WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

Truths From A Heathen

Study Guide

Civil Government

Weaver Bible College

Complete collection | October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition

A companion for reading, discussion, and written responses.

US Letter classroom edition | Editorial review needed

Name / group

Date

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Using this guide

Read the assigned chapter before working through each lesson. Write responses before group discussion.

The existing lecture study material, source qualifications, and lesson-specific provenance are retained. Reading assignments refer to the October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected book editions. Student response spaces are intentional.

Reading assignments refer to the October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected book editions. For collections issued in two volumes, use the named volume and its own printed page numbers. Chapter numbering continues across the set.

Print at Actual Size / 100% on US Letter paper. Lessons begin on the next available page. No blank padding pages are inserted. The contents lists lessons; PDF bookmarks also list all study sections.

Online resources link to the corresponding lecture using the destination convention retained in earlier lecture guides. Live availability has not been checked.

LESSON 1

Truths From A Heathen

Part One of Two

June 19, 2016

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-21 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Study source: existing lecture enrichment; review needed against the restored manuscript.

Major Themes

Sovereignty of God

God rules over all nations and individuals, controlling even the wicked to accomplish His purposes.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Psalm 22:28, Psalm 66:7, Psalm 72:11, Psalm 86:9, Job 12:23, and Daniel 4:35 to establish God's absolute sovereignty.

God Uses Unbelievers to Speak Truth

God can and does use heathen individuals to utter profound truths, even when they do not understand the significance of their words.

Lecture support: Weaver provides examples of Balaam (Numbers 22-24), Cyrus (Isaiah 45), and Caiaphas (John 11) as heathens who spoke truth under God's direction.

Confidence in God's Word

Believers must place their trust in God's promises rather than in human strength, wealth, or military power.

Lecture support: Weaver contrasts Hezekiah's faith in God's promise (Isaiah 37:6-7, 33-35) with the futility of trusting in Egypt, horses, or gold (Isaiah 36:6, Psalm 33:16-17, Job 31:24-28).

Testing of Faith

God tests believers to reveal the genuineness of their faith, but He always provides a way of escape and never gives more than they can bear.

Lecture support: Weaver references 1 Corinthians 10:13 and the examples of Job, Abraham, and Daniel to illustrate that trials are inevitable but manageable through trust in God.

The Unfailing Nature of God's Word

God's Word is absolutely reliable; when He speaks, it is accomplished, and His counsel stands forever.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Isaiah 46:9-11, Psalm 33:9, and Romans 4:17 to emphasize that God's Word cannot fail.

Key Arguments

God's sovereignty extends over all nations and rulers, even those who deny Him.

Weaver argues that God's rule is universal and absolute, and He uses nations and individuals according to His will, regardless of their acknowledgment of Him.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'He is not just simply king of His people or king of the church. He is king of everything. He's king over all the nations, Christian and heathen alike.' He supports this with Psalm 22:28, Psalm 66:7, and others.

God controls the wicked without being the author of their sin.

Weaver contends that God restrains and directs the wickedness of men to accomplish His purposes, as seen in the crucifixion of Christ.

Lecture support: Weaver explains Acts 4:27-28: 'God did not infuse them with wickedness... but God is the controller of it. And He used their wickedness and He still worked out His perfect will.'

Heathen individuals can be instruments of divine truth.

Weaver demonstrates through Balaam, Cyrus, and Caiaphas that God can speak truth through unbelievers, often without their comprehension.

Lecture support: Weaver says of Caiaphas, 'Caiaphas did not know what he was uttering... God used what he said, and it was indeed a prophecy concerning the atonement.'

Hezekiah's confidence was based solely on God's specific promise.

Weaver argues that Hezekiah's refusal to surrender was not foolishness but faith in God's Word, which promised deliverance.

Lecture support: Weaver points to Isaiah 37:6-7, 33-35, where God promises that the Assyrian king will not enter Jerusalem or shoot an arrow there.

Human resources are insufficient for salvation or ultimate security.

Weaver asserts that government, wealth, and military might cannot save; only God is a sure confidence.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Psalm 33:16-17, Job 31:24-28, and Psalm 118:8-9 to show the vanity of trusting in human strength or riches.

New Testament confidence is rooted in Christ's finished work and ongoing intercession.

Weaver explains that believers have boldness and access through faith in Christ, confidence in prayer according to God's will, and assurance of God's completing His work in them.

Lecture support: Weaver references Ephesians 3:12, 1 John 5:14-15, and Philippians 1:6 to show the basis for Christian confidence.

Scripture References

Isaiah 36:1-4

Introduction of the historical setting and Rabshakeh's question to Hezekiah.

Job 12:23

God increases and destroys nations according to His sovereignty.

Psalm 22:28

The kingdom is the Lord's; He is governor among the nations.

Psalm 66:7

God rules by His power forever; His eyes behold the nations.

Psalm 72:11

All kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him.

Psalm 86:9

All nations shall come and worship before the Lord.

Psalm 75:4-7

God puts down one and sets up another; promotion comes from Him.

Daniel 4:35

God does according to His will in heaven and earth; none can stay His hand.

Psalm 76:10

The wrath of man shall praise God; the remainder He restrains.

Acts 4:27-28

Herod, Pilate, Gentiles, and Israel did what God's hand and counsel determined before to be done.

Numbers 22:35

God instructs Balaam to speak only the word He gives him.

Numbers 24:17-19

Balaam's prophecy of a Star out of Jacob and a Scepter out of Israel.

Joshua 13:22

Balaam the soothsayer was slain by the children of Israel.

Isaiah 45:1-6

God anoints Cyrus, a heathen king, to subdue nations and free Israel.

Ezra 6:3, 14

Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes support the rebuilding of the temple.

John 11:49-52

Caiaphas prophesies that Jesus should die for the nation and gather God's children.

Isaiah 37:6-7

God promises to send a blast upon the Assyrian king and cause him to fall by the sword.

Isaiah 37:33-35

God declares the Assyrian will not enter Jerusalem or shoot an arrow there; He will defend the city.

Isaiah 46:9-11

God declares the end from the beginning; His counsel shall stand, and He will do all His pleasure.

Romans 4:17

God quickens the dead and calls those things which be not as though they were.

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways do you see God's sovereignty at work in the world today, even among nations and leaders who deny Him?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that God rules over all nations, Christian and heathen alike, and uses them for His purposes.

2. How does the example of Balaam, Cyrus, or Caiaphas challenge your understanding of how God can use unbelievers?

Consider: Weaver provides biblical examples of heathens who spoke truth under God's direction.

3. What 'Assyrian armies' are you facing right now that tempt you to trust in sight rather than in God's promises?

Consider: Weaver applies Hezekiah's situation to modern believers facing overwhelming circumstances.

4. How can you cultivate a confidence like Hezekiah's that is based solely on God's Word?

Consider: Weaver highlights Hezekiah's reliance on God's specific promise of deliverance.

5. In what areas of your life are you tempted to put confidence in money, government, or military might instead of God?

Consider: Weaver warns against trusting in human resources for security.

6. How does the promise of Philippians 1:6 encourage you when you feel weak in your faith?

Consider: Weaver cites this verse to assure believers that God will complete the work He began in them.

Applications

Trust God's Word over circumstances

Believers must base their confidence on God's promises rather than on what they see, even when situations appear hopeless.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'If you lived by sight, Hezekiah was in deep, deep trouble... But he had heard from God, and God said, "I'm going to defend this city."'

Reject trust in human resources

Weaver urges believers not to place their confidence in government, wealth, or military power, as these cannot save.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Government cannot and will not save us. Gold or wealth cannot and will not save us... Military might cannot save us.'

Prepare for testing of faith

Believers should expect trials and be ready to demonstrate their trust in God during difficult times.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'God may not test us as thoroughly as He tested Job... but He's going to test us sooner or later... He will find out whether we can believe Him and His Word even in the most trying circumstances.'

Abide in Christ for confidence

Confidence before God, especially in prayer and at Christ's return, comes from abiding in Him and living a holy life.

Lecture support: Weaver references 1 John 2:28 and 3:21, stating, 'If we abide in Him, we will have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.'

Be ready to give an answer for your hope

Believers must be prepared to explain the reason for their confidence in God to a watching world.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 1 Peter 3:15 and says, 'We must always be ready to give an answer for the hope that lies within us.'

Personal Response and Notes

Student notes after reading the assigned chapter

LESSON 2

Truths From A Heathen

Part Two of Two

July 17, 2016

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 23-39 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Study source: existing lecture enrichment; review needed against the restored manuscript.

Major Themes

The Deception of False Gods

The god in whom one trusts can deceive if that god is not the true God of Scripture but a product of human imagination or a man-made idol.

Lecture support: Rabshakeh's warning 'Let not thy God in whom thou trustest deceive thee' is applied as a principle: false gods always deceive their worshipers.

Ignorance of the True God

The heathen do not know God personally or understand His attributes; they reduce Him to the level of their own impotent deities.

Lecture support: The Syrians thought God was only God of the hills (1 Kings 20:23), and the Philistines continued to trust Dagon after it fell before the ark.

Idolatry Originates in the Mind

All idolatry begins with vain imaginations; when people reject God's revelation, they create gods in their own image, which is the essence of idolatry.

Lecture support: Romans 1:21-23 shows that people 'became vain in their imaginations' and changed God's glory into images; 2 Corinthians 10:5 commands casting down imaginations.

The Worthlessness of Idols

Idols are dead, dumb, and powerless; those who make and trust them become like them - spiritually dead and deceived.

Lecture support: Psalm 115:4-8 and Psalm 135:15-18 describe idols as having mouths but not speaking, and those who trust them become like them.

Divine Retribution Through Deception

When people reject God's truth, He may judicially send them strong delusion to believe a lie, as a punishment fitting their rebellion.

Lecture support: Isaiah 66:4 says God will 'choose their delusions'; 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 says God sends strong delusion to those who did not love the truth.

Key Arguments

Rabshakeh's words contain a universal spiritual principle

Though spoken by a heathen, the warning 'Let not thy God in whom thou trustest deceive thee' applies to anyone trusting in a false god, including a god of imagination.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Rabshakeh is implying that God could not and would not protect either Hezekiah or Jerusalem... So here is the big problem: they did not know the God in whom Hezekiah trusted.'

The heathen's fatal error is not knowing God

Fallen man does not fear God because he does not know God; ignorance leads to creating false gods and being deceived by them.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'the fatal error of fallen man is not only that he does not fear God, he does not know God. How can you fear someone that you do not know?'

Idolatry is fundamentally a matter of the mind

The word 'image' comes from 'imagination'; all idolatry begins when people imagine God to be other than He has revealed Himself in Scripture.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'the word "image" comes from the word "imagination." You cannot make an image without first imagining that image.'

Rejecting God's truth leads to unavoidable deception

When one refuses to bow to the sovereign God revealed in Christ, deception is absolute; God may send delusion as retribution.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'When one refuses to bow to the one true and the living God... deception is absolute and unavoidable.'

Sennacherib's own god deceived him

Sennacherib, who warned Hezekiah not to be deceived by his God, was himself killed while worshiping his false god Nisroch, illustrating the principle.

Lecture support: Isaiah 37:38 records Sennacherib's death in the house of Nisroch; Weaver notes, 'He never followed his own counsel or his own advice and he died in idolatry.'

Scripture References

Isaiah 37:10

The main text: Rabshakeh tells Hezekiah not to let his God deceive him.

1 Kings 20:16-23

Ben-Hadad and the Syrians are defeated and explain their loss by saying Israel's God is only God of the hills.

1 Kings 20:28

God declares He will deliver the Syrians into Israel's hand because they said He is not God of the valleys.

Isaiah 44:8-20

God mocks idol makers who use part of a tree for fuel and the rest to make a god, showing the stupidity of idolatry.

Jeremiah 2:26-27

Israel is ashamed for saying to a stock 'Thou art my father' and to a stone 'Thou hast brought me forth.'

Jeremiah 10:8

Idols are described as 'a doctrine of vanities.'

1 Samuel 5:1-5

The Philistine god Dagon falls before the ark and is broken, yet the Philistines continue to honor it.

1 Chronicles 14:9-12

The Philistines bring their gods to battle but are defeated and leave their gods behind; David burns them.

2 Kings 16:10-16

King Ahaz copies a Syrian altar and replaces God's altar with it, illustrating idolatrous syncretism.

2 Chronicles 25:14-16

Amaziah brings back the gods of Edom and worships them; a prophet rebukes him, and God determines to destroy him.

Romans 1:21-25

People knew God but became vain in their imaginations and changed His glory into images, leading to idolatry.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

Spiritual weapons are for pulling down strongholds, casting down imaginations and every high thing against the knowledge of God.

Jeremiah 13:10

God condemns Judah for walking in the imagination of their heart and after other gods.

Colossians 3:5

Covetousness is idolatry, showing that sin violates the first commandment.

Psalm 115:1-8

Idols are dead and dumb; those who make and trust them become like them.

Psalm 135:15-18

Similar description of idols as lifeless, and those who trust them become like them.

Isaiah 37:37-38

Sennacherib is killed by his sons while worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god.

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; it can deceive a person.

Isaiah 66:1-4

God will choose their delusions for those who choose their own ways and do not listen to Him.

2 Thessalonians 2:10-12

God sends strong delusion to those who did not love the truth, that they should believe a lie and be damned.

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways might a professing Christian today be trusting in a 'god of their own imagination' rather than the God revealed in Scripture?

Consider: Weaver argues that most Americans would not bow to a physical idol but may worship a god of their imagination.

2. How does the example of the Syrians thinking God was only God of the hills (1 Kings 20) illustrate the danger of limiting God based on our own understanding?

Consider: The Syrians' theological error led to their defeat; Weaver uses this to show heathen ignorance of God's omnipresence.

3. Why do you think the Philistines continued to worship Dagon after seeing it fall broken before the ark? What does this reveal about the nature of idolatry?

Consider: Weaver highlights the irrationality of idolatry, yet people persist in it.

4. According to Romans 1:21-23, what is the relationship between ingratitude, vain imaginations, and idolatry? How can we guard against this progression?

Consider: Weaver traces idolatry back to the mind and a failure to glorify God.

5. What does it mean to 'cast down imaginations' (2 Corinthians 10:5) in practical terms? How can we identify and tear down mental strongholds that oppose the knowledge of God?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that spiritual warfare involves dealing with wrong thoughts about God.

6. How should the principle of divine retribution through delusion (Isaiah 66:4; 2 Thessalonians 2:11) affect our urgency in sharing the gospel and our own humility before God?

Consider: Weaver warns that rejecting truth can lead to God sending strong delusion.

Applications

Examine the object of your trust

Believers must determine whether they are trusting in the true God of Scripture or a god of their own imagination, because a false god will deceive them.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'we better determine who is the God that we trust in. We better determine that He is the one true and living God who has revealed Himself in Jesus Christ.'

Reject mental idolatry

Since idolatry begins in the mind, Christians must cast down imaginations and every thought that contradicts the biblical revelation of God.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'We cannot imagine God to be as He is not. When we do, we are guilty of idolatry.'

Heed the warning of Sennacherib's fate

Sennacherib's death in the house of his false god serves as a warning that trusting in anything other than the true God leads to destruction.

Lecture support: Weaver notes, 'He never followed his own counsel or his own advice and he died in idolatry.'

Recognize the danger of rejecting truth

When people reject God's truth, they become vulnerable to deception, and God may judicially send delusion; therefore, we must love and embrace the truth.

Lecture support: Weaver warns, 'When you reject truth, you're only open to error. When one denies truth, the only thing left is deception.'

Personal Response and Notes

Student notes after reading the assigned chapter

Online Lecture Resources

Select the lecture link in the PDF or scan its lecture QR code.

Lesson 1: Truths From A Heathen - Part 1 of 2

Lecture JW01436

Open this lecture online

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Lesson 2: Truths From A Heathen - Part 2 of 2

Lecture JW01437

Open this lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01437&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Source information and review

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Chapter order and reading ranges follow the October 1, 2026 completed manuscript manifests. The source record paths, hashes, field coverage, attribution notes, and reading editions are recorded in the companion manifest.