

EXPOSITION OF ISAIAH

Message #67

Isaiah 45:8-25

As we look down through these verses, we cannot help but notice that there are certain themes that are repeated:

- 1) Three times it is brought out that **God is the only Sovereign Maker (yatsar)** - He plans, designs and creates (45:9, 11);
- 2) Four times it is brought out that **God is the only Sovereign Creator (bara)** - He creates things out of nothing (45:8, 12, 18, 18);
- 3) Four times it is brought out that **God is the only Sovereign Savior (yasha)** - He offers salvation to any who will turn to Him (45:15, 17, 21, 22);
- 4) Three times it is brought out that **God is the only Sovereign God who can declare eternal shame (bosh) (45:16, 17, 24).**

What God is obviously trying to get Israel and the rest of the world to realize is that He is the only Sovereign God who can save people. He is the only God who can save Israel and He is the only God who can save the United States. You will not hear this kind of message from Rush Limbaugh or Sean Hannity. You get this message from the Word of God. It is not freedom rallies that will save a nation; it is Almighty God who can save a nation. **The real problem with Israel and the United States is not political; it is theological.**

What God wants are nations and individuals turning to Him and trusting Him. Israel needs to understand this and so does everyone else in the world.

BECAUSE GOD IS THE ONLY TRUE RIGHTEOUS SOVEREIGN CREATOR WHO IS ABLE TO OFFER SALVATION TO ISRAEL AND TO INDIVIDUALS, ALL NATIONS AND ALL PEOPLE NEED TO TURN TO HIM TO BE SAVED.

This is an amazing text. **God offers Israel, any nation or any individual salvation.** He is the only God with enough power to save. If you turn to Him you will be saved. If you don't turn to Him, you will have your day in His Sovereign court and you will be put to total and complete shame for all eternity. It is God who created this world. It is God who created you. It is God who can save you.

In these verses there are six sovereign facts:

SOVEREIGN FACT #1 – God is sovereign over the heavens and the earth. **45:8**

God reveals here that He is the creator of the heavens and the earth. What this logically means is that He is the only God who can actually take one to heaven and He is the only God who can put Israel in her land and pour out His righteousness on this earth.

Now the heavens and the earth were initially created to be righteous places, places that conformed to the righteous standards of God. One day, God is going to do just that in this world. When it is time for God to demonstrate His righteousness and His salvation in the heavens and the earth, God will create it. His Son will come in the clouds and He will take over the world and righteousness will reign. It will be poured out of heaven and harvested on this earth.

The millennium will feature a righteousness that has never been seen before and God will create it. The righteousness of God will be poured out literally from heaven and salvation will spring up on the earth as a great harvest.

John Calvin made a good observation when he said this verse is put here to give godly hope concerning future redemption. When God's people look everywhere and see despair and darkness, they need to turn to the Lord and turn their eyes toward heaven. A brighter day is coming (*Isaiah*, Vol. 8, p. 404).

SOVEREIGN FACT #2 – God is sovereign over individuals . 45:9-10

God is completely sovereign over individuals. Most people do not like this doctrine because they want to be their own “god.” They want to be sovereign over themselves. But it was God who created the earth and it was God who created individuals and woe to any who want to quibble or quarrel with this Almighty Sovereign God. He permits different individuals to come into existence for His purposes and none of us are in position to question God on that.

Woe to the one who wants to argue with his Maker? We are clay pots in the hands of the Great Potter. God made you and God made me. God had some people born into wealthy families and some born into poor families. God had some people born into nice functional families and some born into nonfunctional families. He is the Potter and we are the clay and woe to any who want to argue that point. Paul used exactly the same argument with those who want to argue with God about who He chooses to save (Romans 9:20-24). God can save one person and cause Him to become an amazing reflection of His grace or He can not save someone and cause him to become a vessel of wrath fitted for destruction.

Any who want to go up against God will lose. You cannot stop God from doing what He will do. You cannot go into court and debate your case of righteousness. God says I created you to not turn to me and not be saved.

SOVEREIGN FACT #3 – God is sovereign over Israel . 45:11-13

The same God who created the heavens and the earth created Israel. **Do not miss this point - the Sovereign God of the Bible is Israel's God (45:11, 15, 25).** God's program on this earth is specifically aimed at Israel. Notice what **verse 11** says, if you want to know about “things to come,” get a perspective of Israel, God's sons, and turn to Him. God wants His people coming to Him when they can't figure out what is happening.

We live in a time when people will ask almost anyone but God for answers. This country is suffering an economic collapse and people are willing to turn to any person but God for help. God wants people turning to Him. This is specifically true when it comes to salvation.

Now one thing we see here is that Biblical prophecy, “things to come,” is specifically connected to Israel and you will never understand Biblical prophecy until you grasp this point. God challenges His people to turn to Him for information about what is happening. Turn to the Scriptures and recognize the importance of Israel and the plan of Israel and as you do that, things will become very clear.

God is sovereign over everything and He is certainly sovereign over Israel. In fact, in **verse 13** He again refers to the fact that He would raise up Cyrus and make his ways smooth for the purpose of building up His city, Jerusalem, and for the purpose of letting His people go. God would do this.

God would sovereignly do this without any payment for this or any reward for this. He would do this for Israel because He is her Sovereign God.

Oh that Israel would realize this now. If only she would realize she can turn to her God, who is the only God, she would be saved. Oh that the United States would realize this right now. If only this nation would turn to the only God, this nation could be saved. Oh if individuals would realize this right now. If only individuals would turn to Jesus Christ they could be saved right now.

SOVEREIGN FACT #4 – God is sovereign over all nations’ connection to Israel . **45:14-17**

God is Israel’s God and He controls all nations of the world, and one day He will cause those nations to bow before Israel.

When Isaiah wrote this prophecy, the Egyptians and Cush and the Sabeans were dominate powers in many respects. From **verse 14**, the Egyptians and Cush were known for their trade and merchandise and the Sabeans were known to be “men of stature.” The word “stature” means these were people who were measured high, to an extended level (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 450).

When Cyrus issued his edict for Israel, he did in part demand that nations support Israel (Ezra 6:3-8). However, as Harry Bultema observed, “This prophecy has never been fulfilled either in the past or the present, but after the coming of Christ it will be gloriously fulfilled to Israel” (*Commentary on Isaiah*, p. 447). This will be the time when Israel will never be humiliated again by anyone.

What God predicts is that there would come a day when these arrogant Arab and other successful powers will be Israel’s servants. Israel will be completely saved and all of the idolatrous nations that surrounded her will be totally and completely ashamed. As **verse 15** says, God is Israel’s Savior even though it may appear that He is hiding Himself. He is Israel’s Savior and He will save her.

We are presently in the time known in Scripture as “times of the Church Age Gentiles.” During this dispensation it is as if God is hiding Himself from Israel, but that will all change.

In the Millennium, all nations will acknowledge how special Israel is to God. Those nations like Iran and Pakistan and Iraq will bow their knees to Israel. So will the United States and Canada. They will honor Israel. They will bring Israel their merchandise and will be subservient to her. Look at **verse 17**; for all eternity Israel will be honored. Never will she be humiliated or put to shame again. If only Israel would right now turn to her God, she would be saved.

SOVEREIGN FACT #5 – God is sovereign over all creation . **45:18-19**

God created the heavens and formed and made the earth. He designed it so it could be inhabited by people. Only the God of the Bible has done this. God has all power to save a nation or an individual.

God did not create the earth to be a waste place. God did not create the Promised Land to have it uninhabited by His nation. God did not create the Promised Land so Arabs could dominate 100,000 square miles. When you look at the land of Israel today, it does not appear to be a beautiful plush land flowing with milk and honey in which Israel is God's nation enjoying life in her land. It almost appears to be the one place in the world that is empty of the blessings of God. But it will not always be that way. God will see to it.

Now **verse 19** needs to be understood and heralded in Israel and in the United States, "Seek God" and He will declare His righteous, fertile blessings. God wants people turning to Him. He doesn't desire that this world be a dark, dreary place of wasted space. He doesn't want people out of jobs and homes. We need to turn to God.

God has not hidden this reality or kept this a secret. He has stated this in His Word time and time again.

Notice carefully how things become righteous - by judicial declaration of God (**verse 19**). **All God must do to turn things around is to speak it into existence. One judicial declaration is all it takes and everything can be instantly changed.**

If Israel were to turn to God right now, God would speak national blessings instantly into existence. If the United States were to turn to God right now, God would bless this nation in ways it has not seen in a long time. If the state of Michigan were to turn to God right now, this state would see an amazing change.

If any sinner will turn to Jesus Christ for salvation, God will instantly make a judicial declaration of righteousness and you will be instantly justified and your eternity will be changed forever from everlasting condemnation to everlasting life. One pronouncement from the Sovereign God is all it takes. Seek God from the waste places and watch what He will do.

SOVEREIGN FACT #6 – God is sovereign in offering His salvation to the nations and to Israel. **45:20-25**

In these verses the Sovereign God speaks as the only Sovereign Savior of sinners.

In **verses 20-21**, God calls all idolatrous nations and people to appear before Him. He calls them to face Him with their false idolatrous religious system and all nations are finally admitting there was no God but the God of the Bible and He is the only righteous God and Savior.

In **verse 22**, God calls all nations and all individuals to turn to Him and be saved. The Hebrew word “turn” (panah) is critical. It literally means to turn yourself toward and look at something (*Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 678). All one must do to be saved is simply turn to Jesus Christ and look to Him by faith. No works on our part are required. Think of the grace here. The Sovereign God of all creation offers you eternal salvation by simply turning to Him.

Do you understand this Israel? United States? Michigan? Sinner?

No matter what your pathetic background, no matter what your pedigree, no matter what your sin, no matter what your situation, Almighty, Sovereign God offers you an abundance of grace and all He asks you to do is to “look or turn to Him.”

One Sunday morning a snowstorm hit London and Charles Spurgeon was not able to make it to his church so he stopped at a small church near his home. The storm was so bad the minister could not make it to church so a man from the church got up to say a few words. Spurgeon never found out the man’s name and he was not trained or educated at all. He opened the Bible to Isaiah 45:22 and he said God tells us to “turn to Him and be saved.” He went on to say that God says all we must do is look to Him or turn to Him to be saved. Then he pointed out that this verse was aimed at all people in the earth. He looked at Spurgeon, who looked so miserable, and said, Young man, “you look to Jesus and you will be saved.” It was exactly at that moment that Spurgeon came to faith in Jesus Christ and the rest is history.

Look at **verse 23**, if you will turn to the Lord and be saved, God will never change His mind. He will justify you and He will save you, and since there is coming a moment when all will bow before Him, why not turn to Him now?

As **verse 24** says, only in the Lord are righteousness and strength. You cannot save yourself. You may only be saved by turning to the Lord. Turn to the Lord and be saved.

There will be many who will appear before the Lord who are so arrogant they want to try to justify themselves, but it will be to no avail.

If you appear before God and try to rely upon yourself, you will be put to shame. Only God can justify you. Only God can take you to glory. Turn to the only sovereign God of the Bible and be saved. That is what Israel needs to do and that is what all nations need to do.