

9/3/00

**Isaiah 44-45**

The prophet Isaiah continues to declare that Israel is His possession, which began in chapter forty-three, in fact Jehovah has called her “My witness and My servant”. Is. 43:10a-c

The entire discourse deals with God declaring His love and commitment to Israel, in view of the foolishness of their idolatrous practices, to god that are no gods at all.

**44:1-5**      **The outpouring of God’s spirit on Israel.**

**44:1-2**      God again calls for Israel to hear the words of Jehovah, even though judgment has been pronounced.

- 1) Jacob was God’s servant. vs. 1a-b
- 2) Israel was the one He chose, to be a kingdom of priest and a holy nation. vs. 1c; Ex. 19:5-6
- 3) Israel was the product of God, made and formed from the womb. vs. 2a-b
- 4) He would be the One to help them, this is the promise they are to hear. vs. 2c
- 5) The exhortation is not to fear and reiterates “Jacob My servant and Jeshurun,

an endearment term for Jerusalem, whom I have chosen”. vs. 2d-h

\* This is God’s steadfast love for Israel, recorded throughout the Old Testament!

**44:3**      God would pour out His provisions.

- 1) Water for the thirsty and the land.
- 2) His Spirit on their descendants.
- 3) His blessing on their offspring.

**44:4-5**      The nation will be turned around.

- 1) They will multiply. vs. 4
- 2) They will have passion for God and identify themselves with Him as proselytes. vs. 5
- 3) The passage has a similarity with Joel, the pouring out on the church. Joel 2:29

**44:6-8**      **There is no other God.**

**44:6**      The basis of authority is four-fold.

- 1) The King of Israel, the Ruler.
- 2) The Redeemer of Israel, the One who purchased them back.
- 3) The Lord of hosts, the Captain of the armies of heaven, Who is defeated the gods of Egypt.
- 4) The First and the Last, the Eternal One, besides Him there is no one.

- a) Every chapter from 40-48 contains these consistent theme of idols, which were a great problem to Israel.
- b) In the archeological digs of Ophel in Israel, they have discovered multitudes of idols among the burnt house of the city, when Nebuchadnezzar conquered it.

**44:7** The challenge to the false gods to predict the future.

- 1) They were to declare it.
- 2) They were to set them in order.
- 3) They were to prediction what would be coming to pass in the near and far future.

**44:8** God exhorts His people.

- 1) They are not to fear or be afraid.
- 2) They were to remember that they were His witnesses.
- 3) They were to remember that there is no other God besides Him or Rock, Who delivered them from Egypt, He does not know any other god. Deut. 32

**44:9-20** The foolishness of idolatry.

**44:9-11** The proclamation of foolishness of those who make idols.

- 1) The craftsman is as worthless as the idol he makes. vs. 9a-b

- 2) They are witnesses to their own shame, making idols that can neither see nor know. vs. 9c-e  
\* The work of man can only be less than man!
- 3) The Lord through Isaiah uses irony to mock those who would take time to make something that would profit him nothing. vs. 10
- 4) The craftsman and his companions considering the idiocy of it shall be ashamed together. vs. 11

**44:12-14** The process of the idol maker.

- 1) In the furnace and ponds it with a hammer and becomes faint in the process. vs. 12
- 2) The craftsman takes precise measurements, careful shaping to look like a man to place it in his house to prostrate himself before it. vs. 13
- 3) The craftsman also make gods from wood that rain has nourished, without rain they would have no gods. vs. 14

**44:15-17** The foolish logic of the idol maker.

- 1) He takes some of the wood to warm himself. vs. 15a-b
- 2) He uses some of the same wood to bake his bread. vs. 15c

- 3) He then takes some of the same wood, makes a god, worships it and prostrates himself before it. vs. 15d-f

**44:18-20** The blindness of idolatry.

- 1) God allows those who are persistent in their foolishness to not be able to see or understand the spiritual truth. vs. 18
  - a) The result is a self inflicted spiritual blindness by rejecting the light God imparts and continuing in the darkness one embraces.
  - b) John said the Jews could not believe and quoted Isaiah in fulfillment. Jn. 12:39; Is. 6:9-10
- 2) The prophet reveal the inability to reason and see the folly of it's lunacy. vs. 19
  - a) Paul says where is the wise, the mighty. 1Cor. 1:20-25; Is. 19:12
  - b) He is unable to see the common relationship of the wood for all it's uses, including a god!
- 3) The condition of such a person is self deception. vs. 20
  - a) He feeds on ashes, the same material his god is made off.
  - b) He is unable to deliver his soul.
  - c) He is unable to see his lie.

**44:21-23** **Israel is unforgotten by God her craftsman.**

**44:21** **God contrasts Himself to the crafter of idols.**

- 1) God call her to remember what he has just said.
- 2) God once again reminds Israel the she belongs to Him and she will not be forgotten by Him.

**44:22** God give the reason for their relationship with Jehovah.

- 1) God reminds her of His ability and the fact that He had blotted out her sins and transgressions when she redeemed her. vs. 22a-c, 43:25
- 2) God call her to return to Him. vs. 22d-e

**44:23** God calls for all of creation to sing out.

- 1) How God had done all the work of redemption. vs. 23a-h
- 2) How God alone was to be glorified. vs. 23

**44:24-28** **The restoration of Jerusalem is certain.**

**44:24** The One speaking is the Creator.

- 1) He formed Israel.
- 2) He made all things.

**44:25** The One speaking is the Ruler of men.

- 1) He frustrates the occultists.
- 2) He dumbfounds the wise and their counsel.
- 3) He reveals their knowledge to be foolishness.

**44:26** The One speaking is the One who knows the future.

- 1) He confirms His word to his people.  
Amos 3:7
- 2) He speaks through His messengers.
- 3) He predicts Jerusalem and Judah will be rebuilt.

**44:27** The One speaking is the who can remove any obstacle.

- 1) He dried up the Red Sea in the exodus.
- 2) He divided the Jordan to possess the land.
- 3) Cyrus would deflect the river Euphrates, in order to go under the gates of the city.

**44:28** The One speaking is the One Who can call people by name before they are born.

- 1) Cyrus, the king of Persia is called “My shepherd”.
- 2) Cyrus would perform all of God’s pleasure.
  - a) To built Jerusalem.

b) To rebuilt the foundation of the temple.

- 3) The edict was given in 536-37 B.C.  
2Chron. 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4
- 4) The captivity was for seventy years, beginning with the first siege, in 606 B.C  
Jer. 25:12; 29:10

**45:1-7** Cyrus the Lord’s instrument.

**45:1** Cyrus was God’s anointed.

- 1) The word “anointed” is the same used for and the kings, priest and the Messiah of Israel, Cyrus would in affect be the one to deliver Israel.
- 2) He will be sustained in strength to subdue nations, loose the armor or loins of kings.
  - a) He gained an ally in Babylon against Media. Two successive Median armies that were sent against him decided to join forces with him instead. He walked without opposition into Armenia and won a surprise victory over the Lydians when their horses were frightened by the smell of Persian camels. (World Bib. Com.:156)
  - b) Daniel tells us that Belshezzar in his drunken state, seeing the writing on the wall became fearful and his knee smote one against the other Dan. 5

- 3) God would open the double doors of Babylon by having the gates left unlocked.

**45:2-3** God would be the reason for his victory.

- 1) God would go before him and do the fighting and break the bronze gates of Babylon. vs. 2
- 2) God would give to him the hidden treasures and riches of the enemy. vs. 3a-b
- 3) God would do so, in order that Cyrus know that Jehovah was the Lord, the God of Israel. vs. 3c-d
  - a) Josephus tells us that Cyrus was presented with a scroll of Isaiah calling him out by name to encourage him to make the decree!
  - b) This is about 712 B.C., in 539 B.C. he entered Babylon and in 536-37 he gave the edict to rebuilt Jerusalem, about 170 years or so before the event!

**45:4-7** The reason for the call of Cyrus.

- 1) For Jacob's sake and Israel His elect. vs. 4a
- 2) For this reason God called Cyrus by name, though he had not known God. vs. 4b-c

- 3) For He is Lord and there is no other, who would gird him. vs. 5
- 4) For all to know that there is no other, He is Lord. vs. 6-7
  - a) He forms the light and created darkness.
  - b) He makes peace and creates calamity, meaning that He brings and allows consequences and judgments to come on people..
  - c) He, the Lord does all these things, refuting all idolatry and polytheism.

**45:8-13** **The warning to those who oppose the sovereignty of God.**

**45:8** God commands nature.

- 1) As He orders the heaven, so He order those on earth to bring about salvation.
- 2) Neither is hard, the one is evidence of being able to do the others.

**45:9-10** God is the maker of all mankind.

- 1) Woe means judgment to the one who strives or fights against God and his will. vs. 9a
- 2) The foolishness of such a person is illustrated by the clay complaining against the potter. vs. 9b-f
- 3) The foolishness is revealed by a second illustration of the child complaining to

the parents about what they have begotten. vs. 10

**45:11-13** God is in command and control.

- 1) He is the Holy One who predicts the future. vs. 11
- 2) He commanded the creation to be. vs. 12
- 3) He would raise Cyrus up in righteousness, referring to the activity that has salvation as it's object, without any payment of reward, in fact he gave back the treasures and instruments of the temple. vs. 13

**45:14-17** **The kingdom of Israel.**

- 1) These African nations would come at that time acknowledging God and His relationship to Israel, the ultimate fulfillment in the Millennium. vs. 14
- 2) They will confess Him as Savior, that was previously hidden from them. vs. 15
- 3) They will be confounded and shamed in their practice of idolatry. vs. 16
- 4) Israel will reign in the kingdom and receive all the promises of God. vs. 17

**45:18-19** **Chaos is not from God.**

**45:18** God creates with a purpose.

- 1) The authority is the same "The Lord".
- 2) The creation had a design, to be inhabited by people.

- a) Some point to this scriptures for the teaching of the "gap theory".
  - b) This theory teaches that there is a creation prior to the one we know and a destruction between verse one and two of Genesis.
  - c) Some even believe that Satan was ruler responsible for it.
- 3) The theory is certainly possible but again the scriptures must be the authority.
- a) The apostle Paul tell us that through one man sin entered in and death by sin. Rom. 5:12
  - b) This tells us that sin a death did not exist prior to Adam!

**45:19** God speak openly and clearly.

- 1) He revealed His purposes to Israel repeatedly.
- 2) He speak in righteousness, that which is good, just and true.

**45:20-25** The Lord challenges the nations and calls them to be saved.

**45:20-21** The useless idols.

- 1) They are called to assemble together as they carry and pray to their idols who can not save. vs. 20
- 2) They are to bring forth their prediction as God. vs. 21a-e

- 3) They were to know He is the only God and Savior, there is no other. vs. 21f-h

**45:22-25** The Savior of the world.

- 1) The entire earth was to look to Jehovah for salvation, even as God had revealed to Abraham. vs. 22; Gen. 12:3
- 2) God has taken an oath by Himself and it shall come to pass, “Every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath”, referring to acknowledging Him as the only Savior. vs. 23  
 \* Paul quotes this passage to the Philippians. Rom. 14:11; Phil. 2:10-11
- 3) There will be two kinds of people, those who bow now before the Lord returns and those who bow forcibly after He returns. vs. 24
- 4) The day will fulfill that all of Israel, who are Israel will be saved. vs. 25; Rom. 2:25-29