

engaged in occult practices, sacrificed his own son to an idol, and filled Jerusalem with innocent blood. The Lord brought Assyria's army, which captured Manasseh and carried him in chains to Babylon, where he partially repented and prayed to the Lord, who gave him some deliverance from oppression there.

- (8) Psalm 14:1-3 "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good. The Lord has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men, To see if there are any who understand, Who seek after God. They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does good, not even one."

Here we see the direct connection between rejection of God and moral evil. Those who say, "No God!", who do not seek to know God, are corrupt, do abominable works, are filthy, and do not do good (as God defines good). They define "good" in their own way, according to their own standards; and then they live accordingly. God says that they are fools!

- (9) Isaiah 14:4, 12-22 "that you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon, and say, 'How the oppressor has ceased, And how fury has ceased!' . . . 'How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! But you said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit. Those who see you will gaze at you, They will ponder over you, saying, 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms, Who made the world like a wilderness And overthrew its cities, Who did not allow his prisoners to go home?' All the kings of the nations lie in glory, Each in his own tomb. But you have been cast out of your tomb Like a rejected branch, Clothed with the slain who are pierced with a sword, Who go down to the stones of the pit, Like a trampled corpse. You will not be united with them in burial, Because you have ruined your country, You have slain your people. May the offspring of evildoers not be mentioned forever, 'Prepare for his sons a place of slaughter Because of the iniquity of their fathers, They must not arise and take possession of the earth And fill the face of the world with cities.' 'And I will rise up against them,' declares the Lord of hosts, 'and will cut off from Babylon name and survivors, offspring and posterity,' declares the Lord."

The King of Babylon refused to recognize the one true and living God, and chose instead to make himself a god, to be his own god. The Lord here predicts this king's destruction.

- (10) Isaiah 17:1, 7-8, 10-11 "The oracle concerning Damascus. Behold, Damascus is about to be removed from being a city, And it will become a fallen ruin. . . . In that day man will have regard for his Maker, And his eyes will look to the Holy One of Israel, And he will not have regard for the altars, the work of his hands, Nor will he look to that which his fingers have made, Even the Asherim and incense stands. . . . For you have forgotten the God of your salvation And have not remembered the rock of your refuge. Therefore you plant delightful plants And set them with vine slips of a strange god. In the day that you plant it you carefully fence it in, And in the morning you bring your seed to blossom; But the harvest will be a heap In a day of sickness and incurable pain."

Damascus has rejected God, and turned to the worship and service of her own gods, which are really the work of her own fingers and hands. But the