

The Book of Isaiah

Trusting God More #24

Memory Verse: Isaiah 40:1 KJV, Comfort ye, Comfort ye my people, saith the Lord.”

Review: idolatry

Opening Discussion- What is it that God has done for you that no idol CAN do?

As our study continues in **chapter 44**, we are invited to consider verses 21-27. God prompts Israel to remember Jehovah. This comes after continued verses (6-20) denouncing idols. In addition, He prompts Israel to:

- Turn from such atrocious acts
- Remember that God formed them
- Remember that God will not forget them.

Take a close look at verse 44: 22 (here) “**I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you.**”

- No idol could “sweep” away their offences
- No idol can cleanse you from your sins, and
- No idol can redeem you.

Read verses 23-28.

Creation joins in praising God for Israel’s redemption. Even the forests are to praise God. God is both REDEEMER and CREATOR!

What hope does Israel have in verse 26?

God takes them back again to verse 27. He reminds them of how He delivered them from the Red Sea and He implies their coming deliverance is on the way.

Chapter 45

This chapter is filled with prophecy. In verse 1, Cyrus is identified before he was born. (Think about this, King Cyrus was named 200 years before his birth.) What does this say to you about God?

Think about this. God knew about King Cyrus’s rise to the throne. What do you think of his knowledge of the outcome of the forth coming election?

Discussion on God's foreknowledge: See Genesis 49:10 as one of many references.

Cyrus was given the names "shepherd" and "anointed." How does Cyrus' title predict the actions he would take concerning Israel's deliverance. Consider what we know King Cyrus did:

- Cyrus delivered the Israelites from captivity.
- Cyrus permitted them to return to their homeland.
- Cyrus encouraged those who stayed behind to send gifts of gold and silver with those who were returning.

This is a foreshadowing of Israel's Messiah who was forthcoming. Who is He?

Read verses 2-4. The question might be lingering in your mind...why would God identify Cyrus by name. In verse 4, we have the answer. God wanted Israel to know He had not forgotten them. They would be able to recognize Cyrus when he appeared.

Compare the prophecy of Cyrus to the prophecy of Jesus.

Read Micah 5:2.

Now, read Matthew 2:1

In the same way God foretold of Cyrus' arrival, He also told of Jesus' arrival. He also told us that Jesus would be Israel's deliverer (Matthew 1:21b).

Read verses 20-21. What is the whole world encouraged to do?

What does "turn to God" mean?

Understand God is one God!

The theme of "one true God" is repeated. It is clear He wanted Israel to learn a lesson because they were His people, chosen for His purpose.

1. What do you think was His purpose for Israel?
2. What do you think is His purpose for us today?

He is just and He is the Savior of the world.

It is awesome that God's people in exile were introduced to their deliverer, Cyrus, who eventually allowed Israel to return home. They were given a chance to rebuild their city and their temple (as we see in the books of Israel and Nehemiah).

What do you think came out of the Babylonian captivity experience?