

**OUR GOD IS THE LORD**

Isaiah 42:8; 45:5-7

**Intro:** One very disturbing fact that came out of the ceremonies that were held this past week had to do with religion. We saw a Roman Catholic priest, a Moslem priest, a Jewish rabbi, at least one Episcopalian priest, and Billy Graham uniting to lead the service remembering the people who were killed on Tuesday of this week, and their grieving families. And it probably went unnoticed by most Americans that one of the men, I believe it was the episcopalian prayed to Allah in the same prayer that was addressed to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Who is Allah? My dictionary says correctly that “he is the Supreme Being of Mohammedans.” He has absolutely nothing to do with the Lord God of the Bible. In fact, he doesn’t exist at all. But the Mohammedan world worships Allah. And the World Book Encyclopedia makes this interesting statement about Allah and the Koran, which is the holy book of the Mohammedans. This is what it says:

It [Allah] corresponds to the name of God in the Christian religion. The word Allah is used to denote the Supreme Being in the pages of the Koran, which is to the Mohammedans what the Bible is to Christians” (Vol. I, p. 230).

But that is as far as the similarity goes.

There has been a movement on for many years to unite the religions of the world. It has been called *the ecumenical movenent*. Its purpose has been to bring all religions together into one great religion. This is not anything new. During the time that the Israelites were held in Egyptian bondage many of them became idolaters. And so when Moses was in Mount Sinai receiving the Law from God, and he stayed longer than the people thought that he would stay, with Aaron’s cooperation they made a golden calf. And the leaders of the people said of that calf, “These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt” (Ex. 32:4). But then Aaron made this proclamation which is easy to pass over in the reading of Exodus 32. He said, “Tomorrow is a feast to the Lord,” to Jehovah. That is in verse 5 of Exodus 32. So apparently Aaron had justified the making of the golden calf with his decision that they would worship Jehovah the next day. And so that became one of the first attempts at an ecumenical religion. The word “ecumenical” means *world-wide*. It is an attempt on the part of religious leaders, including many who profess to be Christians, to have one great world religion. And “god” seems to be a common term

among them to unite all people.

But when the Mohammedan speaks of God, his idea of God is far different from the true Christian. In fact, when the liberal so-called “Christian” theologian speaks of God, he may think that he is speaking of the God of the Bible, but in listening to him speak, or in reading what he has written, you soon realize that he does not believe in the God of the Bible Who clearly is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So it soon becomes clear that as far as the Christian faith is concerned, the big obstacle that stands in the way of this one-world religion is the God of the Bible and His eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. But unfortunately the liberal theologians have claimed that they are the true spokesmen of the Christian faith.

I was told by one very close to me that Franklin Graham was asked if he if agreed that the ecumenical service that was held in the national cathedral was wonderful, and he said, “Yes.” Even Billy Graham made it clear when he spoke of the death and resurrection of Christ that he was speaking on for Christians. It is a known fact that Billy Graham believes that there will be people from all religions in heaven, not because they believe in Christ, but because the blood of Christ covers all who live up to the light they have regardless of the religion that they practice. So you and I can become very, very unpopular on the world scene today if we insist that there is only one God, and that He is distinguished from all other “gods” (with a small ‘g’) by the fact that He is “the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Paul stated the position of the true Christian when he wrote to the church at Corinth with these words:

But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him (1 Cor. 8:6).

And he supported those words in his epistle to the Ephesian church. And notice that he said that this is the only unity in which the child of God have any part:

- 1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,
- 2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;
- 3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all (Eph. 4:1-6).

A true Christian can subscribe to nothing less than this as a statement of what we believe. The person who says that there is more than one God, or that God is not the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, or that the Holy Spirit is not really a person, but just some kind of a mysterious influence, is a person with which we cannot be united.

Let me give you another passage from the Apostle Paul which he wrote to his young friend and fellow-servant Timothy. This is what he said:

3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

7 Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity (1 Tim. 2:3-7).

Early in the history of the church the Apostles were confronted with real opposition from the Jewish leaders of the day. This is what they told Peter and John:

And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:18).

They did not say they couldn't be religious, or that they weren't to speak about God, but Jesus was the problem to them. Notice the answer which Peter and John gave to them:

19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard (Acts 4:19-20).

And so any system of religion which does not have any place for God as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has no place for us, and in the light of the Book which God has given us, cannot be true. It makes no difference how many people disagree with us, we must stand by what

the Bible teaches us.

Now this problem continued all through OT times. And I want to point out from Scripture that the term “God” belongs to our God alone, and that any attempt on the part of others to take either “God” or “LORD” and apply it to anyone else, is false teaching.

I would like to recommend to you the reading of Isaiah 40 through 66. There you will find many times when the prophet Isaiah had to emphasize this truth that we are talking about. And we know from such passages as Isaiah 7:14 and 9:6-7 that Isaiah and the prophets of the OT believed what we do about God and His Son Who eventually came to earth and Who was given the Name “Jesus” because He would save the people of God from their sins.

Let us look first at:

## **I. ISAIAH 42:8.**

(Read.)

It is obvious that here Isaiah was writing what the LORD dictated to him.

In our study of Ezekiel which we have just started, Tom pointed out to us this morning that which appeared first in chapter 5 and continues to be mentioned many places in this prophecy of judgment, that the Lord was doing what He was doing that the people would know that He was the Lord.

And Tom also pointed out that you have this expression over and over again in the book of Exodus which gives us the story of God’s deliverance of His people from Egypt and the way He led them out of Egypt toward the land He had promised to give them in the days of Abraham. And the same is true of that book which is true of the book of Ezekiel. God did what He did that Moses might know that He was the Lord. He did what He did that the people of Israel might know that He was the Lord. He did what He did that Pharaoh might know that He was the Lord. And He did what He did that the Egyptians might know that He was the Lord. Obviously the Egyptians had their “gods” as most people do, but no one had the right to claim that title “LORD” and all that went with it.

And, as I have already emphasized, this was a main point in the latter part of Isaiah's prophecy.

"I am the Lord" means that He was Jehovah then, that He always had been Jehovah, and that He always will be Jehovah, and that no one else had any right to that title – with the one exception of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"That is MY name." The God of Israel has exclusive rights to that Name. No one else has the right to claim it. And the Lord indicated that when He went on to say, "And my glory will I not give to another."

We have learned that God's glory is His Deity. So this means that while there are millions of others who are called "gods," He alone is the true God, and there are no others. Particularly would He not give His praise to graven images.

Now you take all of that truth, and all of the truth that we have in the NT which clarifies what the LORD meant when He said this to Isaiah, and on that one point alone you have the major reasons for the judgments which the Lord brought upon His people in OT times. He claimed absolute supremacy over every other "god" who was called "a god."

But let us go on to the second passage which I have chosen as my text for tonight:

## **II. ISAIAH 45:5-7.**

Verse 5 begins the same way that Isaiah 42:8 began: "I am the LORD." But, if anything, this is even more powerful, certainly more extensive, than the first verse we looked at.

Here God claimed that there is not other God. All gods but the God of the Bible are false gods, and should not be worshipped.

And then He added, "I girded thee, though thou hast not known me."

"Girded" is a simple term of everyday life which simply means that I am the One Who has clothed you, and the One Who has met all of your other needs. But the word carries with it the idea of *strengthening*. Just like when men used to go to war they would put a tight girdle around their

waist to give them added support and strength, the Lord said that He was the One Who did all of that. He made daily provision for their needs, and He was the One Who gave them the strength to overcome their enemies.

But now look at verse 6. “That they may know from the rising of the sun,” that is the east, “and from the west.” these two terms encompass the whole world, “that there is none beside me.”

So it was the responsibility of the children of Israel to spread this message to all of the nations of the earth. People may have, and do have, their own “gods” and religions, but the reason we are to go with them is because what they believe about the “gods” is not true; they need to know the one and only true God. It is not true that we are all going to the same place, heaven, but we just have different ways to go.

And so as in verse 5, the Lord said it again, “I am the Lord, and there is none else.” Either you must know the Lord, and get right with Him, or you need to realize that there is no other way for you to find salvation and the peace with God that accompanies salvation.

And then the Lord said a very interesting thing. (Re-read verse 7.)

Here He was speaking as the Creator, and as the sovereign God of the universe. We have no peace unless God gives it to us. And when trouble comes, as it came to all of us this past week, we must see the hand of God in this too. And He concluded by saying, “I the LORD do all these things.”

Now as I read this seventh verse I see two ways in which we have gone astray as Americans. In the first place, today, as never before (at least in my lifetime), there is general acceptance of the theory of evolution – that the world and everything in the universe was not created by God, but that it simply all developed by a process called “evolution.” Even according to a survey taken of Christian colleges, out of more than 100, all except for about 10 have compromised with the truth of the Word of God by saying that God created the world, but He did it by an evolutionary process. Thus they are robbing God of the total glory that belongs to Him as the Creator. As I read to you this morning, He simply spoke the word, and in six twenty-four hour days the work of creation was finished!

The second way that we have robbed God of His glory is that we (and I

include many Christians) have failed to recognize the hand of God in all of the events of history and of our daily lives. If people believe in the sovereignty of God, they usually exclude His work of salvation. They say that He has provided it, but He has left it up to man to decide whether or not He will accept it. I know one seminary professor who actually said that he believes in the sovereignty of God and in the sovereignty of man! How can that be? If man is also sovereign, then God can't be totally sovereign. And you end up with no one being sovereign.

Now let me conclude.

**Concl:** We are all interested in why we have experienced the terrible judgment which has come upon our nation this past week, and which may continue in other or the same ways. Why has it happened? Is it to a great extent because the professing church has been so willing to compromise with error for the sake of so-called unity, but we have robbed God of the glory that He has, and which only belongs to Him, that He and He alone is the LORD. Our God, your God and my God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is the only God, the only Lord. And His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, is the only Savior. It is still true, whether the world likes to hear it or not, the Lord Jesus Christ is “the way, the truth, and the life.” And no one can come to God except through Him. You and I, nor anyone else, can honor God unless they honor the Son.

And in teaching that this world was not created by God, but it only happened, we are denying that we have any responsibility to a Creator.

If God judged Israel and many other nations because their theology was all wrong, should it be thought incredible that what has happened in our churches is also a factor in the judgment that has taken place in our time? Our God is the LORD. He will not give His glory to any other. If we have a false god today it is money. But money will never purchase a place for us in heaven. Money never can take away our sin. In fact, the love of money is at the root of every kind of evil.

God is saying to the world again, “I am the Lord, that is My Name and only mine, and I will not give my glory to any other, neither to angels nor to men. And I will speak so that you will hear what I am saying.

May our hearts be humbled. Let us pray that the Lord will enable us to hear what He is saying to us. And then let us ask Him to use us to help others to hear the message.