

The Judgment and Blessing of God – A Study in the Book of Isaiah

17 - THE SOVEREIGN GOD AND THE GENTILES (ISAIAH 44:6-45:25)

I. The Sovereign God and Worthless Idols (Isaiah 44:6-23)

- The Lord reveals himself to the reader as sovereign and eternal.
- The Lord declares himself to be unique and that there is no one like him.
- Israel is a witness to his strength and uniqueness.
- The Lord declares that idols and those who make them are worthless.
- Those that make idols will experience shame and disrepute.
- With the same material that one makes a god, he uses it to bake bread.
- The Lord has made them spiritually blind to the futility of their idols.
- Unlike the idol makers, Israel was to remember the God who redeemed them.
- They were to remember the God who displayed his glory to them.

II. Prophecies Concerning Cyrus (Isaiah 44:24-45:8)

- The Lord is the one who created all things and will make the false prophets appear foolish.
- The Lord will be proved true when his word concerning Jerusalem is fulfilled.
- The Lord states that it is he who will call Cyrus to restore Jerusalem and the Temple.
- Cyrus will be used by the Lord to defeat the nations for the sake of Israel.
- This will be true even though Cyrus does not know the Lord.
- The Lord declares himself to be God and that there is no other god.
- The Lord declares that he is the one who can do all things.

III. The Sovereign God and Creation (Isaiah 45:9-13)

- The prophet pronounces woe on those who would contend with the Creator.
- No one can question God concerning his plans to raise up Cyrus to restore Jerusalem and the exiles.

IV. God and the Gentiles (Isaiah 45:14-25)

A. Submission to God (Isaiah 45:14-19)

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- The Gentiles will come to place of acknowledging the God of Israel.
- They will admit that there is no other God.
- Those who worshipped idols will be ashamed, but Israel will not.
- The Lord who is sovereign declares these things to be true.

B. The appeal to the Gentiles (Isaiah 45:20-25)

- The Lord appeals to the Gentiles to turn from their idols.
- The Lord calls them to look to him and be saved.
- The Lord declares that everyone will bow the knee and acknowledge him.
- Israel will be justified in the Lord and will glory in him.