

**God's People are Set Free by Returning to the Lord
with Trust and Hope
Isaiah 44:21–28**

1. *The charge to God's people*

- 1) Must remember:
- that they are God's servants
 - that they have been forgiven their sins
- 2) Must repent:
Because the LORD has redeemed them
- 3) Must join all creation in praising God
- Because the LORD has redeemed them
 - Because the LORD displays His glory in them

**2. *The wonderful promise of God:
The redeemed will return to the promised land***

- 1) Guaranteed by God's power to create the universe
- 2) Guaranteed by God's power to expose the errors of false teachers:
The false prophets, diviners, and wise of the world

21 “Remember these things, Jacob, for you, Israel, are my servant. I have made you, you are my servant; Israel, I will not forget you.

22 I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you.”

23 Sing for joy, you heavens, for the LORD has done this; shout aloud, you earth beneath. Burst into song, you mountains, you forests and all your trees, for the LORD has redeemed Jacob, he displays his glory in Israel.

24 “This is what the LORD says — your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the LORD, the Maker of all things, who stretches out the heavens, who spreads out the earth by myself,

25 who foils the signs of false prophets and makes fools of diviners, who overthrows the learning of the wise and turns it into nonsense,

- 3) Guaranteed by God's power to fulfil His Word and the predictions of His messengers
- That His people would return to the promised land
 - That Jerusalem and the other cities would be rebuilt, 58:12; 61:4; Jer 32:15
- 4) Guaranteed by God's power to work miracles such as crossing the Red Sea
- 5) Guaranteed by God's power to use King Cyrus of Persia to set the Jewish exiles free: They would rebuild Jerusalem and the temple (2 Chr 36:22-23; Ezc 1:1-11; 6:1-22)

26 who carries out the words of his servants and fulfils the predictions of his messengers, who says of Jerusalem, 'It shall be inhabited,' of the towns of Judah, 'They shall be rebuilt,' and of their ruins, 'I will restore them,'

27 who says to the watery deep, 'Be dry, and I will dry up your streams,'

28 who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please; he will say of Jerusalem, "Let it be rebuilt," and of the temple, "Let its foundations be laid."'

Israel Set Free by God's Power to Work Through People and Nations: Isaiah 45:01–13

***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 acknowledge 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.

5) To bring the righteousness and salvation of heaven to the world

c. God's warning to those who questioned His ways and works

1) The questions...

- Opposed God's choice of Israel as His people
- Opposed God's anointing and use of a pagan king

2) Doom pronounced on those

- who argued with their Creator
- who argued with the way He worked

d. God's answer to those who questioned their Creator and the way He worked

1) He is the Creator of the heavens and earth and of mankind: Has the right to do as He wills

2) He would raise up Cyrus (a type of Christ) to fulfil His righteous purpose: To rebuild Jerusalem and to set the captives free

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.

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'?

10 Woe to the one who says to a father,
'What have you begotten?'
or to a mother,
'What gave you brought to birth?'

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?

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.

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."