



Jeremiah 10

Jeremiah CHAPTER 10

Turn to Jeremiah 10 as we continue our journey through the whole Bible. In chapter 7 the word that came from Jeremiah from the LORD saying, “Stand in the gate of the LORD’S house and proclaim there this word.” And so chapter 7-10 are the words that the LORD gave to Jeremiah to speak to the people as they were going into the temple to worship. As we have noted before, Josiah, who was the king of Israel at this time, had initiated wonderful spiritual reforms. But from the context they were only surface reforms. They really did not get down into the heart of the national life. People were going to church or to the temple because it was sort of the in thing or the popular thing to do. It had become popularized by the king. And in order to curry the favor of the king there was just movement back to the temple.

But in the hearts of the people there was still this idolatry. In their homes they still had these little idols. The centers of idol worship had been destroyed. The idol of Baal that had been placed in the temple was taken out and destroyed. But within the homes there were still the little idols that they had made and the little worship centers. So the people were really divided in their devotion. Thought they were going to the temple and worshipping God in the temple, it was a way, sort of an insurance policy. They felt that as long as the temple was now functioning again that it would guarantee their security from their enemies. They can go ahead and practice their idolatry, they can live as they please during the week but we are going to honor God on the Sabbath Day and because the temple rituals are functioning surely the very fact that we are going to the temple will guarantee national survival.

Because there was a national danger being posed by the rise of the power of Babylon who had conquered the Assyrians and were now spreading their power throughout the world. And thus, there was that danger from Babylon but they felt that now that we have established the temple worship God will protect us and we are secure, we don’t have to worry about being defeated by the Babylonians.

And so Jeremiah was commanded to go down to the temple and rattle their cages. They were resting in a false hope and in a false security. And thus the message was; don’t trust in lying words, saying the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD. Don’t think that is going to guarantee your security. God wants you to thoroughly change your ways. God wants you to live a righteous life. God wants you to seek judgment. Righteous judgment, to be fair, to be honest, to be ethical. For at this point at their national history their political system was corrupted, their religious system was corrupted and thus the people were corrupted. They had no real morals or ethics. Their word meant nothing. They could not care about honesty or being fair. Everyone was ripping off everybody else.

And when a nation deteriorates to that status that nation cannot stand. Even though that nation may outwardly may be engaged in religious observances, that nation cannot stand. The strength of the nation is not in religious observances, the strength of the nation is in a right relationship with God. And you can have religious observances but not be in a right relationship with God. And that is what is basically what Jeremiah was telling the people.

If you trusting in the fact that you are worshipping and coming to worship God in the temple and you think that is going to make the nation secure, you are wrong. And the Babylonians are on their way and they are going to destroy you unless you thoroughly change and amend your ways and your doings. And so he is there to rattle their cages and their sense of security in the fact that they are observing these religious rights in the temple and thinking that is sufficient.

And so as we come to chapter ten we come to the close of the message as Jeremiah lays his finger on the root of the problem in the nation.

Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel.

Listen to what God has to say. Thus saith the LORD.

Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the sign of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

You are God's people. As God's people you are to be different from the world, from the heathen that are in the world. You are not to follow their corrupt practices. God said, "Love not the world, neither the things of the world. For he that has the love of the world in the heart has not the love of the Father." Don't follow the heathen practices for they are dismayed at the signs of heaven. Probably this is a reference to the following of the zodiac and the horoscopes and the feeling that this is a bad month or this is a bad day and I better stay in bed today because my signs are wrong. The Lord is saying to them, "Don't pay any attention, don't be dismayed like the heathen are dismayed at the signs of heaven."

For the customs of the people are vain: for one couth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good.

The problem with Israel was that they had copied the patterns of the heathen. Israel was surrounded by nations that worshipped idols. An idol was a representation to the person of that which was paramount in their lives. Now in a sense there was a greater honesty with those people than there is with people today. Today we have become very sophisticated in that we don't have little idols in our homes. That is passé. We look upon that as sort of foolishness. But in so doing we actually are guilty of self-deception. We are not really being honest because the idol to that person represented to them that which was the master passion in their life or that which what they were devoted to.

There were people in those days that were devoted to sex. That was their big thing. That was all they ever thought about and all they ever talked about. And thus because they recognized that as the thing that they lived for they had little idols that represented the sex goddess and thus they worshipped this little idol of Ashteroth, the sex goddess.

There were others whose big thing was pleasure. Their whole life was geared around the pleasure principle. And because their whole thing was pleasure they were the party goers of that day. People who were just living for the parties said, "This is my god, I am just living for fun, I am just out to have a good time." And so they made little images that represented good times and they called it Mammon and they worshipped Mammon.

There were others whose whole thing was power and money. They wanted to control. And this was their life. They were dedicated to the control over others, the power over others. And thus they made their little gods that represented the power god. This is what I live for and this is what I want and this is my ambition. And they made these little gods and they worshipped them.

Now there are people today who still live for pleasure. Their whole life is geared around the pleasure principle. But if you would come up and say, "Oh do you worship Molech?" They would say,

“What are you talking about, man, I am just a party hound?”

Or you say, “Oh, I see you worship Ashteroth.”

“Why do you say that?”

“Well you are always talking about sex and the gal that you had sex with last night.”

“Ashteroth, who is she?”

We are not as honest as they were. They acknowledged, this is what I worship, this is what I live for. This is what to me is real living. This is what masters my life, this is what I am thinking about, this is what I am planning and scheming and these are the things that I want.

And they were honest enough to recognize that this is the god of my life, this is the thing that is controlling my life. And thus, there was an honesty with them that we don't have today because people are living now under a deception. But these people who were going to temple to worship also had these little gods in their homes that they also worshipped. And so there was a divided devotion. And that is why God said, “Thou shalt have no other gods beside Me. Thou shalt love Jehovah thy God with all of thy heart, with all of thy soul and with all of thy strength.” God is to be first and foremost. That is; the eternal living God. But they were worshipping these other gods and God was through the prophet saying, “Don't think that you can have an assemblance of religious activity here in the temple while you are still in your homes and in your hearts are worshipping these other gods. You are no better off than the heathen. You are doing the same thing that the heathen are doing but you are also attending Sabbath worship in the temple. But what you are doing here on the Sabbath in the temple is negated by what you are doing in your homes, the worship of other gods that you have in your heart and in your lives.”

So you are not to follow the customs of the heathen who cut a tree out of the forest, who carve it into the shape that represents that which is the master passion of their lives. The little goddess Ashteroth was a little idols that they made with exaggerated female idols and these were the little goddesses that they worshipped. It was an acknowledgment that I live for sex. So they decked these little wooden idols with silver and gold. They covered them with silver and gold and then they have to fasten it with nails so it won't topple over. So, quite a god, if you don't fasten it down it might fall over on you. Then he speaks about that they have to be carried because they cannot go on their own.

So the interesting thing is that the person makes a god that represents the master passion of his life but the little god that he makes, though he has eyes he cannot see, though he has ears he cannot hear, and though he has feet he cannot walk. He has to be carried, he has to be fastened with nails lest he sway or topple over.

They are upright as the palm tree,

There is a suggested translation that is gaining momentum that they are like a scarecrow in a cucumber field. That is; they are just sticks, they are like a scarecrow that is covered, it is just sticks that is covered with clothes and covered with a hat or something. But it is just sticks. They are designed to scare away the birds from the melon patch or from the cucumber patch. The thought is that they are just sticks. They are not really gods. There is no power in them to help you nor is there power in them to do evil.

In the area of witchcraft you have those people who supposedly can take a little doll and put pins in it and bring a curse on others. And people who are superstitious become extremely fearful of someone

putting a hex on them or someone putting a curse on them. And people who are superstitious will go to these people because they have an enemy and want to put a hex on them. And they will pay them to put hexes on them. But it says, "Don't be afraid of them, they are nothing but sticks." They have no power to do evil or to do good.

Forasmuch as there is none like unto thee, O LORD; thou art great, and Thy name is great in might.

So in contrast, here are these scarecrows or sticks that are covered with gold, they are carved into a shape to represent the person's god but they have no power. They have to be nailed to stand up and they have to be carried wherever you want them to go. But totally unlike the true and the living God. Unlike Jehovah. There is none like unto thee Jehovah for You are great and your name is great in power.

Who would not fear thee, O King of nations?

Now there is nothing to fear in these little gods but there is plenty to fear before the awesome God, the Creator. And the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, the beginning of knowledge.

For to thee doth it appertain: forasmuch as among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like unto thee.

God is alone. He stands alone. There is nothing that can be compared to God on the finite level. And the problem is that God is infinite and man is finite and thus God is incomprehensible by man. The finite cannot grasp the infinite.

Elephaz, the friend of Job said, "Who by searching can understand God to perfection?" And the answer is: no one can. The finite mind cannot comprehend the infinite God. Neither can there any comparisons be made with things that are finite with the infinite God. We try to make sort of likenesses to sort of help people understand. We try to give illustrations to help a person comprehend what eternity is all about. But in reality, our finite minds are not capable of grasping the infinite God because there isn't really anything that you can really compare from the finite realm with the infinite eternal God.

forasmuch as among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like unto thee. But they are altogether (in talking of the idols and so forth), brutish (stupid is another translation and more correct actually, dull minded is literally Hebrew) and foolish: the stock is a doctrine of vanities.

These little sticks that have become idols are empty.

Silver spread into plates is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz,

Now, Tarshish, the place of silver was probably Spain or England. Uphaz was noted for its gold and they would bring it in plates.

the work of the workman, and of the hands of the founder:

So they would take and melt the silver and they would melt the gold and then they would pour it into molds for these little gods. And you could buy a silver god or a gold god. Again the same idea is that these little images that represented to the people those things which they worshipped or those things which mastered their lives. They are made by the hands of the founder.

blue and purple is their clothing:

And so people would take and make little purple cloths and glue gowns to put them on these little gods.

they are all the work of cunning men.

Notice: they are gods that are created by men. Now there are some foolish men who declare God is the creation of man. And you hear this quite often. Man needs to believe in something so he invented the idea of God so that he could have something to believe in but God is actually the creation of man. That is an opinion that many people hold. But in reality, man is a creation of God. There is an area called quantum mechanics, which is just really weird. In the quantum mechanics there is a reasoning that goes something like this. Well, it is not reasoning, it is sort of a hypothesis that goes something like this.

Basically things begin with thought. Now this goes back to Greek philosophy. Everything was originally was a thought and in the beginning was the Word and Word was with God and the Word was God. But it all began with a thought. In this quantum mechanics there isn't really any time; past present or future. It is all sort of a jumbled sort of a thing. And because man would one day think of a Creator that God actually was created by man's thought. Then this thought brought the world into existence. It is really weird. It is sort of a circular kind of a thing and there are people who really but into this stuff; that God is actually the creation of man; that man created God.

Well, here are men who are seeking to create gods. They are making a mold and they are melting the silver and they are pouring it into the mold, the founders are working to create these little images, these little idols that represent these desires and ambitions. And then they decorate them with the blue and purple cloth. They are the work of the cunning men. But in cunning contrast:

But the LORD is the true God

These are false gods.

he is the living God, and an everlasting king:

Frances Schaffer, one the brilliant minds in the Christian community in this generation, before he died declared that the time is come that the Christians cannot just talk about God anymore. Because the term God has become an ambiguous term and it means many different things to many different people.

So you say, "God," and some people invasion a force, some kind of electric dynamo that is emanating power throughout the universe. So they say, "Oh yes, God is wonderful. I feel the vibrations." So you can't just say God because God to people is so many different things. So we have to more or less give a qualifying kind of adjectives or adverbs and declare that He is the eternal, living God. He is not just some dead, inanimate kind of a god. Or just some impersonal force that has come into the universe. But He is the eternal, living God. And even at that people are confused. He is the God who has revealed Himself through the Bible.

But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.

Indignation is a word that is generally describing the Great Tribulation in the Old Testament. Whenever you come across the word indignation it is the Hebrew word that makes reference to the Great Tribulation. The Day when God's wrath is going to come upon the earth. The book of Revelation describes

that Great Day of the Lord. It speaks about the Day of His wrath has come and who shall be able to stand. Then he gives you a description of the Great Tribulation that is going to come upon this earth. And let me say that I believe that if ever there was a time when the earth was ripe for the judgment of God it is the day in which we live. Jesus said that evil days will wax worse and worse but I wonder how long God will let it go before He intervenes. I don't think He is going to let it go much longer.

God allowed Sodom to continue in it's evil for a period of time. Lot went to Sodom. He saw the way the people were living and his righteous spirit was vexed by what was going on around him. Even as our righteous spirit becomes vexed as we read of the things that are going on around us. Things that had become so bad in Sodom that the LORD sent the angels down to see if it was really as bad as it appeared to be; to discover the true hearts of the men. And when the angels were in the house of Lot, the men of the city, the homosexuals came and they began to knock on the door and say to Lot, "Send those men out that we may rape them."

And Lot said, "These men are my guests, don't do this evil."

And they said, "Who do you think you are to judge us." And they were going to break the door down but the angels blinded them and said to Lot, "Get out of here, this is the last straw."

When people begin to be blatant in their evil, blatantly demonstrating, publicly demonstrating then you have come to the last straw. And I think that we are seeing the last straw of God's patience and I believe that the world is growing to see the judgment of God very soon. I think that the church is going to see the righteousness of God very soon.

But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble,

They are so brazen now but when God begins, I tell you, they are going to change their tune in a hurry.

Thus shall ye say unto them, (The LORD is still commanding Jeremiah, this is what you are to say to them) The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens.

These gods that you are worshipping, they are going to perish. These things in which you are putting so much stock and so much value, they are going to perish. Jesus said, "Don't lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust corrupt and decay, where thieves break through and steal. But rather lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven."

The eternal value of things and that is what we need to be looking at. But our minds are so caught up with the temporary values and we neglect so often the eternal.

The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens. He hath made the earth by his power,

Gods that are perishing but the true and the living God has made the earth by His power.

He hath established the world by his wisdom,

He created the universe by His power. The heavens declare the glory of God. But then He

established the earth and fit the earth as a dwelling place for man by His wisdom. And so the wisdom of God is manifested in the life forms that we see on the planet earth. And such wisdom! As we look at all of the various life forms we are amazed at the wisdom of God in the forming of the earth for man's habitation.

and he hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.

And as we look at the heavens we see the laws of physics in operation in the orbit of the stars and the planets and the comets. We see the laws of physics in an orderly universe. Think of all of these gigantic bodies racing through space at thousands of miles per hour. Imagine if there were not some order or laws of physics that were governing them. Imagine the collisions that would be going on. Because there are billions upon billions of stars. Huge bodies moving at these fantastic speeds but they are all governed by the laws of physics so you don't have gigantic super colossal collisions going on in the universe.

Now there are those that say, "Yes, all of that law and all of that order came out of a mass bang." That is like saying that this Bible resulted from an explosion in a print factory. All of the letters happened to fall, my, marvelous!

He hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion. When he uttereth his voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and he causeth the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures.

This is a beautiful description of the rain cycle. He gathers the waters into the heavens, the multitudes of waters and He causes the vapors to descend from the ends of the earth. How that the sun on ocean draws up the moisture into the atmosphere then He sends His winds to move the clouds to bring the rain over the land. It is just a beautiful laws of God and wisdom of God. He is pointing out how in God's wisdom. This whole water cycle, there is just a lot to be said and I am not going to say it all, I will say some.

Hydrogen is a very explosive gas. Oxygen is necessary for all combustion. So you take the two gases of hydrogen and oxygen and you have really the potential for a huge fire. Yet if you have a fire what do you throw on it? H₂O-hydrogen and oxygen. Now water is 16 times heavier than the atmosphere. So how are you going to take the salty water of the oceans and use it to water the earth? If you took up the water from the ocean with all of its salts and dumped it on the earth it would kill all of the vegetation.

So God has so designed that as the sun hits the water and heats up the water that hydrogen and oxygen are turned into their gaseous forms which are now lighter than air. But they are purified in the gaseous forms from the salts and are taken up into the atmosphere and formed into clouds and then He with His winds moves this vast amount of water. The heated gases of the hydrogen and oxygen and as they begin to come over the land surfaces they begin to, as the clouds cool, the gases begin to combine into these little droplets and then begin to fall over the earth and the mountains more because of the colder air.

He moves them and then He waters the earth and as they fall on the mountains and they fall as snow in order that you might have water in the summer time. He sort of sets up the reservoirs on the tops of the mountains. Those snow capped mountains are just a neat design of God. The colder weather keeps the ice and the snow so that it gradually melts on through the summer months until winter time comes and He dumps the new load of water on the top of the mountains.

The marvelous wisdom, in His wisdom He formed it. And you could just look at one example after another. As a human being when you inhale you need the oxygen in order to fuel the body cells. As you take a breath in you take in the oxygen out of this 79 parts of nitrogen and 20 parts of oxygen that make up

our atmosphere. There is 1% of other type gases, trace gases in the atmosphere. You need the oxygen.

If there was an equal amount of nitrogen and oxygen in the atmosphere it would speed up your heart and it would shorten your life tremendously. If there were twice as much oxygen as we have in the atmosphere as you have nitrogen you would have nitric oxide which is known as laughing gas and everybody would be going around like maniacs just laughing all of the time. So just the perfect ratio of nitrogen and oxygen in the atmosphere, but as you exhale, you are exhaling the carbon dioxide because the oxygen has been burned by your body's cells and it dumps the carbon dioxide in the blood stream that brings it back to the lungs. As you exhale, you are exhaling this carbon dioxide which is a poisonous gas.

Fortunately it is lighter than oxygen so it goes up. If you are in an air tight room, you gradually will deplete the oxygen in that room just like a fish can deplete the oxygen in its aquarium. You deplete the oxygen in the room. And what happens when the oxygen in the room gets depleted? You pass out. The brain is not getting the oxygen. What happens when you pass out? You lie on the floor. Where is the most oxygen in the room? It is on the floor because it is a heavier gas than carbon dioxide. Neat design.

But then soon the carbon dioxide would kill off all of men. So God created the trees to take in the carbon dioxide and they live off the carbon dioxide. And what do they exhale? Oxygen. By wisdom He formed it. And on and on and on you can see the wisdom of God in nature around us. And that is why the Scripture says, "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God." And that is why Jeremiah says the same thing. They are stupid and foolish who deny God.

Every man is brutish in his knowledge: every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image is falsehood, and there is no breath in them.

Every man is brutish or dull of understanding or stupid in his knowledge. Every founder is confounded by the graven image. Those who make them are confounded by them. For his molten image, this little god which he has made; the god that you worship and serve is a falsehood. There is no breath in them. Can't you see there is no life in them.

They are vanity, and the work or errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish. The portion of Jacob is not like them: for he is the former of all things;

God has formed all things. You cannot form God. God has formed all things.

and Israel is the rod of his inheritance: The LORD of hosts is his name. Gather up thy wares out of the land, O inhabitant of the fortress.

Now He is going back to the main theme of this message. That is that their trust in these idols, their trust in their religious ordinances is not going to save them from the destruction that is coming by the judgment of God upon this nation who is lacking ethics and morals and a true understanding of God.

For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will sling out the inhabitants of the land at this once,

You are there in the fortress. You think that within that walled city you will find safety but I will sling out the inhabitants.

and will distress them, that they may find it so.

So the prophet responds,

Woe is my for my hurt! my wound is grievous: but I said, Truly this is a grief, and I must bear it.

It was not easy to see the nation moving towards this time of judgment. It was grievous to the prophet. In the last chapter he said, "Oh that my head were waters and my eyes were a fountain of tears that I might weep day and night for these people." When we speak of the judgment of God we don't speak of it with a smacking of the lips and "you are gonna get yours buster" kind of an idea. It is only declaring the truth but it is a grievous truth. God will judge in righteousness.

My tabernacle is spoiled, and all my cords are broken:

The tent is spoiled. The chords that hold the tent up are all broken.

my children are gone forth of me, and they are not: there is none to stretch forth my tent any more, and to set up my curtains.

I am desolate. It is a picture and it is speaking in a picturesque way. Even to the present day you have the Bedouins who are living in the tents much as did Abraham. And they often times in the fields they had their tents and they would move from place to place. As in the Bedouin culture today the women and the children are the one who set up the tent. The husband has the important job of sitting there and telling them where to drive the spikes and how to lift the poles. But the women do all of the work in putting up the tents. She fixes him tea and he will sit there and direct the activities. You have come a long way baby. Talk about women's lib., they are free.....to do all the work. And here is the fellow bemoaning the fact; his wife and children have been taken away. "There is no one to put up my tent! What am I going to do?" It is an interesting picture of speech.

For the pastors are becoming brutish, (dull minded, stupid) and have not sought the LORD: therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered.

The nation is going to be scattered. The women and the children will be carried away captives. No one to put up the tent. The leadership have not sought the LORD and thus the people are all scattered.

Behold, the noise of the bruit is come, and a great commotion out of the north country, to make the cities of Judah desolate, and a den of dragons. O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

God, I know that You are sovereign and over all. We think many times that we are directing our own way and independent. But in reality, God rules and God reigns, it is not really man to direct his path.

O LORD, correct me, but with judgment; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing.

A good and interesting prayer. It is one that we should all echo. Lord, I want you to correct me. I want walk in the right way. I want to walk in a way that is pleasing. Oh Lord when you correct me, don't do it in judgment or according to my deserves more literally from the Hebrew. Whenever I come to God I never say, "Justice Lord, justice." I always pray, "Mercy, Lord, mercy." And that is basically what the prophet is saying. Lord, correct me but not in Thy judgment.

not in thine anger

If God would correct me in His anger I would be reduced to nothing. And so the prayer is: Lord, I

want to be corrected, but be merciful. And the beautiful thing is that the Lord does correct us in love. The Scripture says, "My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord for whom the Lord loveth, He chastens." And God's work in our lives; God's correcting, chastening work in our life is always the result of His love. It is a sign of His love for us and thus we are not to despise it. It is good that God does not let you get by with evil. It is good that everybody else in the office can cheat but you do it and you get caught. Good! God loves you. The others can get by with it, they are not His children but you are His child. He will not let you get by. And that is good. Lord, correct me, I want to walk in the right path. I want to do the right thing. I want, God, to live as you would have me to live. When I go astray, God, correct me in Your mercy and in Your love else I would have been brought to nothing.

Pour out thy fury on the heathen (don't pour it out on me!) that know thee not, and upon the families that call not on thy name: for they have eaten up Jacob, and devoured him, and consumed him, and have made his habitation desolate.

He is asking for God's judgment to come against the Babylonians because of the destruction that they are going to bring to God's people. But Lord, for your people, in love, correct.

Father, we see the pain that the prophet experienced as he was directed to deliver this difficult message to the people who had turned away from You and who in their folly had taken a path that was going to bring destruction. People who were resting in false confidences and in false hopes thinking that the religious rituals would guarantee their safety. We thank You Father that You have written all of these things as examples that we might learn from them. Help us, Lord, to learn from these lessons in history and may we set aside every false god and may we love You with all of our hearts and mind and strength. In Jesus' name, Amen.

I pray that the Lord would give you just a wonderful week. May it be a time of spiritual growth and development in your life. May it be a time of seeking the Lord. May He draw you away from the other distractions and those things that would take you away from Him and may He draw you unto Himself that you might have sweet communion with the Father and the Son as He reveals unto you His love and His plan and purpose for your life. May the Lord be with you to guide and to bless throughout this week