

ISAIAH

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Isaiah chapter 45 as we continue our study through the Word of God. We are continuing in a section that deals with the comfort of God and let's face it; we all need the comfort of God in our lives. The reality is, God's comfort is there for us, He is always there with His arms open wide for us to rest and take comfort in. The problem is many times we don't come to Him and we wonder why we have so many problems!

The Southern Kingdom of Judah was no different. They had to be reminded over and over again to look to the Lord and not to earthly Kings or things to find comfort in, to be delivered! And this evening we are going to see God use a pagan King by the name of Cyrus to fulfill His plans and purposes for the children of Israel who are in captivity.

Last time we saw Isaiah chapter 44 close with Cyrus mentioned and that thought continues on into chapter 45. That is a very strange place to put a new chapter, right in the middle of this thought about Cyrus! How did that happen? Keep in mind that the chapter divisions and the verses were not in the original texts, they were added at a much later date, they are not inspired. Stephen Langton the Archbishop of Canterbury divided the Bible into chapters in 1228 A. D. And in around 1551 A. D. Robert Stephanus divided the chapters into verses. He did most of this work while riding horseback from Paris to Southern France. Maybe that explains some of the bumps with the divisions! Of these divisions Von Soden remarks,

“The verse divisions of Stephanus which he, according to an incidental remark made by his son, made during a trip from Paris to Lyons, frequently do not do service to the sense of the text. There is no consistent method at work in this system. The verses sometimes coincide with a single sentence, and sometimes they include several sentences; sometimes a single sentence is divided into two verses, with the result that the reader is led to consider the second verse while forgetting the point of view of the first verse. Especially objectionable is the way in which words introducing a direct quotation sometimes belong to the preceding verse and sometimes to the verse in which the quotation is found.”

So then what should we do? Should we redo the Bible? Of course not but just understand that they are not inspired but they are there to help us locate things in the Bible more easily. And with any help, it may not be perfect, but it does work and when it doesn't, read on, don't stop the thought, read into the next verse or next chapter to get the whole thought!

So let's begin reading in Isaiah 44:28 and see what the Lord has to say about this man named Cyrus and this will then lead us into Isaiah chapter 45. We are told, **“Who says of Cyrus, ‘He is My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure, Saying to Jerusalem, ‘You shall be built,’ And to the temple, ‘Your foundation shall be laid.’”**”

God calls Cyrus, this Persian King, by name some 125 years before he was even born. Cyrus will be the one who will defeat the Babylonians and let God's people return home. With that as our background, let's begin reading in Isaiah chapter 45, beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

ISAIAH 45**VERSES 1-3**

1. God has anointed and strengthened Cyrus for the work he was to do, defeat Babylon and let God's people go. This was the Lord working through Cyrus; He is the One who strengthened this pagan King to do this work.

Now that was not an easy task. Babylon was a mighty fortress, it was impregnable, or so they thought. In fact, the night the city fell their King was throwing a party, people were drunk, and they not only were mocking what the Persians were trying to do, but they were mocking the true and living God. They felt very secure.

Why? Because the city itself, some 15 miles square, was enclosed by a massive wall that extended some 350 feet into the air. Then, about every 100 feet or so were watch towers that extended another 100 feet into the air. The walls themselves were 88 feet thick and you could have chariot races 6 abreast on the top of these walls. Then there was a moat and a smaller inner wall. Also the Euphrates River ran through the middle of the city supplying the people with plenty of water. They boasted of having enough grain to keep the people fed for 20 years in case they could not leave the city because of the enemy surrounding them. Also, to prevent anyone from entering through the River, they had gates that went down into the river bed that would be closed at night.

That is why Belshazzar, the King of Babylon had his party, it was in defiance of the army that surrounded them, for he truly believed they could not enter the city. And that night, Belshazzar saw the hand writing on the wall that basically said he has come up short in the balances of God and the time is up for him and his kingdom. And that very night, maybe because the soldiers were drunk, the gates were not closed, and Cyrus had the Euphrates River upstream diverted so they could walk right into the city of Babylon, just as God had said, opening the gates for them to enter through. In one night the armies of the Medes and Persians, under Cyrus, conquered the city of Babylon in a remarkable raid described in Daniel 5.

Motyer makes these remarks regarding this battle, “In October 539 B. C., Cyrus advanced into lower Mesopotamia and, leaving Babylon till last, conquered and occupied the surrounding territory. Seeing which way the wind was blowing, Nabonidus of Babylon deserted his city, leaving it in the charge of his son Belshazzar . . . the taking of Babylon was as bloodless and effortless as Daniel 6 [5] implies.”

This is the prophecy that was fulfilled over 150 years later and we see the fulfillment of what Isaiah said spoken of in Ezra 1:1-11 where we are told, **“Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the Lord God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel (He is God), which is in Jerusalem. And whoever is left in any place where he dwells, let the men of his place help him with silver**

and gold, with goods and livestock, besides the freewill offerings for the house of God which is in Jerusalem. Then the heads of the fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, with all whose spirits God had moved, arose to go up and build the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem. And all those who were around them encouraged them with articles of silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with precious things, besides all that was willingly offered. King Cyrus also brought out the articles of the house of the Lord, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from Jerusalem and put in the temple of his gods; and Cyrus king of Persia brought them out by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah. This is the number of them: thirty gold platters, one thousand silver platters, twenty-nine knives, thirty gold basins, four hundred and ten silver basins of a similar kind, and one thousand other articles. All the articles of gold and silver were five thousand four hundred. All these Sheshbazzar took with the captives who were brought from Babylon to Jerusalem.”

2. As you read what Isaiah said, “. . . That you may know that I, the LORD, Who call you by your name, Am the God of Israel.” And then, as you read in Ezra 1:2 it seems like Cyrus came to know the God of Israel. He said, “. . . All the kingdoms of the earth the Lord God of heaven has given me. . .”

How did he come to know the God of Israel? When Cyrus entered the city he was shown the scroll of Isaiah, probably by Daniel. And he was so impressed that the God of Israel called him by name and laid out the plan of his capture of Babylon that he made the proclamation found in Ezra chapter 1 and let God's people return home. And it seems that God used this event in Cyrus' life to bring Cyrus into a relationship with the true and living God. I truly think he became a believer!

But before he was even a believer God moved him to action. It is as Proverbs 21:1 says, **“The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.”**

VERSES 4-7

1. Isaiah's point is that there is only One God, There are not two gods or forces in heaven, one good and one bad, as in a dualistic “yin and yang” sense. One writer put it like this, “Cyrus was a Persian, and Persians had a dualistic concept of God and the world. Their good god they called Ahura-mazda and the evil god Angra-mainya. The former had created the light, the second the darkness.” (Bultema)

Isaiah is telling us, **“I am the LORD, and there is no other, There is no God besides me.”** That is pretty straight forward, easy to understand.

2. The problem for some is what verse 7 says, **“I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the Lord, do all these things.”** First of all some Bibles have **“calamity”** as **“evil”** and that is not correct. God does not create evil but calamity for those who refuse to honor Him.

Secondly, God does not create moral evil in the sense of bringing it forth into our lives. We bring it forth. Yes Cyrus and the Persians would find peace and Babylon, they will find calamity. But what we see today is people blaming God for their sin, that God tempted them, God made them like this. The homosexual might say, "How can this be wrong, God made me like this, I was born a homosexual?" The alcoholic might say, "God knows my weaknesses, this sickness I have and if He didn't want me to drink then I wouldn't find a bar when I am driving around at night!" Or the couple living in an adulterous relationship and saying, "This can't be wrong, I prayed about it and the reality is, God brought us together!" That is all garbage and it is a lie of the Devil. You gave into his temptation and bought his lie!

And there are those who don't know the Scriptures, they have not read what James said that it is impossible for God to tempt us with evil. But they will argue, "Hey, if God created everything like you Christians say He did, then it just stands to reason that He created this impulse in me to do evil! He must have created the evil!"

How can we respond to a statement like that? Listen to this awesome answer. We are told:

The university professor challenged his students with this question. "Did God create everything that exists?"

A student replied, "Yes, He did!"

"God created everything?" the professor asked.

"Yes sir," the student replied.

The professor answered, "If God created everything, then God created evil since evil exists, and according to the principle that our works define who we are, then God is evil." The professor was quite pleased with himself and boasted to the students that he had proven once more that the Christian faith was a myth.

Another student raised his hand and said, "Can I ask you a question professor?"

"Of course," replied the professor.

The student stood up and asked, "Professor does cold exist?"

The professor replied, "Of course it exists. Have you never been cold?" The students snickered at the young man's question.

The young man replied, "In fact sir, cold does not exist. According to the laws of physics, what we consider cold is in reality the absence of heat. Every body or object is susceptible to study when it has or transmits energy, and heat is what makes a body or matter have or transmit energy. Absolute zero (- 460 degrees °F) is the total absence of heat. Cold does not exist. We have created this word to describe how we feel if we have no heat.

The student continued. "Professor, does darkness exist?"

The professor responded, "Of course it does."

The student replied, "Once again you are wrong sir. Darkness does not exist either. Darkness is in reality the absence of light. Light we can study, but not darkness. In fact we can use Newton's prism to break white light into many colors and study the various wavelengths of each color. You cannot measure darkness. A simple ray of light can break into a world of darkness and illuminate it. How can you know how dark a certain space is? You measure the amount of light present. Isn't this correct? Darkness is a term used by man to describe what happens when there is no light present."

Finally the young man asked the professor. “Sir, does evil exist?”

Now uncertain, the professor responded, “Of course as I have already said. We see it every day. It is in the daily example of man’s inhumanity to man. It is in the multitude of crime and violence everywhere in the world. These manifestations are nothing else but evil.”

To this the student replied, “Evil does not exist sir, or at least it does not exist unto itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. It is just like darkness and cold, a word that man has created to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is the result of what happens when man does not have God’s love present in his heart. It’s like the cold that comes when there is no heat or the darkness that comes when there is no light.”

The professor sat down!

- Source Unknown

I think that explains it very well. Now I am not saying that God does not judge people or nations, He does, but that judgment, that calamity, that darkness, is a result of that person or nation and God, being a righteous judge is just acting upon what they have done! Again, like Babylon, the calamity that came upon them because of how they treated the Jews, and the peace that the Persians had and how they blessed the Jews. God is sovereign but He is also holy, just, all He does is right, it is perfect, it is fair! Never forget that!

VERSE 8

1. What we see here is “**righteousness**” and “**salvation**” and this is abundantly being poured out. The near term fulfillment is seen with Cyrus coming and destroying Babylon and letting the Jews return home. The complete fulfillment will be seen in the Millennial Kingdom!

2. And make no mistake about it. The God who is described in the previous verses is the same God who can speak to the heavens and pour down rain upon a dry land as well as bring those refreshing waters to a dry soul! If you are dry, spiritually speaking, just ask God to refresh you with His Spirit, to pour down that rain from heaven upon you!

VERSES 9-10

1. We have seen in the previous verses we have read that God is the Creator of all things. Now in knowing that God is the Creator of all things shouldn't that make us hesitant to oppose Him in any way? Of course it should. It is just plain foolishness to strive against God. And yet we do that when we negate what God has said to us in His Word. We are telling God that we know better than He does in this situation. That again is just foolishness.

Think about it, each of us, like all the people of the world, are like a broken piece of pottery because of sin. And as we continue to strive we remain in that broken condition. But as we turn to Him, the master potter takes that broken piece of pottery and fashions it into something to bring Him honor.

And like I have said, we as Christians can also strive with God and wrestle with Him, but that too is foolish. You see, if you could actually win in your fight with God, you would lose! It is when we surrender to Him, lose in a sense, that we then win! God knows what is best for our lives. And just as a lump of clay, we should be silent as God molds and shapes our lives and not strive against what He is trying to do. It is as Paul said in Romans 9:20, **“But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, ‘Why have you made me like this?’”**

It is like arguing with your parents for bringing you into this world. That is just crazy, instead of being thankful you are arguing over it. That is what we do with God, we argue because of the situations He places us in or we find ourselves in instead of just looking to Him to bring righteousness and salvation to that situation!

2. As we move into verse 11 we need to remember what we just read here in verses 9 and 10 of Isaiah chapter 45. If you don't you are going to come up with some un-scriptural doctrines that many in the health, wealth and prosperity movement and the name it and claim it movements have adopted. Let's read on and you will see what I mean.

VERSES 11-13

1. Now let me deal with this issue of naming it and claiming it or that health wealth and prosperity doctrine. You see, as they read this they say we are to "**command**" things from God. They think that is what the Bible is teaching. No it is not!

Then what is the point that is being made here. First of all we need to keep in mind that this flows from what we read in verses 9 and 10. God is God and we are not. Thus, we don't command God to do this or do that, we are the clay and He is the potter. He is molding and shaping our lives. I am not saying that we can't ask God for things in our life, but our prayers should be that His will be done and not ours in all our prayers! And the idea in verses 11-12 is not that we are commanding God to do this or do that but He is putting these things in order for us and I am thankful for that.

2. What we see here is that Cyrus, this pagan King, would be directed by God and will assist in the work of rebuilding Jerusalem by letting God's people return home from Babylon. And not just returning home, they would be taking with them the articles that the Babylonians had taken from them!

And notice that it says, "**Not for price nor reward.**" Isn't that interesting? He was not looking for some kind of payment from God. Then why did he do it? Because of the conviction of God upon him, that moved him to act. For many Christians, they can't be moved for anything and for others, for those Christians who will only do something for money and more money in their service to the Lord, they should be ashamed of themselves. If you can't do it out of a right heart, then don't do it at all!

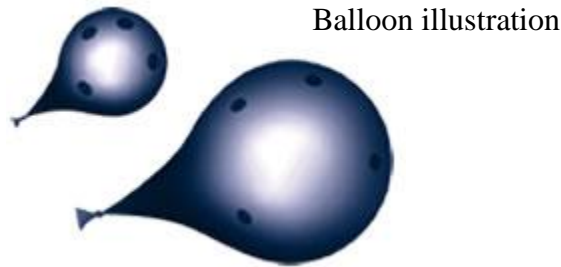
3. One more point here and that is dealing with what verse 12 says, "**My hands that stretched out the heavens.**" Is the universe expanding? Listen what we are told in Isaiah 40:22, "**... Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.**" Is there scientific proof that the universe is expanding?

Listen to this article from Dr. Jason Lisle called "The Universe Confirms the Bible" from March 6, 2008. We are told regarding the expanding universe,

This verse must have seemed very strange when it was first written. The universe certainly doesn't look as if it is expanding. After all, if you look at the night sky tonight, it will appear about the same size as it did the previous night, and the night before that. Ancient star maps appear virtually identical to the night sky today. Could the universe really have been expanded? It must have been hard to believe at the time.

In fact, secular scientists once believed that the universe was eternal and unchanging. The idea of an expanding universe would have been considered nonsense to most scientists of the past. It must have been tempting for Christians to reject what the Bible teaches about the expansion of the universe. Perhaps some Christians tried to “reinterpret” Isaiah 40:22, and read it in an unnatural way so that they wouldn’t have to believe in an expanding universe. When the world believes one thing, and the Bible teaches another, it is always tempting to think that God got the details wrong, but God is never wrong.

Most astronomers today believe that the universe is expanding. This expansion is a very natural result of the physics that Einstein discovered - general relativity. Moreover, there is observational evidence that the universe is indeed expanding. In the 1920s, astronomers discovered that virtually all clusters of galaxies appear to be moving away from all other clusters; this indicates that the entire universe is expanding.



This effect can be illustrated with points on a balloon. As the balloon is inflated, all points move farther away from each other. If the entire universe were being stretched out, the galaxies would all be moving away; and that is exactly what they appear to be doing. It is interesting that the Bible recorded the notion of an expanding universe thousands of years before secular science came to accept the idea.

- <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/tba/universe-confirms-bible#in-depth>

Our Creator God knows what He created and He tells us. The Bible is not a book on science, but when it speaks on scientific things they are 100% correct!

VERSES 14-17

1. What we see here is that one day those nations that have come against Israel will bring her gifts and they will recognize that there is only One God, the God of Israel. And if you think God has forsaken the Jews, think again. If you think any nation can fight against the Jews and destroy them, think again. Verse 17 tells us, **“But Israel shall be saved by the LORD With an everlasting salvation; You shall not be ashamed or disgraced Forever and ever.”** That is a long time, and Isaiah is speaking of the salvation that is found in the Messiah, Jesus Christ, it is eternal and for any Jew or Gentile that comes to the faith, they are secure in Him!

We see this fulfilled in the Kingdom Age as other nations will serve Israel, not in physical chains, but they will be in subjection to them because God is with them and they too love the Lord. This is not a slave/master relationship, but done out of love, willingly.

2. Now why does it say that God hides himself in verse 15? God hides Himself only from those who don't want to see Him. If you seek Him, you will find Him for He loves you more than you ever will know. And if you don't turn to the true and living God, you will turn to some kind of idol to worship, and when the Lord returns or you die and stand before Him, you will be ashamed!

But for those that put their trust in the Lord, they will not be ashamed and Israel, as a nation will also be saved.

VERSES 18-21

1. Now I would like to touch on a subject that you may not agree with me on and you may not like what I have to say about it, but it is important. First of all God did not create the earth **“to be a worthless waste; he formed it to be inhabited”** as The Amplified Bible translates this verse.

But as some read what is said here in verse 18 and put it alongside what Genesis 1:2 says, **“The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”** They then come to the conclusion that there is a gap between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2, when God created the heavens and the earth and then it was put into a deep freeze for thousands or maybe even millions of years, no one knows. The reason they say that is because it speaks of **“the earth being without form, and void.”** And with that some have speculated that there was a pre-Adamic race of angelic beings in which Satan was over and when they sinned, God put the earth into a deep freeze. Now if you hold onto that view, you are wrong, sorry.

Let me explain why and this is just a brief overview but to me it is enough to close the coffin on this idea that was introduced two centuries ago in an effort to explain “prehistoric” fossils but has not proof to support it.

First of all, that phrase **“without form and void”** in Genesis 1:2, which is TOHU WAW BOHU in the Hebrew, has been suggested by those who hold onto the gap theory to mean “ruined and desolate.” And so they say there has been some cataclysmic judgment upon the earth by God that left it in a ruined and desolate condition.

The word TOHU or **“without form”** has various shades of meaning in the Scriptures, (vanity, confused, empty, pale, nothing, etc.). So it depends on the context for the correct translation. The King James scholars translated it, “Without form.”

Also, the word BOHU or “**void**” does not mean desolation, but is simply speaking of “emptiness.” In other words, when the earth was initially created, the earth had no inhabitants; it was “void.” That just makes sense. Don’t make it complicated to fit your theory, read what is being said!

Henry M. Morris says this regarding this issue, “The essential meaning, therefore, is: ‘In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth [or space and matter], and the matter so created was at first unformed and uninhabited.’”

Thus, at this point only the basic matter components were put forth, the earth was not formed into a sphere as yet, but it would be shortly. Proverbs 8:27 seems to support that thought; we read, “**When He prepared the heavens, I was there, When He drew a circle on the face of the deep.**”

It is kind of like a master potter with his clay, it is without form and void until He takes that clay and shapes it into a vessel of His desire, and I see God taking the elements and shaping them together into a sphere that we call earth. Again, I personally don’t believe in the gap theory. I don’t think the Bible supports it and if you think there was death and destruction before sin entered this world, you are completely wrong.

Paul tells us in Romans 5:12, “**Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.**” I think that is pretty clear. No death until sin entered this world and thus, that did not take place until after creation, after the fall! The Scriptures don’t support the gap theory!

2. Over and over again God is saying that He alone is God, there is no other. Who has spoken of Cyrus being raised up and defeating Babylon, then letting the Jews return home? No one but God!

VERSES 22-25

1. God is calling all people, not just Israel, to stop following after worthless idols and turn to Him to be saved! Turn to the true and living God. It is as Jesus said in John 14:6, “... ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”

2. And look at this salvation that God has for us. First of all look at the *SIMPLICITY OF SALVATION!* What do I mean by that? Isaiah tells us what the Lord said, “Look to Me and be saved.” We must look to God!

Next we see the *FOCUS OF SALVATION*. What is the focus of salvation? The focus is God, “Look to Me and be saved.”

And God wants us to be saved that is why He is calling upon us to “Look to Me and be saved.” God wants us to know that we can be assured of our salvation; we can “be saved.”

And God wants us to know that this gift is not just for the Jewish people, it is not just for certain people, but this gift of salvation is extended to, “all you ends of the earth.”

3. How can we be sure to trust what God has said? Because God puts His name on the line and tells us the things that will come to pass before they happen. And if they don't it discredits who He is. But they all will come to pass and they have come to pass.

And one day, every knee will bow before Jesus and confess that He is Lord. You can do it now and enter eternity with Him or wait until you die, and you still will bow your knee before Him, but you will be cast into outer darkness, eternally separated from Him.

As Paul said in Philippians 2:9-11, **“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 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.”**

If you refuse to come to Him now and bow the knee freely before Him, there is coming a day when those who have rejected God will be ashamed of their foolish mistake and it will terrify them as they stand in their righteousness, naked before God.

For those that come to God, they will stand clothed in the righteousness of Christ and enter into eternity with Him. As Paul points out in I Corinthians 1:30-31, **“But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God; and righteousness and sanctification and redemption; that, as it is written, ‘He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.’”** Praise the Lord!

4. As we get into Isaiah chapter 46 we will see the idols of Babylon and then in Isaiah chapter 47 we will see the destruction of Babylon. So let’s begin reading in verse 1 of Isaiah chapter 46.

ISAIAH 46**VERSES 1-2**

1. As I read this it does make me laugh. You see, the Babylonians had many gods they worshipped, but their chief gods were Bel, which means “lord” or “master” and Nebo, which means “the lofty one.” And the people, especially the leaders, would incorporate the names of these gods into their own names. For example, **Neb**uchadnezzar, which means “may the lofty one protect our borders” and **Bel**shazzar, which means “master protect the king.” And God is speaking against these false gods of Babylon who can’t help, speak see or hear!

Remember, “In chapter 45 Isaiah declared that every knee will bow to the Lord, and here he pictures the gods of the great Babylon stooping low in humiliation.” (Grogan)

2. During their festivals and victory parades, they would bring these large idols out, place them on a cart, and the cattle or beast of burden would pull them through the streets for people to worship and bow down to. Think about that. This god they were worshipping couldn’t walk but had to be carried, and they were so large, so heavy, that it was a burden for these animals to carry them. And we still do that today. Look at the statues of Mary that are carried around on the shoulders of people and-so-on. That is not God!

3. And here is the reality of all these gods they worshiped. It didn’t matter how much they worshipped these idols, they could not deliver the people from Cyrus and his Persian army. The Babylonians were going to go into captivity and these gods could do nothing about it.

And the same is true today. Our freedom is only found in Christ and apart from Him, no matter what you worship, you are a captive awaiting the judgment!

VERSES 3-4

1. God is speaking to His people and contrasting what He does and what the idols the Babylonians worship do. The gods of Babylon had to be carried around, and it was a burden. God is saying to His people that He not only birthed them as a nation, but He carry's them around, lifting them up, strengthening them from birth till death, and He does the same with us. And that is not a burden to us, but a delight!

I like the way James Stewart summarized these verses. He said, "Ever since Isaiah, men have been aware that one of the vital distinctions between true religion and false is that whereas the latter is a dead burden for the soul to carry, the former is a living power to carry the soul." What more needs to be said? And I guess the question that needs to be asked is this and you can answer it on your own, "Do you have to carry your gods or does your God carry you?"

VERSES 5-7

1. How much money, energy, time is spent on the making and purchasing of these gods and yet, they can't do anything. These gods were created by the imagination of men's hearts, and as they were built, they had to be carried by the one who was worshipping it. They would place these idols in their home so they could worship it and in the morning, when they got up, it would still be there. These gods couldn't move, they could only be carried away! And for people who are looking to be delivered, for salvation, there is none in these god's! The folly of idolatry and yet how many continue down this path!

VERSES 8-10

1. God is telling His people to think back and remember what He has said in the past and how those things came to pass. These idols are silent, and yet God keeps showing us that He alone is God. And people today, like back then, refuse to listen.

Think about it. How many people have listened to Jean Dixon and her predictions, which had only a 20-25% accuracy rate, rather than turning to the true and living God who has never been wrong and will never be wrong! And people still look to people like that, they read horoscopes, have their fortunes told and-so-on. Foolishness! What God says will come to pass; you can take that to the bank!

2. Why do we as Christians suffer so much defeat? Why do we lose hope so often? Because we ***FORGET!*** We need to remember what God has said, what He has promised and then walk by faith keeping our eyes upon Him!

VERSES 11-13

1. God is speaking of Cyrus, the Persian King who He will use to bring about His counsel, the Babylonians are going into captivity and God will free His people. But how often we become stubborn-hearted and not see the salvation that God will bring or believe that He will bring it in the situation we are facing!

2. Now in verse 13 notice what God says, “**Israel My glory.**” What does that mean? It means that Israel is an object lesson to the world on who God is and how He deals with His people. He is a righteous God and will not ignore sin, but His chastening is not to death but to bring about repentance in their lives so that they would turn to Him and He could bless them once again. God does not forsake His children!

And God does the same with us. We are an object lesson for a lost and dying world to see the love of God and patience of God for a people who are stiff-necked and rebellious!

ISAIAH 47

VERSES 1-3

1. Babylon is being personified as a young girl who has never been violated; the city walls were never breached. And their rise to power was quick, the palaces beautiful, they had much wealth and prosperity, but it didn't last long, only some 70 years or so.

But judgment was coming because of their immorality, because of the way they treated God's people. And the picture here is that they will be brought down and they will be like the poorest female slave, grinding the meal. No longer will they wear their fancy head coverings and as they are taken captive they will have to remove their skirt as they pass through the rivers.

Make no mistake about it, judgment was coming upon Babylon and they would not be able to escape it. They will not be able to talk their way out of this judgment.

VERSE 4

1. Isaiah can't help himself, the true Deliverer is not some idol or even Cyrus, the true Deliverer is the Lord. In fact, our Redeemer became flesh so that He could die for our sins and on the third day He rose from the dead, taking the sting out of death for us and cleansing us from all our sins. The idols sit there while God is actively involved with His people.

2. One more point here and Bultema speaks on the Hebrew word for Redeemer and tells us, "A gaal had to be a close relative. Christ is this too, for according to His humanity He came forth from the Jews. A gaal had to be able to deliver. The Holy One of Israel does not lack this ability. Sometimes a gaal had to exercise bloody vengeance. Christ will work bloody vengeance upon Babylon for its oppression of His people. Frequently a gaal had to pay a ransom to free a prisoner. The Lord Jesus paid with his blood on Golgotha to ransom His people. On the basis of these considerations, to which could be added many more, it is evident that the name Gaal is very fitting for the Savior."

VERSES 5-7

1. Judah was taken into captivity by the hands of the Babylonians for their idolatry. God used the Babylonians as instruments of judgment, of chastening for His people. But the Babylonians went too far. They showed no mercy to the people but were very cruel to them. They even laid heavy burdens upon the elderly. And their actions they did not take to heart, they did not consider the consequences of their actions, and now the penalty was going to be their destruction. And yet they felt their power would last forever, when in fact God showed and told their King, Nebuchadnezzar that it would not last forever. But pride gets in the way and it is pride that will bring a person and a nation down!

VERSES 8-9

1. It was not only their pride that brought them down but Babylon was famous as a founding place and breeding ground for occultic arts and practices. In fact, Babylon became a synonym for false worship. It is here that Nimrod, who was a hunter of men's souls, got his start and built the tower of Babel. And by the time Babylon was built, they were heavy into the occult. In the world today, we see this kind of activity on the rise and put in under the guise of entertainment and science. It is not! Don't open a door for the Devil to walk through!

2. Now as proud and secure as they were, their destruction came in one night, just as God said. Their attitude is no different from the attitude of many today. Their lives are given over to satisfy the flesh, and they are in control of their lives, their destiny, they are god! And God is saying to those that feel that way - destruction will come to you in one day! Thus, today is the day of salvation, don't pass it up! Don't let pride keep you from entering into that relationship with Jesus Christ!

VERSES 10-11

1. Again, notice the arrogance of the people. They do what they want when they want to do it and no one can stop them. They forgot about God! We are told in James 4:6, “**But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: ‘God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.’**”

That was not just for Babylon or for those living during the time of James, it is for all of us to take heed and humble ourselves before God!

You see, when destruction comes they won't know how to stop it because they won't know where it was coming from. Thus, they won't be able to charm it away, cast a spell against it, atone for it with their gods, and in a sense they will be dumbfounded in what to do because they have rejected the love of the truth just like people are doing today!

VERSES 12-15

1. God is taunting them, telling them to go and see what their sorcerers can do for them, maybe it will profit them! After all, if they have real spiritual power, they should be able to. But they will not be able to stand in the presence of God; they will not be able to stand against the judgment that is coming!

2. The American Humanist Association published their second manifesto in 1973 and among the ideologist ideas they try to tell us, they wrote, “We affirm that moral values derive their source from human experience. Ethics is autonomous and situational, needing no theological or ideological sanction. . . . Human life has meaning because we create and develop our futures.”

In other words, we create our own reality of morals, of life, of what we want to believe and want we don't want to believe. Now you may think that was way back in 1973 and we are way beyond that today. In fact, we don't worship things like that. We don't worship idols anymore! Really, we worship all kinds of things today and we look to them to deliver us from all kinds of problems we face in life instead of turning to the true and living God. Let me share with you this story,

The Satanic Temple, a religious group based in New York City, on Monday unveiled their design for a monument they hope to erect at the Oklahoma Statehouse.

The 7-foot-tall monument would include a goat-headed Baphomet figure sitting cross-legged on a stone slab, flanked by two smiling children. The monument would also include quotes from poets Lord Byron and William Blake.

“The monument has been designed to reflect the views of Satanists in Oklahoma City and beyond. The statue will serve as a beacon calling for compassion and empathy among all living creatures. The statue will also have a functional purpose as a chair where people of all ages may sit on the lap of Satan for inspiration and contemplation,” spokesman Lucien Greaves explained.



Just like Isaiah wrote, these idols will not be able to deliver them from the fire of judgment. How sad a nation we have become! In the Bible Belt of America they want to put this statue of Satan! But remember how Isaiah closed this chapter, **“No one shall save you.”** What a final sentence! And if we will not find our salvation in the Lord; if we will not look to Him and be saved, then certainly no one shall save you.