

## There is no other God

Isaiah 45-47

### Main Idea

God is the only God and there is no other. Therefore salvation comes only through Him, which means that idols are nothing and cannot deliver.

### Overview

#### **God can/does use ALL things together for the good of His glory (Isaiah 44.28-45.8)**

- There are four groups of people being addressed in this passage:
  - The Persians as represented by Cyrus (44.28, 45.1)
  - The Babylonians (Isaiah 39, 47.1, etc.)
  - Ethnic Jews (47.6)
  - “Remnant”: The believing Jews that we as Christians are descended (45.4, 19)
    - Context is critical in order to understand who is being addressed
- Cyrus (King of Persia) would be used as a “shepherd” that will “Fulfill All my (God’s) purpose” (44.28)
  - That purpose of gathering the Lord’s exiles (45.13) and bringing them back to the build Temple free of charge can be seen in Ezra 1
  - This purpose also included judging the Babylonians for their idolatry (46.1), but more importantly their arrogance and pride in handling God’s people (47.6) thinking themselves to rule forever and be ‘God’s’ themselves
    - God was to be hidden “in” Cyrus as an agent of His Judgment on the Babylonians (45.14b, 15)
  - This reveals to us that God can use even Pagan kings that do not know the Lord (vs. 4,5)
    - He must be the Only God since He is able to use all things for His purposes (vs. 7)
  - The Lord does all of this so that the world would know that He alone is the Lord and that the offspring of Jacob would be saved (45.3-4)
    - “I am the Lord and there is no other, besides me there is no God” (44.8, 45.5, 6, 14b, 18, 21, 22, 46.9)

#### **Salvation/Satisfaction is found in Christ Alone**

- “Israel” is saved by the Lord; Isaiah 45.15-17:
  - “Israel” here are the ones “being saved” “by the Lord”
  - Who among Israel is saved? Those that are not doing as the Babylonians were doing and trusting in idols or in themselves, but hoping in God
- “Israel” even goes beyond to the “ends of the earth” (45.22)
  - 45.23-25: The word “righteousness” is used four times out of five verses in the context of talking about salvation (“Justified” has the same root word as “righteousness”)
  - Salvation by the Lord is meant to communicate being reconciled to God, not primarily getting back from exile into Jerusalem
  - This was the deepest need...not circumstantial
  - This Judgment of Babylon would awaken some to this need for Righteousness (45.15-17)
- Because the Lord is the only God and because we are enslaved to our Sin the Lord is the Only one that can save (45.24-25)
  - The Lord then would place salvation in “Zion” (Jerusalem) (46.13) by bringing His

- righteousness near for Israel (see “A” above)
  - The only one that has fulfilled this passage would be Christ since He alone was “put” or sent to Jerusalem in order to bring righteousness to His people
- 45.23 (in the context of salvation) is ascribed to Jesus in Phil. 2.6-11
  - This passage illustrates for us that the Lord is only One that can save and Jesus is the Image of the Invisible Lord (Col. 1.15) that brings righteousness for those who repent and believe
- There is no God but Him and therefore there is no salvation but in Him

### **Idols Never Deliver**

- The idols of Babylon stoop to beasts as they have to be carried by them (46.1) whereas the Lord actually carries us in salvation (46.4)
  - The Lord will lay Babylon low (47.1-7)
  - And we see even more why (47.8-11)
    - The Babylonians were “lovers of pleasure” (47.9)
- They “felt secure in their wickedness” (47.10)
  - Therefore evil (judgment) would come upon them as a result (47.11)
    - They took the words that are only to be ascribed to God and ascribed them to themselves (47.8, 10)
- They grounded living this sensual lifestyle in their own wisdom which was grounded in their own knowledge and therefore their own hearts (47.10)
- Their idols of self and false God’s couldn’t save them in judgment (47.14-15)

### Questions

**Discussion Starter:** Why is it common today to criticize thoughts of exclusivity about anything, but especially in regards to God?

1. Read Isaiah 44.28-45.8. Who is Cyrus and why is the Lord using Him against the Babylonians? What does this say about God that He can do this?
2. Did it occur as predicted? How does this grow your confidence in God’s word and in God Himself?
3. Note all the times you see the refrain, “*I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no God.*” What does the Lord want Cyrus and the Israelites to know? Why? What does it mean for us?
4. Is God arrogant to demand such exclusive worship? Why not?
5. In what way do we see the Gospel in this passage?
6. Read Phil. 2.6-11 and discuss how Jesus fulfills this message (45.23, 46.13).
7. Read 47. How do you see the Babylonians living according to their feelings? In what ways are we tempted to be like the Babylonians? Why are feelings not a sufficient guide for our lives?
8. What does the Lord say of these things? (47.14-15)

**Accountability:** In what ways do you need to repent of living in feelings that are grounded in y/our own wisdom instead of in the Lord’s Sovereign Grace? Apply the “everlasting salvation” of the Gospel as soon as repentance is had. How does the sovereignty of God bring comfort/confidence into your current life circumstances?