

Jeremiah 10:1-12

Let us look together at Jer. 10:1-12. This passage like all of the rest of the book of Jeremiah and most of the OT is in Hebrew, except for one verse. There is one verse in Jeremiah that is in Aramaic; that is in the course of this section I'm going to read to you. We will see why it is in Aramaic.

(Reading Jer. 10:1-10). Now v. 11 is in Aramaic. And the reason it's in Aramaic is that it was the language of the people among whom the people of Israel were to dwell in exile. He is telling them what they are to say to these people who don't know Hebrew. Of course they are both translated into English here so you wouldn't know the difference. I think it makes it vivid that this next verse is separate from the rest. It's what they are to say to these people among whom they are to be in exile.

"Thus shall ye say unto them, the gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under ~~these~~ these heavens." That is a perdition that was made, given in Aramaic to be given to these people among whom the Israelites went into exile, and a prediction which has been fulfilled.

For all those gods that were worshipped by those peoples among whom the Israelites were in exile, have disappeared. They are only known historically now. There is no one today who worships any of the gods of Babylon, of Egypt, of those great nations of the time of Jeremiah.

"The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens." Then v. 12 in Hebrew again tells about the true God. (Reading v. 12)

Where did this world come from? How did it come into existence? The Babylonians, Egyptians and these others had stories about how the gods had formed things and framed them and developed them. The Bible says, the true God has made all things that exist. He has created the universe.

Yet there is a further difference than that. Because according to the views of the Babylonians and Egyptians there was a sort of world process, the so-called Babylonian story of creation begins with the words: When from above there was no heavens, when there were no forces of nature, when no god had yet come into existence, then things began to move and the gods came into existence and another god and another god and they had children and they had children and then they turned against their grandparents and killed them and from their bodies they built the earth and the heavens.

But you see it is a story of a world process which brings things into existence, and even the gods can't do anything about it. The early Greeks and Romans had stories about gods who did all sorts of marvellous things. But toward the the end of the period of Greek and Roman life, they had given up largely faith in these pagan gods and they believed there was a world process by which things