

Isaiah Chapter 45 – I AM THE LORD AND THERE IS NO OTHER!

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – [Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com); email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

HE IS LORD! (Isaiah 45:23)

*He is Lord, He is Lord! He has risen from the dead and He is Lord!
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (2X).*

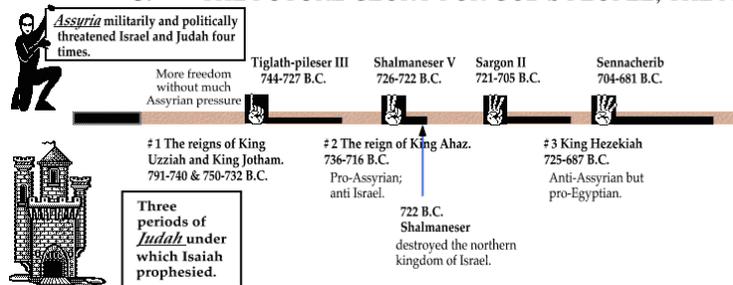
GENERAL OUTLINE OF ISAIAH: Referred to as the “Fifth Gospel” since the third century!

*Possible date of kings reign” - Uzziah, - 792-740; Jotham, - 750-736; Ahaz, - 735-720 Northern Kingdom of Israel falls to Assyria in 722BC; Hezekiah, - 715-699/686; Manasseh – 687-642
Isaiah’s time of prophecy - About a minimum of 40 years and possibly more than 60 years!
In the tenth year of Nabopolassar (616 BC) the Babylonians defeated the Assyrian army.
Cyrus takes Babylon. In October (539 BC), the Persian king Cyrus took Babylon.*

ISAIAH 40:1-66:24

*The prophecies of chapters 1-39 addressed Judah in her situation during Isaiah's ministry (739 B.C. until c. 686 B.C.). The prophecies of chapters 40-66 address Judah as though the prophesied Babylonian captivity (Isa 39:5-7) were already a present reality, though that captivity did not begin until 605-586 B.C. The words "'There is no peace,' says the Lord, 'for the wicked'" (Isa 48:22; Isa 57:21) signal the divisions of this section into three parts: chapters 40-48 (Comfort of Jehovah), chapters 49-57 (Salvation of Jehovah) and chapters 58-66 (Glory of Jehovah).
Four Messianic Prophecies-Songs of the Suffering Servant: #1 Chapter 42:1-9 -Servant of Jehovah-Jesus; #2 Chapter 49:1-13-Servant of God; Savior of the World; #3 Chapter 50:4-9-Jehovah Adonai-Humility of Rejected Prophet; #4 Chapter 52:13-53:12-Suffering Servant-Jehovah’s Servant-Sin Bearer.*

- I. THE ASSYRIAN PERIOD - CONFLICT AND VICTORY (Isa 1-39)
 - A. PROPHECIES CONCERNING JUDAH AND JERUSALEM (Isa 1-12)
 - B. PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE NATIONS (Isa 13-27)
 - C. DELIVERANCE FOUND NOT IN EGYPT, BUT IN THE LORD (Isa 28-35)
 - D. HISTORICAL INTERLUDE (Isa 36-39)
- II. THE BABYLONIAN PERIOD - HOPE FOR TROUBLED TIMES (Isa 40-66)
 - A. **THE ONE TRUE GOD VERSUS IDOLS (Isa 40-48)**
 - B. LORD'S SERVANT WILL BRING SALVATION THROUGH SUFFERING (Isa 49-57)
 - C. THE FUTURE GLORY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE, THE NEW ZION (Isa 58-66)



Isaiah – Bible Timeline

739 BC	Isaiah Complains of Zion's Corruption	Isaiah 1 - 5
739 BC	Isaiah's Vision and Commission	Isaiah 6
735 BC	Isaiah's Prophecy of Immanuel	Isaiah 7
734 BC	Uriah/Zechariah Verification	Isaiah 8
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies a Child Is Born	Isaiah 9
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Judgments Upon Israel	Isaiah 9:8
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Judgment on Assyria	Isaiah 10
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies The Root of Jesse	Isaiah 11
730 BC	Isaiah's Joyful Thanksgiving	Isaiah 12
725 BC	Isaiah Prophecies against the Nations	Isaiah 13 - 22
725 BC	Isaiah's Valley of Vision	Isaiah 22
725 BC	Isaiah's Burden of Tyre	Isaiah 23
725 BC	Devastation on the Earth	Isaiah 24
725 BC	Isaiah's Songs of Praise	Isaiah 25 - 27
725 BC	Isaiah's Further Warnings	Isaiah 28 - 32
725 BC	Isaiah Prophecies a King Shall Reign	Isaiah 32
725 BC	Isaiah Declares God's Judgments	Isaiah 33, 34
725 BC	Isaiah Declares the Joyful Will Flourish in Zion	Isaiah 35
712 BC	Hezekiah's Illness and Healing	2 Kings 20, Isaiah 38
711 BC	Hezekiah Shows Treasures	2 Kings 20:12, Isaiah 39
711 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Captivity and Restoration	Isaiah 40 - 66
701 BC	Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem	2 Kings 18, Isaiah 36, 2 Chron. 32
701 BC	Hezekiah's Prayer	2 Kings 19, Isaiah 37

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Cyrus, God's Instrument – The LORD's Address to Cyrus

Isa 45:1 "Thus says the LORD to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held—To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut:

Isa 45:2 'I will go before you And make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze And cut the bars of iron.

Isa 45:3 I will give you the treasures of darkness And hidden riches of secret places, That you may know that I, the LORD, Who call you by your name, Am the God of Israel.

vs. 1-3 God's calling and mission for Cyrus. *Thus says the LORD to His anointed, to Cyrus:* Isaiah carries on this remarkable prophecy from the previous chapter. In it, God announces - *by name* - the deliverer for His people from a coming captivity, and He does it 200 years before the man *Cyrus* is born. *His anointed* means that Cyrus had a particular anointing from God for his work. God poured out His Spirit on a pagan king, because God wanted to use that man to bless and deliver His people. *Thus says the LORD to His anointed* means that this word was particularly directed to *Cyrus*. This was God's message to him, and Cyrus apparently listened. "These things Cyrus knew from reading the book of prophecy which Isaiah had left behind two hundred and ten years earlier." (Josephus, *Antiquities* XI, 5 [i.2]. *Whose right hand I have held:* Like many of us, Cyrus could look back on his life and career and see how the LORD held his hand the entire time. *To subdue nations before him and loose the armor of kings:* Cyrus had a remarkable military career. Xenophon, in his first book, gives us this list: Syrians, Assyrians, Arabians, Cappodcians, Phrygians, the Lydians, Carians, Phoenicians, Babylonians, the Bactrians, Indians, Cilicians, Sacians, Paphloagonians, Maryandines, and many other nations. He also had a dominion over the Asiatics, Greeks, Cyprians, Egyptians. Herodotus said that Cyrus vanquished whatever country whomever he invaded. Under his rule, the empire embraced all the previous civilized states of the ancient Near East, expanded vastly and eventually conquered most of Western Asia and much of Central Asia. From the Mediterranean Sea and Hellespont in the west to the Indus River in the east, **Cyrus the Great created the largest empire the world had yet seen. Under his successors, the empire eventually stretched at its maximum extent from parts of the Balkans (Bulgaria-Paeonia and Thrace-Macedonia) and Eastern Europe proper in the west, to the Indus Valley in the east. His regal titles in full were The Great King, King of Persia, King of Anshan, King of Media, King of Babylon, King of Sumer and Akkad, and King of the Four Corners of the World. I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places:** The night they conquered the city, Cyrus and his armies took all the staggering treasures of Babylon - and it was important the Cyrus know that *the LORD* had *given* it to him. On the night Babylon fell, Cyrus probably had no great sense of the LORD's guidance or presence, likely thinking that he was both brilliant and lucky. Often we succeed in something only by the blessing and pleasure of God, and never see the miraculous hand of God behind it all. God certainly gave Cyrus *treasures*. Per Pliny: "When Cyrus conquered Asia, he found thirty-four thousand pounds weight of gold, besides golden vessels and articles in gold." *That you may know that I, the LORD, who call you by your name, am the God of Israel:* God announced all this 200 years before its fulfillment, so that Cyrus would know and glorify the LORD. But the LORD also did it so Cyrus would show kindness to the people of God, granting them permission to return to the Promised Land from the captivity imposed on them by the Babylonians. The royal proclamations of Cyrus fulfilling this prophecy are found in *Ezr 1:1-4* and *2Ch 36:23*. *To open before him the double doors, so that the gates will not be shut . . . I will break in pieces the gates of bronze:* The armies of the Medes and Persians, under Cyrus, conquered the city of Babylon in a remarkable raid described in Daniel 5. According to the ancient historian Herodotus, while King Belshazzar of Babylon held a reckless party, **Cyrus conquered the city by diverting the flow of the Euphrates into a nearby swamp (Sephvarim area); thus lowering the level of the river so his troops could march through the water and under the river-gates.** But they still would not have been able to enter, had not the bronze gates of the inner walls been left inexplicably unlocked! God opened the gates of the city of Babylon for Cyrus, and put it in writing 200 years before it happened!

vs. 1-3 It becomes one of the strongest proofs that the Bible is inspired of God. As Paul said, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God." As Peter said, "Holy men of old spoke as they were inspired by the Holy Spirit". God has spoken to man! The Bible is that book by which God has spoken to man. To put the seal of proof upon it, God has filled the book with prophesies. He has spoken of things before they came to pass, in order that when they did come to pass, people might know that indeed God was speaking through the prophet Isaiah, and God was the author, not Isaiah. God raises up whom He wants and whom He will. It was more the praise of Cyrus to be God's shepherd than to be emperor of Persia. God makes what use He pleases of men, of mighty men, of those that act with the greatest freedom; and, when they think to do as they please, He can overrule them, and make them do as He pleases.

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Isa 45:4 For Jacob My servant's sake, And Israel My elect, I have even called you by your name; I have named you, though you have not known Me.

Isa 45:5 I am the LORD, and there is no other; There is no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me,

Isa 45:6 That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting That there is none besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other;

Jehovah the Creator of Good and Calamity

Isa 45:7 I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the LORD, do all these things.'

Isaiah's Prayer

Isa 45:8-9 "Rain down, you heavens, from above, And let the skies pour down righteousness; Let the earth open, let them bring forth salvation, And let righteousness spring up together. I, the LORD, have created it.

Isa 45:9 "Woe to him who strives with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherd of the earth! Shall the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?' Or shall your handiwork say, 'He has no hands'?"

vs. 4-6 For Jacob My servant's sake: Cyrus would like to think that God picked him because he was the smartest or most talented or strongest man available, but God's focus was on His people. It wasn't Cyrus that moved God to act, but the condition and cry of His people. It was for their *sake*. Cyrus shall have a kingdom, but only in order that God's people may have their liberty. The **Lord raises up one, and He puts down another**. *I have named you, though you have not known Me . . . I will gird you, though you have not known Me:* Cyrus didn't even know the LORD, yet God could anoint him, guide him, bless him, and use him. How much more should God be able to do through those who have at least a mustard seed's worth of faith in Him! **Pro 21:2** says, *The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.* God can work in and through others in very unexpected ways. *That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting that there is none besides Me:* This was wonderfully fulfilled in **Ezr 1:1-4**. That passage shows how when Cyrus made his proclamation allowing the people of God to return to the Promised Land, that he acknowledged to the whole world the greatness and uniqueness of the LORD God of Israel.

v. 7 I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the LORD, do all these things: Cyrus would know and declare to the whole world, and to us, too, that God is in control. Since this prophecy was given long before God's people went into the captivity Isaiah now announces deliverance from, they could be comforted through the captivity by knowing God is in control. There is one God. He creates or allows calamity. He uses it to accomplish His eternal purpose of bringing together all things in Jesus (**Eph 1:9-19; 3:8-11**). If God could further His eternal purpose by allowing His Son to die a wicked, unjust death on a cross, then He knows how to use what He allows for His eternal purpose.

vs. 8-9 God calls to the creation. **Rain down, you heavens:** The great God described in the previous passage can speak to the *heavens* and bring rain. It is true in the literal, natural sense; but it is also true in a literal *spiritual* sense. God can send a flood from heaven, and **let the skies pour down righteousness. Let the earth open, let them bring forth salvation:** God can send His blessing from every direction. It comes *down* from the *heavens*, it comes up from the *earth*. **Let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together:** It is important to see that *salvation* and *righteousness* always *spring up together*. When God brings *salvation* to a life, He also brings *righteousness* to that life. They *spring up together*. **I, the LORD, have created it:** What is God speaking of here? That He created the natural, physical world? Or that He created the invisible, spiritual world? Both are true, so both may be in mind here. **Woe to him who strives with his Maker!** Knowing that God is the Creator of all things should make us hesitant to oppose Him in any way. It is as foolish as for *the clay to say to him who forms it, "What are you making?"* It is foolish to oppose our Creator because since He made us, He can break us. Since He made us, He knows what is best for us. It is foolish to oppose our Creator, because we owe the greatest obligation to Him. **Or shall your handiwork say, "He has no hands"?** The only thing more foolish than the creature resisting and oppose the Creator is for the creature to believe there *is no Creator!* Isaiah pictures a clay pot, the *handiwork* of the potter saying, "My potter *has no hands*. I have no Creator!"

vs. 4-6 When God does great, miraculous things, it is easy to believe that He is in control. When times are hard and the trials heavy, we need to believe it all the more.

v. 7 The LORD allows calamity in our lives to purify us and to make us more Christ-like! We need to be aware that it is for our own good and not to be complaining to the LORD, but being quick to see His purpose in the calamity, knowing that He will always go through it with us!

vs. 8-9 Whenever we feel pushed, poked and prodded, we need to remember the LORD knows what He is doing. If we fight against Him, we will always lose – He knows the end from the beginning and He only wants the best for us. We would never fight against Him, if we really believed that God only wants to do things that are exceedingly abundantly above all we can ask or think, that His plan for us is to make the worthless clay of our lives into something beautiful and useful!

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

God Justifies His Choice Regarding Cyrus

Isa 45:10 Woe to him who says to his father, 'What are you begetting?' Or to the woman, 'What have you brought forth?' "

Isa 45:11 Thus says the LORD, The Holy One of Israel, and his Maker: "Ask Me of things to come concerning My sons; And concerning the work of My hands, you command Me.

Isa 45:12 I have made the earth, And created man on it. I—My hands—stretched out the heavens, And all their host I have commanded.

Isa 45:13 I have raised him up in righteousness, And I will direct all his ways; He shall build My city And let My exiles go free, Not for price nor reward," Says the LORD of hosts.

vs. 10-11 Woe to him who says to his father, “What are you begetting?” The begotten has no say in his coming to be. It is simply foolish and counter-productive for us to question and accuse God over how He made us. Each of us has our strengths and weaknesses, and we each have our triumphs and challenges. We simply need to accept what we are before God and look for His redeeming, transforming power to conform us into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ. (Rom 8:29). To seek unto Him by prayer: “*Concerning my sons and concerning the work of my hands*, which as becomes them submit to the will of their Father, the will of their potter, *you command me*, not by way of prescription, but **by way of petition**. Be earnest in your requests, and confident in your expectations, as far as both are guided by and grounded upon the promise. Do you question Me *concerning things to come*? and am I bound to give you an account? And concerning My children, even concerning the work of My hands, will *you command me*, or prescribe to Me? Dare you do so? Shall any teach God knowledge, or give law to Him?

vs. 12-13 I have made the earth, and created man on it: Repeatedly through this extended section of Isaiah, God emphasizes His place as **Creator**. The importance put on this idea here shows us that knowing God as **Creator** isn't an option, or just a matter of text-book fights in the courts and public schools. When we reject God as **Creator**, we reject the God of the Bible, and serve a God of our own imagination. He really did make us and it really does matter. *I will direct all his ways; he shall build My city and let My exiles go free:* The God of all power and creation uses that power on behalf of His people. He will direct the ways of the announced deliverer - Cyrus - and cause him to rebuild Jerusalem and release the people of God captive to a forced relocation. And Cyrus will do it *not for price or reward*, but out of a conviction from God that he must do it! (Ezr 1:1-3)

vs. 10-11 We are not to strive with our **LORD** by passionate complaints, but may we wrestle (*command Me*) with Him by faithful and fervent prayer, like Joshua (*Joshua 10:11-14*) and Elijah (*1 Kings 17*). Those that complain of God do in effect assume an authority over Him.

vs. 12-13 As our understanding of the universe grows, so does our understanding of God, because He stretches it with His hands. Also we need to notice how the LORD raised up Cyrus in righteousness and promises to direct his ways. He does the same with us, His believing children as well. How available for this are we?

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

The Lord, the Only Savior- A God That Hides Himself

Isa 45:14 Thus says the LORD: "The labor of Egypt and merchandise of Cush And of the Sabeans, men of stature, Shall come over to you, and they shall be yours; They shall walk behind you, They shall come over in chains; And they shall bow down to you. They will make supplication to you, saying, 'Surely God is in you, And there is no other; There is no other God.'

Isa 45:15 Truly You are God, who hide Yourself, O God of Israel, the Savior!

All Idolatry Put to Shame; Israel Saved Forever

Isa 45:16 They shall be ashamed And also disgraced, all of them; They shall go in confusion together, Who are makers of idols.

Isa 45:17 But Israel shall be saved by the LORD With an everlasting salvation; You shall not be ashamed or disgraced Forever and ever.

Isa 45:18 For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the LORD, and there is no other

vs. 14-17 When the LORD is revealed as the true God, idolaters submit and God's people are saved. *They shall walk behind you, they shall come over in chains:* Even as Israel was led away in the captivity of a forced relocation, so one day Israel will be supreme among the nations, and lead them as they and the LORD please. *And they shall bow down to you . . . saying, "Surely God is in you . . . there is no other God."* The submission of the nations to Israel is not so much to Israel itself, as it is to the God of Israel. *Truly You are God:* Isaiah here pours out an inspired flood of praise, describing God, exalting God, declaring confidence in God, receiving from God. *Truly You are God, who hide Yourself:* It isn't that God hides Himself from the seeking sinner. Isaiah simply declares what Paul would later say in *1Ti 1:17*: *Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen*

v. 18 The LORD declares His greatness and the foolishness of idolatry. *For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens:* By sheer repetition, Isaiah virtually pounds it (6 times in this chapter!) into our awareness - that God is our Creator, and we have obligations to Him as our Creator. *Who did not create it in vain, who formed it to be inhabited:* This brief statement - *who did not create it in vain* - is the Scriptural basis for a speculative doctrine, believed by some, is known as the "Gap Theory," which is based on a comparison between *Isa 45:18* and *Gen 1:2*, which they translate as *the earth became without form and void (can also be translated, unformed and unfilled – Weston W. Fields – A Critique of the Gap Theory)*. Here in *Isa 45:18*, God says that He did not *create it in vain*, and *vain* is the same Hebrew word for *void* found in *Gen 1:2*. The idea is that *God did not create it in vain (void)*, but that it *became without form and void* through Satanic attack and ages of desolation, which try to explain the vast geological ages and fossil remains which if true, would date beyond the history of the Bible. According to the Gap Theory, *Gen 1:3* and following is the re-creation of a world that was made void by Satan. This **first thing to be said against the Gap Theory** is that while to translate *Gen 1:2 (The earth was without form, and void)* as *the earth became without form and void* doesn't follow the most plain understanding of the Hebrew grammar here. It is permissible, but **a bit of a stretch**. The most natural way to translate the passage is to say *the earth was without form and void* instead of *the earth became without form and void*. **The other thing to be said against the Gap Theory is how it has been used as an answer to how some have interpreted the fossil record.** Those who believe in the Gap Theory assign old and extinct fossils to this long and indefinite "Gap" between *Gen 1:1-2*. But whatever merit the Gap Theory may have, **it cannot explain the extinction and fossilization of ancient animals.**

vs. 14-17 The Lord, who raised up Cyrus as a deliverer of Israel, now restates His promise that Israel would be saved. The Apostle Paul also makes that clear in Romans 11. God is not through with Israel, as she has a future role! Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

v. 18 The LORD says that He did not create the earth in vain, but *formed it to be inhabited*. *"I am the LORD and there is no other"*. The idea of discounting the Gap Theory seems to have much substance. As Weston Fields quotes in *Unformed and Unfilled*, pg. 74, He says that a careful analysis of the words "asa" and "bara", shows that the creation of the universe and everything in it is in harmony with the chronological framework of the six days of creation described in *Gen. 1:1-2:25*, allowing no time for a gap between *Gen. 1:1* and *1:2*. Also requiring a recent creation. Although we can't be dogmatic about what happened so long ago, we need to be aware that contemporary scientism tends to drive us to reject the plain teaching of the Bible. We also need to be reminded The Bible says plainly **death came by Adam (Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned— Rom 5:12)**, and since fossils are the result of death, they could not have happened before Adam's time. It is clear that **the ultimate purpose of the earth is not to be void but to be inhabited** by converted Israel and the converted nations."

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Isa 45:19 I have not spoken in secret, In a dark place of the earth; I did not say to the seed of Jacob, 'Seek Me in vain'; I, the LORD, speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.

Isa 45:20 "Assemble yourselves and come; Draw near together, You who have escaped from the nations. They have no knowledge, Who carry the wood of their carved image, And pray to a god that cannot save.

Isa 45:21 Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me.

v. 19 I did not say to the seed of Jacob, “Seek Me in vain.” It is a wicked thing to think God ever says to His people, “Seek Me in vain.” When we seek for God with all of our heart, we will find Him.

Jer 29:13 says, And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Heb 11:6 says, he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

vs. 20-21 They have no knowledge, who carry the wood of their carved image, and pray to a god that cannot save: As the LORD declares His own greatness, faithfulness, and saving power, it naturally contrasts with the foolish idols of the nation - which must be carried, instead of being able to carry the one who worships them! *Who has declared it from ancient times:* The amazing phenomenon of predictive prophecy shows that God is who He says He is, and that there is no other God besides Him. *A just God and a Savior:* As much as anything else, this shows the amazing power, wisdom, and love of God. At first glance, it is impossible to see how *a just God* can be *a Savior* when justice demands that sinners be damned. But prompted by His great love, God fulfilled the righteous demands of His justice at the cross, so He could extend Himself to us as *Savior*, yet still remain *a just God*. Rom 3:26 : *That He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

v. 19 Anyone who asks, seeks, or knocks, the LORD will indeed get from Him the very best, although we may not see it at the time. If I don't ask, I'll never know if I really did get what was best. If I do ask, I will receive God's best. It's never vain (tohu) to seek the LORD!

vs. 20-21 The LORD is telling idolaters throughout the world that their false gods are simply foolish, giving no power, wisdom or love and most importantly, no salvation! He is saying I'm the only God, there is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior There is none besides me! How could we ever look away from the all sufficient, all loving and all knowing eternal Savior and give any attention to false gods who can give us nothing!

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

A Kind Invitation to the Salvation in Christ

Isa 45:22 "Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.

Isa 45:23 I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, And shall not return, That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath.

v. 22 Looking to the LORD and finding salvation in surrender. ***Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth!*** This simple but powerful statement shows the plan of salvation, in its simplicity. All we must do is *look*. “One can read many books on theology which expound all kinds of things in an attempt to show how man can reach God, but these theories are far from the truth. The Holy Spirit needs exactly four letters, to tell us what to do: l-o-o-k. That is all. It is the simplest, basic thing any person can do, yet the most difficult to do in daily living. It does show us that we must look to *God*, and never to ourselves or to anything else of man. It shows the **love** behind salvation: God pleads with man, “*Look to Me.*” It shows the **assurance** of salvation: **and be saved**. It shows the **extent** of God’s saving love: ***all you ends of the earth!*** ***Look to Me:*** In Numbers 21, the people of Israel were stricken by deadly snake bites, and Moses lifted up the image of a bronze serpent, raised on a pole, and the people who looked to it lived. The people were saved not by *doing* anything, but by simply *looking* to the bronze serpent. They had to trust that something as seemingly foolish as looking at such a thing would be sufficient to save them, and surely, some perished because they thought it too foolish to do such a thing! We are told/reminded again, here in Isaiah: ***Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth!*** We might be willing to **do** a hundred things to earn our salvation, but God commands us to only trust in Him - to **look** to Him! ***For I am God, and there is no other:*** This is why we must look to the LORD, and to the LORD alone. Only He is God. Institutions are not God. The Church is not God. Pastors are not God. Brothers and sisters in Christ are not God. We don’t look to them; we look to the LORD, for He alone is God.

23 ***I have sworn by Myself:*** When God confirms an oath, who does He swear by? He swears by Himself. There is no one greater, so He swears by His own holy name and character. ***Heb 6:13*** says, *For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself. That to Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath:* The LORD here declares there will come a day when ***every knee shall bow*** to Him, and ***every tongue*** will swear by His greatness. ***Php 2:10-11***. Paul’s quotation of ***Isa 45:23*** in ***Php 2:10-11*** is an **overwhelming evidence of the deity of Jesus Christ**. Clearly, in ***Isa 45:23*** it is the LORD God speaking (*I, the LORD, speak, Isa 45:19*). Now, Paul clearly puts these high words and this high praise towards Jesus: *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*. Additionally, the confession is made that *Jesus Christ is Lord* - and the word *Lord* is the same word used in Paul’s ancient Bible for “LORD” in the Old Testament.

Gen 22:16-18 and said: ***"By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—[17] blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. [18] In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."***

v. 22 Charles Spurgeon came to the LORD by being so moved by this verse – ***Look to Me and be saved!*** One might ask. **What do I have to lose by looking to the Lord? Nothing! What do you have to gain? Eternity!**

v. 23 Now just having God speaking it, is sufficient! You don’t need any more than that. You don’t need for God to say it more than once! But when God takes an oath to confirm a truth, then you better mark that as, **this is certain!** Not many things are certain in this earth. But, when God makes a statement, and swears by it, **you’ve got an absolute!** It is going to happen, because God has sworn, and has sworn by Himself. “I have sworn by Myself”...

Isaiah Chapter 45 – I AM THE LORD AND THERE IS NO OTHER!

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – [Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221](mailto:Phil.Twente@gmail.com); email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

<p><u>Isa 45:24</u> He shall say, <u>'Surely in the LORD I have righteousness and strength. To Him men shall come, And all shall be ashamed Who are incensed against Him.</u></p> <p><u>Isa 45:25</u> <u>In the LORD all the descendants of Israel Shall be justified, and shall glory.'</u> "</p>	<p><u>Heb 6:13-18</u> For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, <u>He swore by Himself</u>, [14] saying, "SURELY BLESSING I WILL BLESS YOU, AND MULTIPLYING I WILL MULTIPLY YOU." [15] And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. [16] For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. [17] Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, [18] that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. <u>Rom 14:11</u> For it is written: "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL CONFESS TO GOD." <u>Php 2:10-11</u> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, [11] and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.</p> <p><u>vs. 24-25</u> <u>Surely in the LORD I have righteousness and strength</u>: This is the declaration of every believer. <u>Righteousness and strength</u> are found in the LORD, not in ourselves or anywhere else. Indeed, <u>in the LORD all the descendants of Israel shall be justified, and shall glory (halal – praise)</u>! The Lord is the One who has justified us and in Him is the glory, for the work that He has done! Not by works of righteousness which we have done but by His grace, we have been saved! He is our justification! He is our glory! May the Lord be magnified!</p> <p><u>Summary Points:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• God again is stressing the uniqueness and importance of Biblical prophecy!• God elaborates on naming Cyrus 100+ years before he was born!• Cyrus did not know God, but God will use him to benefit Israel!• God stresses He alone is God and there is no other (7X in this chapter; 9X in all of Isa.)• God will speak of Himself in the first person “I”, 31 times in this chapter!• God will tell us He is the Creator (bara) 6 times in this chapter.• God affirms with a oath (swearing by Himself, as He did to Abraham), that <u>The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, And shall not return, That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath</u>. This “absolute truth” should remind us of the importance of praying earnestly for unbelievers!• Eventually on that day (White Throne judgment for unbelievers), they will all be ashamed as they bow their knee to Jesus Christ, but to eternal separation.• All believers will be justified and shall praise Him!	<p><u>v. 23</u> (continued) So having been given this absolute, that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess, how should that impact our prayer life in praying for the unsaved? Is there anything more important than that?</p> <p><u>vs. 24-25</u> All believers are the seed of Israel, an upright praying seed. Secondly, The great privilege they enjoy by Jesus Christ is that in Him, and for His sake, they are justified before God, Christ being made of God to them righteousness. All that are justified will own it is in Christ that they are justified, nor could they be justified by any other; and those who are justified shall be glorified. And therefore, Thirdly, The great duty believers owe to Christ is to glory in Him, and to make their boast of Him. Therefore He is made all in all to us, that whose glories may glory in the Lord; and let us comply with this intention.</p>
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