he does so in reverse order: the last step comes first, and the first step comes last. It is an expose, revealing the hollow core of an idol.

**Verse 18** is masterful. Is he describing the idol-worshippers, or the idol?

**Verse 20** says that the idolater "feeds on ashes". Ashes have no nutritional value.

In the Old Testament, ashes represent affliction, slaughter, destruction, death, mourning, repentance, and the ultimate fate of the wicked.

See **2 Kings 23:4; Job 42:6; Psalm 102:8-10; Ezekiel 28:18; Malachi 4:3; and 2 Peter 2:6**.

## What about us?

**Isaiah 44:9-11** speaks directly to the present day - to people and to their idols: the natural or man-made things that men worship as their gods today.

When the Bible – particularly the New Testament - talks about idols, idolatry, and idolaters, it typically - but not always - associates these things with unbelievers. See **1 Corinthians 5:9-11, 6:9-11; Galatians 5:16-24; Ephesians 5:5; 1 Peter 4:3; Revelation 21:7-8,**

What is an unbeliever's god? It is that which is dearest to his heart; the thing he guards most ferociously, that which is untouchable, that final line in the sand of his life that no one dare cross without violence ensuing. See **Acts 19:23-29.**

What does **Romans 1:18-32** teach us about idolatry? How about **Colossians 3:5-7**?

Believers can come under the influence of idolatry. We can become, as **1 Corinthians 10:20** says, participants or sharers in demons.

Believers can fall into temptation and act as if we were unbelievers. We can crave evil things, act in sexual immorality, be taken over by greed and the love of money.

We can, in this sense, be idolaters ( **1 Corinthians 10:7**).

Look at **Acts 15:29**, followed by **1 Corinthians 8:1-10, 10:14-30**. Is there a difference between worshipping an idol and eating meat sacrificed to idols? How does that translate to our situation today?

As believers, we are commanded to flee idolatry. **1 Corinthians 10:14.**

**How are we to flee idolatry? What's the Lord's provision for us in this matter ?**

Let's read the following verses and use them to answer this question.

**1 Corinthians 10:12-13**

**1 Timothy 6:7-12**

**2 Timothy 2:22-23**

**Galatians 5:16-24**

**Ephesians 4:17-32**

**Colossians 3:8-17**