

## The Real Deal

### Description

Isaiah 45:20-25

As seminary students, Stefanie and her husband quickly discovered the “store brand” while shopping. Whatever grocery store you shop at will have their own brand featuring a variety of products. You need some crispy cereal? You can either buy the “national name brand,” or you can purchase the store brand for much less. When your budget is small, you find ways to make it stretch.

Most of the time the store brand was equal to the name brands (or at least a fairly good replacement). However, they discovered there were some things that were just not as good as the original name brand. One of those things was tea bags. It only took once, but they decided that tea was a product that needed a bit more of a splurge.

God is the one and only. There is no substitute for God, no matter how hard we humans might try. These substitutes are *not* comparable. If anything, the substitutes—known as idols in Scripture—are a disappointing and dangerous replacement for God. Only God cares. Only God redeems.

Choose the original, authentic God.

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