

Notes and Quotes – How to Make a Custom-Made Jesus

Is 30:8ff. - ⁸ Go now, write it on a tablet for them, inscribe it on a scroll, that for the days to come it may be an everlasting witness. ⁹ These are rebellious people, deceitful children, children unwilling to listen to the LORD's instruction. ¹⁰ They say to the seers, "See no more visions!" and to the prophets, "**Give us no more visions of what is right! Tell us pleasant things, prophesy illusions.**" ¹¹ **Leave this way, get off this path, and stop confronting us with the Holy One of Israel!**"

¹² Therefore, this is what the Holy One of Israel says:

"Because you have rejected this message, relied on oppression and depended on deceit,

¹³ this sin will become for you like a high wall, cracked and bulging, that collapses suddenly, in an instant. ¹⁴ It will break in pieces like pottery, shattered so mercilessly that among its pieces not a fragment will be found for taking coals from a hearth or scooping water out of a cistern."

Jer 5:30-31 - ³⁰ "A **horrible** and **shocking** thing has happened in the land: ³¹ The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and **my people love it this way.**

Amos 7:10-13 - ¹⁰ Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent a message to Jeroboam king of Israel: "Amos is raising a conspiracy against you in the very heart of Israel. The land cannot bear all his words. ¹¹ For this is what Amos is saying: "'Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will surely go into exile, away from their native land.'" ¹² Then Amaziah said to Amos, "Get out, you seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there and do your prophesying there. ¹³ Don't prophesy anymore at Bethel, because this is the king's sanctuary and the temple of the kingdom."

Amos 5:10-12 - You hate the one who reproves in court and despise him who tells the truth. You trample on the poor and force him to give you grain. Therefore, though you have built stone mansions, you will not live in them; though you have planted lush vineyards, you will not drink their wine. ¹² For I know how many are your offenses and how great your sins. You oppress the righteous and take bribes and you deprive the poor of justice in the courts.

If I say I oppose war, someone reminds me that Saddam was a murderer of millions. Thus war is justified. If I say I'm concerned about the poor, someone says we can only do so much. If I say I grieve over the millions in our world who suffer from AIDS, someone will say that they all needed to be more careful in their sexual practices. Result: I end up saying nothing because I fear I'll lose friends, opportunities to serve, and—oh, the humanity of it!—be called a fool. Then it hits me: **prophets were rarely practical. They had ideas but felt little obligation to come up with practical answers.** When they smelled wrong, they said it. I am not a prophet, nor the son of prophet (this sounds familiar), but I smell wrong. I and the people among whom I dwell care little that Iraqis are dying as well as Americans. We say we're concerned about AIDS but do little or demand little response from our national leaders. Poverty does not get heavy attention in our pulpits. The planet is being ravaged (seas, air, land) and the Christian movement is silent. The rich (and most of us are among them) are gobbling up resources at an obscene rate and denying them to the less-rich and, even more tragically, to our grandchildren. The nation is back in debt, and it's OK to most Evangelicals because the President is a Republican and a professing Christian. I say it's all wrong, and my only practical solution for the moment is to say that I think it's wrong, do some creative voting, and try to make a little difference in my daily life.

How many friends do I lose by making this portion of my journal public? - Gordon MacDonald