

Set Free by God's Power
to Work Through People and Nations:
A Look at the Extent of God's Extraordinary Power
Isaiah 45:01–25

1. God Uses Cyrus to free Israel:
A picture of Christ setting people free from sin and death

- a. God's anointing and working through Cyrus to be His agent
- b. God's fivefold purpose
 - 1) To execute His justice against wicked, oppressive nations
 - He would empower Cyrus to conquer great cities, fortresses and nations
 - He would give Cyrus great wealth: The wealth of nations
 - 2) To stir Cyrus to know He is the LORD
 - 3) To stir Cyrus to free Israel
 - Because God named and honoured him in prophecy: God's shepherd (40:11; 44:28) and anointed(45:1)
 - Because God proved He alone is the LORD: By working through Cyrus
 - 4) To prove to the world that He alone is God
 - He alone is the Creator
 - He alone is sovereign, controlling both good and evil, peace and calamity

- 1 This is what the LORD says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have taken hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armour, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut:
- 2 I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron:
- 3 I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.
- 4 For the sake of Jacob my servant, of Israel my chosen, I summon you by thy name and bestow on you a title of honour, though you do not acknowledge me.
- 5 I am the LORD, and there is none other; apart from me there is no God, I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me,
- 6 so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting people may know that there is none besides me. I am the LORD, and there is no other.
- 7 I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the LORD, do all these things.

<p>5) To bring the righteousness and salvation of heaven to the world</p> <p>c. God's warning to those who questioned His ways and works</p> <p>1) The questions...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposed God's choice of Israel as His people • Opposed God's anointing and use of a pagan king <p>2) Doom pronounced on those</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • who argued with their Creator • who argued with the way He worked <p>d. God's answer to those who questioned their Creator and the way He worked</p> <p>1) He is the Creator of the heavens and earth and of mankind: Has the right to do as He wills</p> <p>2) He would raise up Cyrus (a type of Christ) to fulfil His righteous purpose: To rebuild Jerusalem and to set the captives free</p>	<p>8 "You heavens above, rain down my righteousness; let the clouds shower it down. Let the earth open wide, let salvation spring up, let righteousness flourish with it; I, the LORD, have created it.</p> <p>9 Woe to those who quarrel with their Maker, those who are nothing but potsherds among the potsherds on the ground. Does the clay say to the potter, 'What are you making?' Does your work say, 'The potter has no hands'?</p> <p>10 Woe to the one who says to a father, 'What have you begotten?' or to a mother, 'What gave you brought to birth?'</p> <p>11 "This is what the LORD, says — the Holy One of Israel, and its Maker: Concerning things to come, do you question me about my children, or give me orders about the work of my hands?</p> <p>12 It is I who made the earth and created mankind on it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshalled their starry hosts.</p> <p>13 I will raise up Cyrus in righteousness: I will make all his ways straight. He will rebuild my city and set my exiles free, but not for a price or reward, says the LORD Almighty."</p>
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2. God's power to stir nations to submit and bow before Him: A picture of the Messiah's kingdom, 2:2-4; 18:7; 23:15-18

- a. The picture of submission
- 1) Nations would come to Israel to surrender their worship and wealth to the LORD
 - 2) Nations would confess the Name of Israel's God
 - That He alone is the LORD
 - That He alone is the Saviour: A fact that had been a mystery to all unbelievers
- b. The results of the nations' submission
- 1) All idolaters would be ashamed and disgraced
 - 2) All the redeemed of Israel would be saved eternally: Never ashamed or disgraced

3. God's power to save everyone within the nations who turn to Him

- a. God's surety of salvation
- 1) His enormous power: Created the universe
 - 2) His purpose: Made the universe inhabited
 - 3) His Word: He speaks only the truth
 - He does not speak in secret but openly
 - He does not encourage people to seek Him in vain

14 This is what the LORD says:
“The products of Egypt,
and merchandise of Cush,
and of the Sabeans —
they will come over to you
and they will be yours;
they will trudge behind you,
coming over to you in chains.
They will bow down before you
and plead with you, saying,
‘Surely God is with you,
and there is no other;
there is no other God.’”

15 Truly you are a God
who has been hiding himself,
the God and Saviour of Israel.

16 All the makers of idols
will be put to shame and disgraced;
they will go off into disgrace together.

17 But Israel will be saved by the LORD
with an everlasting salvation;
you will never be put to shame
or disgraced, to ages everlasting.

18 For this is what the LORD says —
he who created the heavens, he is God;
he who fashioned and made the earth,
he founded it;
he did not create it to be empty,
but formed it to be inhabited — he says:
“I am the Lord, and there is no other.

19 I have not spoken in secret,
from somewhere in a land of darkness;
I have not said to Jacob's descendants,
‘Seek me in vain.’
I, the Lord, speak the truth;
I declare what is right.

b. God's appeal to the people of all nations:
To escape the coming judgment

1) To turn from their idols:
They were only material objects and could not save them

2) To acknowledge that He alone is God

- He alone foretold the judgment (of Babylon) and the setting free of His people from captivity

- He alone is God:
A just God and a Saviour

3) To look to Him and be saved:
He alone is God and He alone can save

c. God's warning to the people of all nations:
A solemn threefold oath

1) Every knee will bow and confess to Him:
Applies to Christ,
Rom 14:11-12; Phil 2:9-11

2) Every person who opposes Him and lives an unrighteous life will face judgment:
Be put to shame

3) Every descendant of Israel (all true believers) will be declared righteous and enter glory with Him

20 "Gather together and come; assemble, you fugitives from the nations. Ignorant are those who carry about idols of wood, who pray to gods that cannot save.

21 Declare what is to be, present it — let them take counsel together. Who foretold this long ago who declared it from the distant past? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no God apart from me; a righteous God and a Saviour; there is none but me.

22 Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other.

23 By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear.

24 They will say of me, 'In the LORD alone are deliverance and strength.'" All who have raged against him will come to him and be put to shame.

25 But all the descendants of Israel will find deliverance in the LORD and will make their boast in him.