

## **Saint Timothy Lutheran – Edmonds, WA**

March 28, 2010 – Rev. Craig A. Patterson

### **“There Is No God Besides Me!”**

(Text: Deuteronomy 32:36-39)

**Context:** Moses spoke to the assembly of Israel. Through this “Song of Moses,” God confronts the children of Israel with their idolatry. Moses offers this song as a warning to the children of Israel before they crossed the Jordan into the land of milk and honey. This is a song that was intended to be sung by future generations for them to remember the One true God who had delivered and blessed them. As Moses and the LORD predicted, they would indeed offer up sacrifices to false gods, which were no gods at all. They would forget the one true God who had given them birth and who had redeemed them. God warned of His coming judgment. God would judge His people. He would let the ones who had abandoned Him face their challenges, dangers, and the future with their gods (false gods). He would, on the other hand, have compassion on those who served Him. Judgement for those who held to false gods and compassion and blessing from God would come to those who would serve Him.

#### **I. Many Of God’s Chosen People Stopped Trusting And Serving Him. Instead, They Worshiped False Gods.**

- A. Their fears led them to doubt the one true God and look elsewhere for gods.
  - 1. As they entered the land of Canaan, they began to intermarry with the unbelieving Canaanites and began to hear of, see, and experience the false religious activities of the unbelievers. The numbers of the unbelievers, oft times, was greater than their number, so fear, sometimes, led them to want to fit in with the majority.
- B. Their vanity led them to false gods.
  - 1. False promises of blessing were offered by the false priests of the false gods.
- C. Their impatience led them to false gods.
  - 1. The Hebrews would tire of waiting on the one true God for His answers to their prayers.
  - 2. They would rebel against the LORD as He would not answer them in the time that they were wanting.
- D. Their pride led them to false gods.
  - 1. They would treat God as their servant. (like a genie)
- E. As Moses warned in his song, God would then leave them to their false gods which could do absolutely nothing for them.
- F. In the end they would be judged by the one true God whom they had deserted.
  - 1. There is no one who can deliver a person from the hand of the one true God.
  - 2. God is the one, final judge of people’s lives and souls.
  - 3. “It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the Living God” (Heb. 10:31).

#### **II. The LORD (YAHWEH) Will Vindicate His People.**

- A. The One True God (Yahweh) would validate, reward, and bless the true worship of Himself by those who did not follow idols.
  - 1. True believers in the one true God will be vindicated, shown to be right, in front of those who fell away to false gods.
  - 2. The One true God will be their Rock and protection.
  - 3. The One true God has given His Son as the Savior for all those who believe.
- B. The LORD will “let His people suffer in their rebellion and under their idols. But the LORD will also show His people, in the midst of their suffering, the worthlessness of these idols in order to lead them once again to trust in Him as the one and only God who alone is their protection and Rock (vv. 37-39)” (Concordia Journal, Winter 2010, p. 54).
  - 1. God is an expert at working with those who have wandered.
  - 2. God seeks out, constantly, those who have gone astray following idols.
- C. Ultimately, God, through Moses’ song, declares “It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded, and it is I who will heal; for no one is able to deliver out of My hand” (v. 39).
  - 1. God is the final and only judge.
  - 2. God is the only Redeemer and Rescuer of souls.
  - 3. Jesus (“Yahweh Saves”) is the only Name under heaven by which a man can be saved. (Acts 4:12)
  - 4. Because of Jesus, we have the privilege to say, “Son (daughter) be of good cheer! Your sins are forgiven you!”