

**God is the Creator of Everything
And All of Us are Accountable
Isaiah 45:8 – 25**

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After calling on His people to remember Him and what He has done and will do for His people, we were introduced to the gentile that YAHWEH will use to deliver His people from Babylonian exile. As we saw, this is one of the most amazing prophecies in the Bible as names are named and included in the blow-by-blow description of how it would all come down when Cyrus moved on Babylon.

God has words for Cyrus starting in Isaiah 44:28 continuing through Isaiah 45:7.

The conversation with Cyrus pauses for a verse as the Lord turns and addresses His creation. Remember, He has already gone through great lengths to make clear He is the Creator of everything, not the no-gods. As such He can and does enter history in order to further His overall mission of redemption and He has just outlined how another stage in that plan will come down, 170 years in advance.

As the creator, He pauses and provides another future insight for His people who are still in awe over the specificity of what He has just said in prophecy. Righteousness for all is coming.

The repeating emphasis on YAHWEH also being the Creator is not only for the benefit of those Jews who had begun to chase after the no-gods, but it is also for the benefit of those living at the end of the age. Because He is consistently streaming between near and far aspects of the prophetic timeline, the emphasis on God being Creator is to emphasize the accountability we all have to Him. He made us, as much as that fact disturbs some people. Because He made each of us, we are accountable to Him as were the people of Judah and those of Israel who were already in exile due to Assyria.

Isaiah 45:8

“Drip down, O heavens, from above, And let the clouds pour down righteousness; Let the earth open up and salvation bear fruit, And righteousness spring up with it. I, the LORD, have created it.” (NASB95)

He is speaking about events beginning with Pentecost and ending with the millennial rule and reign of Messiah. His plan of redemption for His people and for the nations will see that this takes place. The imagery is consistent with what we see in Joel 2 and the discussion there about early rain and latter rain.

Joel 2:23–29

“Citizens of Zion, rejoice! Be glad because of what the LORD your God has done! For he has given to you the early rains as vindication. He has sent to you the rains— both the early and the late rains as formerly. The threshing floors are full of grain; the vats overflow with fresh wine and olive oil. I will make up for the years that the ‘arbeh (swarming)-locust consumed your crops— the yeleq (creeping)-locust, the hasil (stripping)-locust, and the gazam (gnawing)-locust— my great army that I sent against you. You will have plenty to eat, and your hunger will be fully satisfied; you will praise the name of the LORD your God, who has acted wondrously in your behalf. My people will never again be put to shame. You will be convinced that I am in the midst of Israel. I am the LORD your God; there is no other. My people will never again be put to shame. After all of this I will pour out my Spirit on all kinds of people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your elderly will have revelatory dreams; your young men will see prophetic visions. Even on male and female servants I will pour out my Spirit in those days.” (NET)

The picture we get is that at the end of the age, and per Peter (Acts 2:16 – 21) that began on Pentecost, God has poured out His Spirit on the nations.

In the prospect of this ultimate and saving purpose of the mission of Cyrus, vis-à-vis, the redemption of Israel and the conversion of the heathen, heaven and earth are now summoned to bring forth and pour down spiritual blessings in heavenly gifts, according to the will and in the power of Jehovah, who has in view a new spiritual creation. (Keil and Delitzsch 1996, 445)

This started with the birth of the church on Pentecost.

The picture being given to us by Isaiah is that this will be abundant. “The heavens and the skies are images for the people living on earth. With this imagery God is telling them to demonstrate righteousness.” (Ogden and Sterk 2011, 1248)

That is only possible with salvation provided by Messiah and the outpouring of His Spirit without measure on those who are saved. At the end of the age, that will be the entire planet that has survived Armageddon and moved onto the other side of the sheep and goats judgment.

With one look the Prophet (ver. 8) surveys the entire future and observes, as the pith of it, an all-comprehending salvation, that involves also the regeneration of nature. For blessing is not to bloom only in single places of the earth, but all heaven is to influence fruitfully the whole earth, so that, therefore, all nature will, as it were, become a single field bearing the fruit of salvation. (Lange, et al. 2008, 493)

We are already but not yet in that place. The Holy Spirit is upon His people, and through His power we are to be spreading the message everywhere we go.

This will become the normal state of existence for the planet though after Jesus returns.

So here is the question now that we know YAHWEH has called Cyrus and He will ultimately pour out righteousness on the planet, what does the nation of Israel think about all of this. Remember, they still have Hezekiah as their King and Assyria has just been dealt with by YAHWEH. They are seeing a revival of sorts but, as we have seen in Isaiah, not all is well with Judah. The drift away from the Lord is continuing. How do they react to all this news? A gentile?

Isaiah 45:9–13

“Woe to the one who quarrels with his Maker— An earthenware vessel among the vessels of earth! Will the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you doing?’ Or the thing you are making say, ‘He has no hands?’ Woe to him who says to a father, ‘What are you begetting?’ Or to a woman, ‘To what are you giving

birth?’ Thus says the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker: “Ask Me about the things to come concerning My sons, And you shall commit to Me the work of My hands. It is I who made the earth, and created man upon it. I stretched out the heavens with My hands And I ordained all their host. I have aroused him in righteousness And I will make all his ways smooth; He will build My city and will let My exiles go free, Without any payment or reward,”” says the LORD of hosts.” (NASB95)

Judah has been told of a second Exodus that will take place, one from Babylon, yet not everyone will return. But this should be good news...right? A gentile will be their deliverer.

God will reveal Himself to a pagan and use that pagan to lead the Jews out. That alone is a huge shock. First, they are having trouble understanding that they will even go into exile, but secondly, that the nation will even require a second Exodus.

They believe they are bullet proof and invisible.

Add to that, this is a gentile pagan who will be doing this. God is going to address the nation. He knows their heart and He knows there are many who wish to dictate to Him how to run His universe. Unfortunately, there are still many around today who want to do the same.

Isaiah 45:9

“Woe to the one who quarrels with his Maker— An earthenware vessel among the vessels of earth! Will the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you doing?’ Or the thing you are making say, ‘He has no hands?’” (NASB95)

Not even fancy pottery.

Have we ever argued with what it is God is doing in our life? How about with the way things are going around the planet these days? We would do it differently, right? Those folks causing problems, we would call down fire from heaven and take care of the problem. Well at least I know I would want to. Maybe there are some really good imprecatory Psalms to pray over? “O God, break the teeth in their mouths! Smash the jawbones of the lions, O LORD!” (Psalm 58:6, NET)

Jesus had to deal with this mindset among His own disciples.

Luke 9:51–56

“Now when the days drew near for him to be taken up, Jesus set out resolutely to go to Jerusalem. He sent messengers on ahead of him. As they went along, they entered a Samaritan village to make things ready in advance for him, but the villagers refused to welcome him, because he was determined to go to Jerusalem. Now when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do you want us to call fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” But Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they went on to another village.” (NET)

Got it. God is on the throne, and I am not, nor should I be while still in this fallen body.

The ultimate expression of this desire to tell God how to run His universe is going to be seen in the earth dwellers during the tribulation. They will believe they are in control of the planet. We get a sense of their overall attitude from Psalms 2:1-3. “Why are the nations in an uproar, and their people involved in a vain plot? As the kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers conspire together against the LORD and his anointed one, they say, “Let us tear off their shackles from us, and cast off their chains.”” (ISV) And how does that go for them?

Psalm 2:4–6

“He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. In his anger he rebukes them, and in his wrath he terrifies them: “I have set my king on Zion, my holy mountain.”” (ISV)

Revelation 6:15–17

“Then the kings of the earth, the important people, the generals, the rich, the powerful, and all the slaves and free people concealed themselves in caves and among the rocks in the mountains. They told the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the lamb. For the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to endure it?”” (ISV)

Whenever a word from the Lord starts off with the word “woe,” I usually want to ensure I am not the subject of that word. Here in verse 9, the word is simple...let God be God.

“We have no right to dictate to our Maker how He should behave any more than the works of our hands have a right to question how we make them.” (Constable 2003, Is 45:9)

Then He deals with our current generation...“or the thing you are making say “He has no hands?” “The only thing more foolish than the creature resisting and oppose the Creator is for the creature to believe there is no Creator!” (Guzik 2000, Is 45:9-10)

This is the condition we find today. The creature, the one who was created in His image now rejects that there is a Creator at all. The thing made says to the one making them, you didn’t do this, something else did. We were made from nothing.

This is a characteristic of our current generation. But when examined by the Orthodox Jewish Physicist, Gerald Schroeder PhD, “The likelihood of random processes producing life from a primordial bath of chemicals is even less likely than that of your shaking an omelet and having the yolk and the white separate back into the original form of the egg!” (Schroeder 1992, 111)

Isaiah 45:10

“Woe to him who says to a father, ‘What are you begetting?’ Or to a woman, ‘To what are you giving birth?’ ” (NASB95)

There are times where I have thought that an assessment should be done with prospective parents to determine whether they should be allowed to procreate. When dealing with some of the really fine children I met while doing military law enforcement, and then meeting their parents, I became convinced that there should be a license for having kids based. It should be based on the fitness of those who want to have them. I was, in essence, giving agreement to Isaiah 45:10.

I do not recall ever sitting down and having a discussion with my mother asking her...what were you thinking ?

The point to these statements is to show how absurd it is for us to question anything about how YAHWEH, the Creator of the Universe, runs His own creation. If I build something, unless I sell it to someone else, I can do with it whatever I want. God says the same.

Isaiah 45:11 “Thus says the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker: “Ask Me about the things to come concerning My sons, And you shall commit to Me the work of My hands.” (NASB95)

I think the ESV version has a better translation of this verse. “Thus says the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and the one who formed him: “Ask me of things to come; will you command me concerning my children and the work of my hands?” (Isaiah 45:11, ESV)

It is ok to ask God about future things but concerning His own, that is His concern and not that of anyone else. “The Creator of the world will legitimately do what he thinks is right to rebuild his city and free his exiles, no matter what they think of his plan. It is ironic that Cyrus obeys without question while the exiles rebel.” (Watts 2005, 702)

Isaiah 45:12–13

“It is I who made the earth, and created man upon it. I stretched out the heavens with My hands And I ordained all their host. I have aroused him in righteousness And I will make all his ways smooth; He will build My city and will let My exiles go free, Without any payment or reward,” says the LORD of hosts.” (NASB95)

Again, God reminds His people He is the creator and as such He will do whatever He deems to be in the interests of His people and to achieve His end goal of the redemption of His creation. Cyrus is integral to this as we know now looking backwards in time. From the perspective of Isaiah and the nation, they simply needed to trust, but most were questioning.

The Targum adds, by my Word; the essential Word, the Lord Jesus Christ; see Heb. 11:3 this, with what follows, is said to shew that the Lord was able to bring to pass things to come, concerning his children, and the works of his hands, which he allowed his people to inquire of him concerning, and to insist upon the performance of them; since he was the Creator of all things, and had made the earth out of nothing, in the beginning of time, by the word of his power... (Gill 1810, 264)

As we look at these two verses the one thing that jumps out is the point God is making...I did this. I who made the earth...I stretched out the heavens...I ordained all their host...I have aroused him...I will make...he will build my city.

As creator, God has the right and the authority to use whoever He wishes to achieve the ends He is looking for especially since His own people have failed so poorly. He has to call a gentile, not a Jew, to do this. Why? His people have failed in their God given goal to be salt and light to the nations.

Through His power as the almighty Creator, God will give victory to Israel through Cyrus. The creation of all things had afforded a sufficient proof of the divine power, but now Isaiah exhibits the particular exercise of that power in the raising up of Cyrus, although he does not mention the latter by name. (Young 1972, 206)

God is going to use a gentile to rescue His people, rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple and let the exiles free and at no cost. A miracle.

Cyrus did not arise by accident, nor by his own choice. He rose up because I called him. This emphasis is continued throughout the verse. History is solely in the hands of the Creator. The great Persian emperor, like the earth and the stars, exists and comes forth at the command of God alone. (Oswalt 1998, 210)

We were in a courtroom earlier and the nations along with the no-gods were there and unable to defend themselves.

What happens in the nations when they see God work mightily on behalf of His people. How do they react to this? Verse 14 – 17 show us how they respond to the Lord moving on behalf of His people.

Isaiah 45:14 “Thus says the LORD, “The products of Egypt and the merchandise of Cush And the Sabeans, men of stature, Will come over to you and will be yours; They will walk behind you, they will come over in chains And will bow down to you; They will make supplication to you: ‘Surely, God is with you, and there is none else, No other God.’ ”” (NASB95)

Did this happen? As a result of Cyrus letting the Jews return home, was there an impact on the nations surrounding them when they returned? “As a result of God’s work of restoration, the goods and the people of nations who were once enemies will come to Israel—recognizing God is among them and that “there is no other God.” Ethiopia (Cush) is now what is called the Sudan. The Sabeans were the people of what is now Yemen.” (Horton 2000, 346)

We know that will indeed be the case at the end of the age. Isaiah has already spoken to that.

Ezra 6:2–12

“But it was at the fortress at Ecbatana in the province of Media that a scroll was found. This is what it said: “Memorandum: “In the first year of King Cyrus’s reign, a decree was sent out concerning the Temple of God at Jerusalem. Let the Temple be rebuilt on the site where Jews used to offer their sacrifices, using the original foundations. Its height will be ninety feet, and its width will be ninety feet. Every three layers of specially prepared stones will be topped by a layer of timber. All expenses will be paid by the royal treasury. Furthermore, the gold and silver cups, which were taken to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar from the Temple of God in Jerusalem, must be returned to Jerusalem and put back where they belong. Let them be taken back to the Temple of God.” So King Darius sent this message: “Now therefore, Tattenai, governor of the province west of the Euphrates River, and Shethar-bozenai, and your colleagues and other officials west of the Euphrates River—stay away from there! Do not disturb the construction of the Temple of God. Let it be rebuilt on its original site, and do not hinder the governor of Judah and the elders of the Jews in their work. Moreover, I hereby decree that you are to help these elders of the Jews as they rebuild this Temple of God. You must pay the full construction costs, without delay, from my taxes collected in the province west of the Euphrates River so that the work will not be interrupted. Give the priests in Jerusalem whatever is needed in the way of young bulls, rams, and male lambs for the burnt offerings presented to the God of heaven. And without fail, provide them with as much wheat, salt, wine, and olive oil as they need each day. Then they will be able to offer acceptable sacrifices to the God of heaven and pray for the welfare of the king and his sons. Those who violate this decree in any way will have a beam pulled from their house. Then they will be lifted up and impaled on it, and their house will be reduced to a pile of rubble. May the God who has chosen the city of Jerusalem as the place to honor his name destroy any king or nation that violates this command and destroys this Temple. I, Darius, have issued this decree. Let it be obeyed with all diligence.”” (NLT)

Was there fulfillment of this right after the Jews returned from Babylon? Yes, partially. This is pointing to the end of the age for complete fulfillment.

Zechariah 8:23

“The LORD who rules over all says, ‘In those days ten people from all languages and nations will grasp hold of—indeed, grab—the robe of one Jew and say, “Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.” ’” (NET)

That day is the day being pointed to by the Lord. Some of the conditions are also seen in Psalm 149

Psalm 149:5–9

“Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands, to execute vengeance on the nations and punishments on the peoples, to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron, to execute on them the judgment written! This is honor for all his godly ones. Praise the LORD!” (ESV)

A common thread from Isaiah and Psalms, kings and nobles in chains. In Psalms, for the purpose of judgement. In Isaiah, for the purpose of coming and worshipping God because God is with you. This is also what is spoke about in Zechariah 8:23 and may also be what Isaiah spoke to in Isaiah 14.

Isaiah 14:1–2

“When the LORD will have compassion on Jacob and again choose Israel, and settle them in their own land, then strangers will join them and attach themselves to the house of Jacob. The peoples will take them along and bring them to their place, and the house of Israel will possess them as an inheritance in the land of the LORD as male servants and female servants; and they will take their captors captive and will rule over their oppressors.” (NASB95)

A complete flip from conditions that will be seen during the Tribulation. The nations continue to talk.

Isaiah 45:15–17

“Truly, You are a God who hides Himself, O God of Israel, Savior! They will be put to shame and even humiliated, all of them; The manufacturers of idols will go away together in humiliation. Israel has been saved by the LORD With an everlasting salvation; You will not be put to shame or humiliated To all eternity.” (NASB95)

The nations are still talking here in verse 15-17. Picking up from verse 14, “Surely God is with you, and there is none else, No other God, Truly you are a God who hides Himself O God of Israel, Savior!”

As Israel sometimes protests, God has been hiding (though in this case because of Israel’s wrongdoing). But now God is saving and revealing. The nations acknowledge that Yahweh alone is God and that Israel will always be Yahweh’s special people. They acknowledge that Yahweh is the one who hides, but also the one who saves. (Goldingay 2012, 265)

This deliverance of Israel, which has behind it such a God as Jehovah, is decisive for all time—not only the guarantee, but actually the beginning, of her Messianic age. (McFadyen 1910, 303)

The redemptive goals of YAHWEH are not solely focused on Israel, but His focus is on the entire planet. Yes, the nations will indeed be saved. Therefore, the deliverer is a gentile. The focus is shifting due to the failure of His people.

Isaiah 45:18–25

“For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited), “I am the LORD, and there is none else. I have not spoken in secret, In some dark land; I did not say to the offspring of Jacob, ‘Seek Me in a waste place’; I, the LORD, speak righteousness, Declaring things that are upright. Gather yourselves and come; Draw near together, you fugitives of the nations; They have no knowledge, Who carry about their wooden idol And pray to a god who cannot save. Declare and set forth your case; Indeed, let them consult together. Who has announced this from of old? Who has long since declared it? Is it not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, A righteous God and a Savior; There is none except Me. Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other. I have sworn by Myself, The word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness And will not turn back, That to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance. They will say of Me, ‘Only in the LORD are righteousness and strength.’ Men will come to Him, And all who were angry at Him will be put to shame. In the LORD all the offspring of Israel Will be justified and will glory.” (NASB95)

God loves His creation. He insists on His creation being accountable to Him and Him alone to the point that ultimately, everyone who has ever lived will acknowledge the simple fact that God is God.

It is implied that the chief design of the earth was to be the dwelling of intelligent rational creatures, the servants of God. He created the heavens, and is Jehovah, the only true God. He made the earth, not in vain, but to be inhabited; and has therefore revealed Himself in clear and just messages to mankind. He made not the earth to be a waste; but, when void and empty, He filled it with life and beauty; He made it not in vain, to be a moral waste, a home of idolaters, a spiritual graveyard, but to be the home of holy worshippers, 54:3. (Birks 1878, 230)

In 1961 Princeton physicist Robert Dicke noted that the universe couldn’t contain physical life if any one of several constants of physics differed in value by even a slight amount. His discovery led to development of the anthropic principle—the conclusion that the universe, Milky Way Galaxy, solar system, and Earth are all exquisitely fine-tuned, or engineered, so that human life can exist and flourish. (Ross 2006, 96)

God made the world to be inhabited. The evidence points to our corner of the universe being extremely unique as being finely tuned for life.

In the very early universe, the homogenizing force referred to biblically as “a wind of God” stirring on the face of the waters (Gen. 1:2), fine-tuned the distribution of energy and matter within the young, expanding universe. This allowed the matter of the universe to expand past a density hurdle (recall that in the beginning all the matter of the universe was compressed into a volume smaller than a grain of mustard) that might have fused the elementary matter into massive particles. The unenviable result would have been almost immediate universal collapse. (Schroeder 1992, 117)

Because the world was created to be inhabited, it follows that the Creator would have concern for all of His creatures. Now about the allegation that God spoke in secret, “if Israel had heeded the word spoken to them, they would have known that their God, the Creator, had plans for the whole inhabited world.” (Motyer 1999, 328)

Isaiah 45:19 “I have not spoken in secret, In some dark land; I did not say to the offspring of Jacob, ‘Seek Me in a waste place’; I, the LORD, speak righteousness, Declaring things that are upright.” (NASB95)

Unlike some of the no-gods who have told stories and intentionally hidden the truth from everyone, God is not one who would do that. “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.” (Matthew 7:7–8, NLT)

God speaks righteousness, He did not fail, it was His people who did. “God does not reveal His plans in hidden places or in ambiguous terms, as was the common practice among the foreign deities, but instead informs His people directly of what will come to pass.” (Paul 2012, 269)

Isaiah 45:20

“Gather yourselves and come; Draw near together, you fugitives of the nations; They have no knowledge, Who carry about their wooden idol And pray to a god who cannot save.” (NASB95)

God is now commanding the nations. Those who are not His people at the time Isaiah is writing this. The nations are to come, it is an invitation, but it is also a command. This is an event that is taking place after the conclusion of the final battle, Armageddon and the ascension of the King on His throne.

The address is made to the escaped ones of the Gentiles, i.e. those of the Gentile nations that have escaped the judgment of God. In the redemption and deliverance of Israel judgment will also fall upon the Gentiles. The reference is not to any particular victory of Cyrus, but to the great victory when the “prince of this world is cast out.” It is a remnant of the heathen that constitutes the fullness of the Gentiles, and it is this escaped remnant that is commanded to come together. (Young 1972, 213)

Part of that group who come into the millennium will include those who at one time were trusting in idols but somehow, they did not take the mark and are part of the group to enter into the Kingdom in their human bodies. “When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be assembled before him, and he will separate people one from another like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’” (Matthew 25:31–34, NET)

As the nations at the end of the age gather before the Lord, they are truly fugitives. When the Tribulation began, they were earth dwellers, but somewhere along the line, they aligned with the coming King and rejected the Beast. Now, at the end of the tribulation, with the entire planet impacted, they are all truly exiles and fugitives. The nations are now in the place of God’s people who He was to deliver at the hands of Cyrus. A gentile would save, deliver His people, and at the end of the age, He would deliver the gentiles.

Isaiah 45:21

“Declare and set forth your case; Indeed, let them consult together. Who has announced this from of old? Who has long since declared it? Is it not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, A righteous God and a Savior; There is none except Me.” (NASB95)

Once again there is the jab at the no-gods being unable to predict the future. The Beast was also unable to do that. God points to His word; He has declared this in the past and the certainty of it taking place is being realized by those to whom this is addressed in the future.

The only One who has been able to predict beforehand the judgment and deliverance is the God of Israel, Yahweh, who is the only God in existence, and who has shown Himself to be just in that He has acted both in judgment and in salvation in accordance with the strictest demands of His holiness. He is also a Savior, whose salvation is not proffered at the expense of justice, but is accomplished to its satisfaction. (Young 1972, 214-215)

Isaiah 63:1

“Who is this who comes from Edom, With garments of glowing colors from Bozrah, This One who is majestic in His apparel, Marching in the greatness of His strength? “It is I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.”” (NASB95)

The nations who are before the Lord at the end of the age were witnesses to this. They know that He is mighty to save. They know there is no other God. Some may have extolled the best at the middle of the tribulation but did not take the mark and by the time of the return of Christ, were no longer on his side but had switched sides to that of the King.

Isaiah 45:22

“Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other.” (NASB95)

This is not a statement of universalism. There are some who try to bend it that way, but in the context of the ongoing conversation with the nations at the end of the age, this is the Lord speaking to all of those who remain after the judgement of the sheep and the goats. Perhaps there are some there who still are trying to figure out why they are there. They are the ones on the right-hand side of the King.

Matthew 25:34–40

“Then the King will say to the people on his right, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father! Come and possess the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world. I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.’ “The righteous will then answer him, ‘When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our homes, or naked and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?’ The King will reply, ‘I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these members of my family, you did it for me!’” (GNB)

Isaiah 45:22 “Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other.” (NASB95)

Salvation is not intended for the faithful survivors of Israel alone. All the survivors of the nations, all those who seek in vain to defend themselves on the basis of their cult gods, can be delivered from their ignorance and share in the saving knowledge that there is only one true God. (Hanson 1995, 112)

How effective is this, telling the nations, even today, to turn to God as there is no other. Incredibly effective. “CHARLES SPURGEON WAS ON HIS WAY TO CHURCH ONE SUNDAY MORNING. It was snowing. The snow was so heavy that he trudged down a side street and came to a little Primitive Methodist Chapel. A thin-looking man—a shoemaker, or tailor, or something of that sort—went into the pulpit to preach. The preacher announced his text: “Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the

earth” (Isa. 45:22). Though grammar and diction left much to be desired, he spoke earnestly and directly to his audience of twelve. Finally the preacher looked at Spurgeon, who was sitting under the gallery, and said, “Young man, you look very miserable ... and you will always be miserable if you don’t obey my text. Look to Jesus Christ! You have nothin’ to do but to look and live!” Spurgeon looked to Christ in faith, and the darkness of his soul rolled away. He had found salvation. (Hoekema 1994, 113)

All of this is new news to the nations. Israel has not effectively communicated this good news to them. God has turned to doing so Himself and this is achieved in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Isaiah 45:23 “I have sworn by Myself, The word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness And will not turn back, That to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance.” (NASB95)

A shock to the Jews, but incredibly good news to the nations.

God swears by Himself. He did this when He made a promise to Abraham immediately after stopping Abraham from sacrificing Isaac, a prophetic pointing to another son who would be sacrificed for all of our sins.

Genesis 22:15–18 “The LORD’s angel called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, “ ‘I solemnly swear by my own name,’ decrees the LORD, ‘that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they will be as countless as the stars in the sky or the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the strongholds of their enemies. Because you have obeyed me, all the nations of the earth will pronounce blessings on one another using the name of your descendants.’ ” (NET)

It was there that a righteous God promised “In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.” Here in Isaiah 45:23, that is being fulfilled. The nations have been brought back into relationship and the promise is made that every knee on that day will bow and every tongue swear. The Hebrew text does not have the word allegiance, but simply תִּשָּׁבַע (tisaba) to swear.

The NASB adds in the word allegiance, which tends to imply that every tongue, every individual, has one last opportunity. It is in italics.

Italics are used in the text to indicate words which are not found in the original Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek but implied by it. (The Lockman Foundation 1995)

There is not one last chance before judgement. That is not the case. The Hebrew confirms that every tongue, even those who have rejected the Lord, will ultimately have to bow the knee and recognize who He is.

Isaiah 45:24–25

“They will say of Me, ‘Only in the LORD are righteousness and strength.’ Men will come to Him, And all who were angry at Him will be put to shame. In the LORD all the offspring of Israel Will be justified and will glory.” (NASB95)

At the end of the age it will be obvious to all still standing that “Only in the LORD are righteousness and strength.” Will there still be those who are angry with God, who are bitter that He has removed their chances at global rule and power? We covered this earlier in Isaiah 33:14

Restating what the last half of verse 14 says. “Sinners in Zion are terrified; Trembling has seized the godless. Who among us can even temporarily live with the consuming fire (YAHWEH)? Who among us can even temporarily live with continual burning (YAHWEH)?” (Isaiah 33:14, NASB95)

At the end of the age, during the time period between the end of the battle of Armageddon and the beginning of the Millennial rule and reign of Jesus Christ (Daniel 12:11 – 12,) there is a period of time

prophesied about in order to gather everyone together for the sheep and goats judgement (Matthew 25:31 – 46.)

It is also during this interim time period that the fourth Temple is being built and the realization that there have been massive changes in the geography of Israel not to mention the entire planet. For example, there are no more islands and no more mountains anywhere (Revelation 16:20) and there have also been changes in the topography of Israel as well (Zechariah 14 1 – 5.) This is all to prepare the planet for the rule of Messiah as well as the restoration of Edenic conditions on earth.

With the fourth Temple will also come the presence of God to physically dwell with His people in Jerusalem (Ezekiel 43:1 – 12.)

Those who did not repent, who do not wish to follow Jesus Christ and be obedient to Him, witness this Temple being constructed and we overhear them discussing that they do not even want to be around God, even temporarily. For them, judgement and immediate eternal damnation in hell are just hours or days away. These are the same people who just a few days earlier were in hiding. They are the ones who were angry with Him siding with the Beast. This is the group Isaiah is talking about here who will be put to shame.

What have the surviving lost seen take place? They have seen the King conquer, they have seen His armies, they have heard the praises of the remnant and those remaining Tribulation believers as He returned. Then there are the massive geological, topographical and atmospheric changes as well. They have put up with demons being visibly among them and massive manifestations of evil, all now gone. They now are experiencing the one thing they did not want any part of...the Messiah or His people. These are earth dwellers who had worshiped the Beast (Revelation 13:8.)

They have seen the vast numbers of those who are in glorified bodies and returned with Him. They also see those pre-flood and pre-incarnation believers who have now been resurrected, as well as the faithful divine beings. And horrors of horror, all of those who they worked so hard to kill and eliminate from the surface of the planet, they have been resurrected as well and they have seen that too. They are all visible to them while they wait in the facilities they are being held in until Messiah judges them. They want no part of this.

They will be shamed as they bow the knee to King Jesus but as we read in Matthew 25:46, they will join their former leader in hell.

The truth is emphatic and exclusive. In Him assuredly, and in none beside, these blessings are to be found. The seed of Israel are, first, the faithful Jewish remnant, next, the engrafted Gentile olive-branches, and finally, the whole recovered nation. The words are a striking prediction of the spiritual blessings to be found in the promised Emmanuel. (Birks 1878, 231)

For us today, we still have the opportunity to make certain our final destination. Jesus is coming so soon that there is the real possibility that many around us today will be in one of the two groups we are talking about if they survive the Tribulation. The odds are not good for that to occur.

Salvation is a Gift

1. Admit you are a sinner.
2. Believe in your heart that Jesus died for your sins, was buried and He rose from the dead three days later.
3. Call on the name of the Lord.

Romans 10:8–10

“But what does it say? “The message is near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart.” This is the message about faith that we are proclaiming: If you declare with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and

believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with his heart and is justified, and declares with his mouth and is saved.” (ISV)

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