

“God Made Known” Isaiah 45:1-25

Context: The third of four servants of God’s salvific plan is prophesied. Assyria and Babylon served to chastise Israel for their self-aggrandizement and idolatry with the nations. The third servant is revealed as Isaiah accurately names Cyrus as a messianic type who delivers Israel from the physical bondage of the Babylonian captivity 150 years before the event occurred. The completion of this God-given prophecy proved the omniscience and omnipotence of YHWH. It is a prophecy given years before the Babylonian exile, Cyrus’ subjugation of the nations around him, and the subsequent inception of his campaigns that extended his vast Persian empire. The prophecy also points to a fourth servant disclosed through Isaiah, the Messiah who suffers physically in order to deliver the Remnant spiritually.

Life Principle: When God’s plan for your life confounds you, ask for His clarity rather than question His plan (cp. Isaiah 45:11).

1. An unlikely means – Isaiah 45:1-7

As the originator of light and darkness, YHWH asserts that He is the only Being responsible for peace and disaster. Cyrus is called by YHWH, serves at His pleasure, and is successful as conqueror through His will, although Cyrus attributes it initially to the Babylonian god Marduke. YHWH anoints Cyrus in order that he, the Jewish Remnant, the Remnant from the nations might know YHWH as the omnipotent God who has caused peace, war, and deliverance according to His plan and for the disclosure of His glory.

2. A likely response – Isaiah 45:8-13

God commands the kingdom above to flow with His righteous nature and so moisten the souls saved below that they bear His very nature of righteousness created within them. God reproves those who quarrel with Him concerning His plans about Cyrus and instead counsels them to seek out His will and commit themselves to fulfilling it. Further, God shows that Cyrus’ rebuilding and their habitation of Jerusalem are God’s plan as exhibited by the fact that there is no earthly profit in it for Cyrus.

3. A likely promise – Isaiah 45:14-25

God promises the Remnant everlasting salvation from the idolatrous powers around them, either through subjugation or through salvation. Like Israel, the nations need only turn from idolatry and turn to God and they will be promised salvation when judgment day comes.

Study questions:

- In Isaiah 45:1, Cyrus is again prophetically named as a type of Messiah, who saves Israel from their Babylonian captivity about 150 years after Isaiah’s death. Surprising as this ‘naming’ is, those having a high view of Scripture attribute it to God’s inspired revelation to Isaiah (see footnote 4-5 ‘**On God’s Revelation**’ in our **doctrinal statement** under **what we believe** at www.gracepointfellowship.org). How do some scholars who deny the doctrine of biblical inspiration, like Gesenius, account for the writing of this prophecy? What is the essential principle teaching in Isaiah 40-48 that makes the multiple-prophets theory absurd? What is the *sine qua non* necessary to understanding prophetic texts, according to 2 Peter 1:20-21 (cf. Eph. 1:17ff)?

- Isaiah 45:23 promises that God’s prophetic proclamation will not return to Him unfulfilled (cf. Isaiah 55:11). What passages in Scripture might describe the event where every knee shall bow (see: Romans 14:11ff; 2 Corinthians 5:10ff; 1 Corinthians 3:13; Matthew 25:31ff; Revelation 4:10; 5:14)? What do they have to do with you?

- Philippians 2:10 cites Isaiah 45:23. As a **Bible study method**, look up the Philippians passage in context. Who is identified as the One who will be worshiped in the Philippians passage?

Transformation exercise:

Meditate on Isaiah 45:11. Quiet yourself each morning this week and pray that God may show you, the GracePoint leadership, the church association, folks you know who are in distress, and missionary acquaintances what God would have them do. Pray for empowered commitment to follow God’s revelation.