

Series: Isaiah 2024  
Title: That They May Know  
Text: Is 45: 5-6  
Date: May 14, 2024  
Place: SGBC, NJ

**Isaiah 45: 5: I am the LORD, and *there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:* [God girded Cyrus and used him to deliver Israel out of Babylonian captivity for this purpose] **6: That they [God's elect Israel] may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that *there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else.*****

There is no God but God, no Savior, but the LORD

**Isaiah 45: 5: I am the LORD, and *there is none else, there is no God beside me:...6:...I am the LORD, and there is none else.***

Isaiah 45: 18: For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I *am* the LORD; and *there is none else.*

Isaiah 45: 21 Tell ye, and bring *them* near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? *who* hath told it from that time? *have* not I the LORD? and *there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.* 22: Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I *am* God, and *there is none else.*

God girded Cyrus, though he did not know him, and delivered Israel that his elect might know there no other God and Savior but the one true God. But just as God girded Cyrus when he did not know him, so God does to each of his elect. It is how God makes us know he is our one Just God and Savior and there is none else.

**Subject:** That They May Know

**Proposition:** God girds his chosen, though we did not know him--he does so throughout the life of faith--that we may know there is none beside him, that we might know he is the LORD and there is none else--"*I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else.*"

**NONE KNOW**

Not one of God's elect know God by nature.

There is only one true and living God, one Savior. So why do men think there are so many gods? It is fallen man that has created many gods. The very fact man thinks there is more than one god declares man's unregenerate, fallen, sinful state.

Do you remember in school when teachers taught us about the many Greek gods? I had professors that thought they were so wise to know all the many Greek gods. The one true God sent the apostle Paul to Athens, Greece.

Acts 17: 22: Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, *Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.* 23: For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

Why are there so many religions and sects within each religion?

1 Corinthians 11: 19: For there must be ALSO HERESIES among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

Heresies means choices, sects, parties. While dead in sins men have no understanding of the one true God. Fallen man has many different notions and opinions, thinking there are many gods. So long as men have choices sects are formed by dissensions arising from diversity of opinions and aims. But so long as men have choices, they are always choosing between the false.

Joshua 24: 15: And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, CHOOSE you this day whom ye will serve; WHETHER the GODS which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, OR the GODS of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: [Christ removes our choices; he girds his people and makes those of his house know him so that we have no other choice but to serve the LORD] but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Joshua spoke the word of the Lord. This is the Lord Jesus speaking through Joshua. The quotations opened earlier in Joshua 24 and it is still the Lord speaking. He is the Head of his house who makes us have no other choices and want no other choices but to serve the one true LORD. Believer, do you remember when you considered all the different gods men speak about and tried to figure out which one was true? But Christ made you willing to believe on the one true God in the day of his power.

That great host saw Christ feed the multitude. *Of themselves*, they followed Christ across the sea. Since they came to Christ of themselves, they asked him.

John 6: 28: What shall WE DO that we might work the works of God? 29: Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

But they did not have God-given faith. So what did they ask for? They wanted carnal evidence, a sign. It was not enough that he had just fed the multitude. They wanted another sign.

John 6: 30: They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?

"The Jews seek after a sign." Lost, spiritually dead sinners, must have something they can see with carnal sight. Fallen man says, "Substantiate, give me proof that God is God and there is none else." That is what God-given faith gives his child.

Hebrews 11: 1: Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,...

Fallen man says, "Give me evidences, a sign." That is what God-given faith is.

Hebrews 11: 1...[faith is]...the evidence of things not seen.

The Lord declared the gospel to them.

John 32: Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. 33: For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

He told them, "I am the LORD, and there is none else, a Just God and a Savior there is no Savior beside me." But being spiritually dead they thought he meant earthly bread and that is all they wanted. He declared plainly,

John 6: 35...I am the Bread of Life.

Without faith, being blind and dead in sin, they murmured at him because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven. The Lord spoke in parables to lost men--the gospel comes as a parable to lost sinners--he told them

John 6: 51...and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. 52: The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us *his* flesh to eat? 53: Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

They said this is a hard saying, who can hear it. They were offended and went away and walked no more with him. They made the choice to follow him, so they had a choice to go back and follow him no more. They were like the Jews who sought after righteousness but found it not--why?--they sought it by the works of the law rather than by faith. Christ said, "If you were blind, you would have no sin. But now you say you see, therefore your sin remaineth!" Man by nature does not know God. Man cannot gird himself spiritually. He is dead in sins. Therefore, he still has choices and always chooses the false.

John 6: 67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? 68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. 69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

## WE KNOW BY THE LORD GIRDING US

**Isaiah 45: 5...I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: 6 That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that *there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else.***

It is only by the LORD girding us, when we did not know him, that we know and believe the one true God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word "girded" means "to hold close, to clasp, to take hold of and not let go." It is God who lays hold on us and holds us close and will not let us go--he does it before we even know him that we might know he alone girded us.

Isaiah 65: 1: I am sought of *them that* asked not *for me*; I am found of *them that* sought me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation *that* was not called by my name.

Hundreds of years before God girded Cyrus though he knew him not. So God girded his people when we did not know him when he chose his elect in Christ in eternity. In divine election he girded us though we did not know him. Christ girded us when he worked out a perfect righteousness for his people, though we did not know him.

Romans 5: 6: For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8: But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

From the day we were born until God sent the gospel to us he girded us and we did not even know it. We were Gomer playing the harlot. Yet, the Lord provided for us the whole time--though we did not know him.

Hoshea 2:8 For she did not know that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, *which* they prepared for Baal. 9 Therefore will I return, and take away my corn in the time thereof, and my wine in the season thereof, and will recover my wool and my flax *given* to cover her nakedness. 10 And now will I discover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and none shall deliver her out of mine hand. 11 I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts. 12 And I will destroy her vines and her fig trees, whereof she hath said, These *are* my rewards that my lovers have given me: and I will make them a forest, and the beasts of the field shall eat them. 13 And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgot me, saith the LORD. 14: Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her.

That is what God did for us when he sent the gospel to us and quickened us, made us know him. We did not know him and were not seeking him. NO MAN IS SEEKING GOD FIRST, GOD SEEKS HIS PEOPLE FIRST.

Romans 3:11: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

The Lord said, "I am found of *them that* sought me not:"

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him:...65: No man can come unto me, except it were given him of my father.

Joh 6:45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

Isaiah 45: 5...I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: that [you may know] I am God and there is none else!

But God continues to do this for us over and over throughout the life of faith. Gomer is a picture of a believer who turned from Christ to her former lovers. It is what God's sanctified people in Israel were doing, looking to other gods and flagons of wine. In our text the Lord is speaking of some who were sanctified, believing children in Israel. But to chasten and correct them, God sent Nebuchadnezzar and delivered them into captivity in Babylon.

Why did God quicken us and leave us in this body of death? Why does he send providence in which we do not know what to do? Because then Christ comes like Cyrus, delivers us, and girds us that we might know him more and more! It is how Peter and the apostles and all God's elect are given faith to confess--"we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God." It is how Peter was taught this even more when Christ recovered him from his fall--when Christ girded him after his fall, Peter said, "Lord thou knowest! Thou knowest all things!"

## **NOW WE KNOW**

**Isaiah 45: 5...I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: 6: That they may know...that *there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else.***

When God saves this way then we know the Lord is our only God and Savior.

From the first moment to the last, God makes his child know HE GIRDED US! When he quickens, when he calls, when he delivers from trials, then we know there is none beside thee. He is the LORD and there is none else.

We cannot gird ourselves apart from God.

Isaiah 8:9...gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces; gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces.

But when the Spirit commands us "gird up the loins of your mind", it is the Lord himself who girds us. He commands effectually,

Isaiah 45: 22: Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I *am* God, and *there is none else.*

God must gird his elect! Christ must robe us in his righteousness! The Spirit must gird us within! God must continue to be the only one who girds us and teaches us!

Isaiah 45: 6: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that *there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else.*

The Lord told Peter, "Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." (Mt 16:17). Christ said to that multitude,

John 6: 63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life. 64 But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. 65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

That is so from the first hour to the last. But when it is God who girds us then we know and then we are satisfied with Christ and his gospel!

Psalm 65: 4: Blessed *is the man whom* thou choosest, and causest to approach *unto thee, that* he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, *even* of thy holy temple.

Debating and disputing and choices are over when God gives his child faith to believe God. We come into trials think ourselves wise and prudent but that ends when God girds us by his power and his Spirit.

Faith is the rock-solid foundation because faith rests on Christ the Solid Rock. Faith is the evidence believing Christ our Sovereign, Successful Savior who has, is and shall deliver us. Faith believes he does it all.

Psalm 44: 7: Thou hast saved us from our enemies...

**Isaiah 45: 5: I *am* the LORD, and *there is* none else, *there is* no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: 6 That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that *there is* none beside me. I *am* the LORD, and *there is* none else.**

**Amen!**