

Stranger God

Pastor Carl Toti

January 1-2, 2022

Jeremiah 14:7–10 (ESV)

7 “Though our iniquities testify against us, act, O LORD, for your name’s sake; for our backslidings are many; we have sinned against you. 8 O you hope of Israel, it’s savior in time of trouble, why should you be like a stranger in the land, like a traveler who turns aside to tarry for a night? 9 Why should you be like a man confused, like a mighty warrior who cannot save? Yet you, O LORD, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name; do not leave us.” 10 Thus says the LORD concerning this people: “They have loved to wander thus; they have not restrained their feet; therefore the LORD does not accept them; now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins.”

Jeremiah 14:8 (ESV)

O you hope of Israel, it’s savior in time of trouble, why should you be like a stranger in the land, like a traveler who turns aside to tarry for a night?

MAIN IDEA: This is incomprehensible: God is a stranger in His own world, but God can go from a stranger to a friend if we’ll welcome Him in.

Leviticus 25:23 (KJV)

The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me.

ETERNAL PRINCIPLE: God is the owner; we are the tenants.

FRIEND, FOE, or FOREIGNER

(1) _____

John 15:15 (GNB)

15 I do not call you servants any longer, because servants do not know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.

“The bird a nest, the spider a web, man friendship.”

—William Blake

Proverbs 18:24 (NIV)

One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Psalms 69:8 (NIV)

I am a foreigner to my own family, a stranger to my own mother’s children;

A Friend of God—

Shelumiel (God's friend) Num. 1:6 son of Simeon.

Even the Almighty Enjoys Having Friends—

Exodus 33:11 (Moses)

Numbers 12:8 (Moses)

Deuteronomy 34:10 (Moses)

2 Chronicles 20:7 (Abraham)

Isaiah 41:8 (Abraham)

James 2:23 (Abraham)

(2) _____

Matthew 24:12 (GNT)

Such will be the spread of evil that many people's love will grow cold.

—The supreme test of love is the desire to please the one loved.

—Love is conformity to the known wishes of another.

Psalms 85:6 (ESV)

Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

Revelation 2:4 (GNB)

But this is what I have against you: you do not love me now as you did at first.

(3) _____

John 15:14 (GNB)

14 And you are my friends if you do what I command you.

1 Samuel 15:22 (ESV)

And Samuel said, "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.

—We cannot gain by sacrifice what has been lost by disobedience.

—You cannot be blessed beyond your last step of disobedience.

—You are in control of your choices, but not the consequences. You make the choice, then you are stuck with the consequence.

ANSWERS:

(1) FRIENDSHIP

(2) LOVE

(3) OBEDIENCE