

Cyrus, God's Instrument

45 Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
 whose right hand I have grasped,
 to subdue nations before him
 and to loose the belts of kings,
 to open doors before him
 that gates may not be closed:

² "I will go before you
 and level the exalted places,
 I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
 and cut through the bars of iron,

³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
 and the hoards in secret places,
 that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
 the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob,
 and Israel my chosen,
 I call you by your name,
 I name you, though you do not know me.

⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other,
 besides me there is no God;
 I equip you, though you do not know me,
 that people may know, from the rising of
 the sun
 and from the west, that there is none
 besides me;

I am the LORD, and there is no other.

⁷ I form light and create darkness;
 I make well-being and create calamity;
 I am the LORD, who does all these things.

Anointed only time it is used in O.T. for a gentile. Jones points out that
 it is otherwise used for kings or priest (1 Sam. 24.6; 2 Sam 19.21; Lev.
 4.3) and to the patriarchs (Ps. 105.15) Jones p. 123 Word not used in
 the same manner as when applied to Jesus.

- ① Speaking across time God's message to Cyrus shows His importance
 in this portion of God's Longrange plan. God grasp Cyrus' right hand
 showing it is God and not Cyrus who is in control. It is plan that
 God is moving nations to prepare for the Future. "Cyrus is not the
 master of his fate, even though he may think that such is the case."
 (Young p. 135) The city of Babylon was protected by large bronze
 gates which may be what this verse is referring to.
- ② God always leads and prepares the future for those He is using.
 The Persian King is promised God's help with the most difficult
 problems and obstacles. No barrier will stand in his way.
- ③ These victories will lead to treasures, some that are hidden
 but will be revealed as a reward from God. It is vital to
 note that God is the "God of Israel." All that is happening is
 for their benefit and eventually the redemption of humanity.
- ④ The prophecy is clear that Cyrus may benefit in victories and
 treasures but God is directing this for His own purpose. It must
 be remembered Cyrus was called by His name 160 yrs in advance
 of the events prophesied here.
- ⑤ In the proclamation of Ezra 1.1-4 Cyrus acknowledge the
 God of Israel but more than likely saw Him as one God among
 many. Cyrus recognized the God of Israel but there are no records
 showing if he knew of Isaiah's prophecies about Him.
- ⑥ God intended through Cyrus' actions and God's prophecies people
 would know the power and presence of God. These are designed
 when examined to show God and not Cyrus was in control.
- ⑦ God wants Cyrus and all who see what is happening that they
 God, is absolutely the One true God the Creator of all. Nothing
 happens w/out God's permission. He is the God of free will,
 yet His will will be accomplished. He can move any man to
 do His while allowing that same man to chose to do it as His
 servant or as one used momentarily w/out eternal rewards.

- 8 "Shower, O heavens, from above,
and let the clouds rain down righteousness;
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness
may bear fruit;
let the earth cause them both to sprout;
I the LORD have created it.
- 9 "Woe to him who strives with him who formed him,
a pot among earthen pots!
Does the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you
making?'
or 'Your work has no handles?'
- 10 Woe to him who says to a father, 'What are you
begetting?'
or to a woman, 'With what are you in labor?'"
- 11 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?"
- 12 I made the earth
and created man on it;
it was my hands that stretched out the heavens,
and I commanded all their host.
- 13 I have stirred him up in righteousness,
and I will make all his ways level;
he shall build my city
and set my exiles free,

9) God's ultimate goal is righteousness of His followers. With all the previous section about wars, victories, rewards ~~the~~ prophecy shows God's purpose revealed. Here the process of rain and growth are used to show how all this is part of His plan. His ultimate plan of a people who will serve Him and follow Him.

9) Even as He has spoken of His goal there is a reminder, a warning that to go against God's plans. He plans, forms plans, and carries them out w/o or w/out our permission or obedience. He do not get to criticize or question God.

10) An unborn son cannot question his father. A baby does not question its mother about birth or in ancient times the gender of the child before it was born. Until the development of ultrasounds in the 1950's there was no way to determine a babies sex before birth.

11-13) This section is still about Cyrus, but now as a reminder that what is happening through Cyrus is w/in or part of God's plan for Israel. This epilogue of the Cyrus section shows that God is Sovereign.

11) Here God is speaking about Cyrus and the future. He has shown what is coming but He challenges them to ask as if God has said nothing.

12) He reminds them that He is the creator of everything. If He can do this then He is in command of all.

13) God declares he has chosen Cyrus to do His righteous will, and because of this will make things easier for Cyrus. THEN he states the reason, to rebuild the city and set the exile's of Judea and Israel free after their captivity and punishment. The victories and wealth of Cyrus are all part of God's plan. A poor King could not have been so generous.

not for price or reward,"
says the LORD of hosts.

The LORD, the Only Savior

14 Thus says the LORD:

"The wealth of Egypt and the merchandise of
Cush,
and the Sabeans, men of stature,
shall come over to you and be yours;
they shall follow you;
they shall come over in chains and bow down
to you.

They will plead with you, saying:

'Surely God is in you, and there is no other,
no god besides him.'

15 Truly, you are a God who hides himself,
O God of Israel, the Savior.

16 All of them are put to shame and confounded;
the makers of idols go in confusion together.

17 But Israel is saved by the LORD
with everlasting salvation;
you shall not be put to shame or confounded
to all eternity.

18 For thus says the LORD,
who created the heavens
(He is God!),
who formed the earth and made it
(He established it;

13b) God has made Cyrus do this for His purpose and to reward him. Cyrus may have gotten rich but God did it for His people and not for Cyrus or Persa.

14) Having been delivered the narrative changes to ISRAEL'S Future. Here other nations wealth are to come to ISRAEL as God has saved them, and restored the nation. A historical reference is not clear and may be lost for all time. Here the bowing down is not slavery but in recognition of their deliverance by God.

15) God can only be known as He reveals Himself. To look upon God's face is a death sentence. Hence Moses sees the backside of God. Yet, He can be identified as the God of Israel through His works and His deliverance or salvation of His people. He is the invisible God who can be seen everywhere through His works.

16) In contrast the idols that can be seen can do nothing. They do not deliver the people or answer their prayers. The gods or idols made by men bring shame to those who make them.

17) But in comparison Israel who serves the invisible God and who rejects idols or false gods has "everlasting salvation." Unlike those who worship idols Israel is safe for eternity because they worship the everlasting/eternal God.

18) This message came w/ an introduction to reinforce its meaning and impact. God is the creator who formed the earth. God is identified with the personal pronoun "He." He is God the only God so this message should be of vital importance.

- he did not create it empty,
 He formed it to be inhabited!);
 "I am the LORD, and there is no other.
 19 I did not speak in secret,
 in a land of darkness;
 I did not say to the offspring of Jacob,
 'Seek me in vain.'
 I the LORD speak the truth;
 I declare what is right.
- 20 "Assemble yourselves and come;
 draw near together,
 you survivors of the nations!
 They have no knowledge
 who carry about their wooden idols,
 and keep on praying to a god
 that cannot save.
- 21 Declare and present your case;
 let them take counsel together!
 Who told this long ago?
 Who declared it of old?
 Was it not I, the LORD?
 And there is no other god besides me,
 a righteous God and a Savior;
 there is none besides me.
- 22 "Turn to me and be saved,
 all the ends of the earth!
 For I am God, and there is no other.
- 23 By myself I have sworn;

(18) God is not only the creator, but His creation has purpose, it was made to be live in. Man being here is no accident. Then the infactic statement that He is the only God.

(19) God has always been clear of His purpose. He has hidden nothing, He has been open of His intentions and His expectations. God's message and promises have always been true and He keeps everyone. Jacob is a symbol of all God's promises to the people. In effect all will come to be because God only speaks truth. He does not deceive or lead anyone astray.

(20) God speaks to the living (the survivors of the nations.) Many of them have no ^{1st} hand knowledge of God. They only know idols who cannot speak or answer any of their prayers. God is here offering salvation to the nations. He is speaking to those who are not descendants of Jacob.

(21) Is divided into 2 parts. First the assembled nations are called on to state their case against God and for their idols. They can use all human knowledge at their disposal. Where did this knowledge come from, who told this to them. State their case and make sure to include footnotes and references. Second God says all real truth comes from Him. There is no other gods to instruct them. He is the Holy/righteous God who can save and deliver. This in contrast to their idols, God is alone when it comes to Gods.

(22) It has always been God's goal to reach the nations with His message of Salvation. (Eph 3:9-11) This is an O.T. prophecy of God's intentions that will take place when all (Jews & Gentiles) are gathered together as the Church in His Kingdom. (Eph 2:11-16; Gal 5:6; Col 3:11; Gal 3:28).

from my mouth has gone out in righteousness
a word that shall not return:

'To me every knee shall bow,
every tongue shall swear allegiance.'

24 "Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me,
are righteousness and strength;
to him shall come and be ashamed
all who were incensed against him.

25 In the LORD all the offspring of Israel
shall be justified and shall glory."

The Idols of Babylon and the One True God

46 Bel bows down; Nebo stoops;
their idols are on beasts and livestock;
these things you carry are borne
as burdens on weary beasts.

2 They stoop; they bow down together;
they cannot save the burden,
but themselves go into captivity.

3 "Listen to me, O house of Jacob,
all the remnant of the house of Israel,
who have been borne by me from before your
birth,

4 even to your old age I am he,
and to gray hairs I will carry you.

I have made, and I will bear;
I will carry and will save.

Bel Babylonian word
for Ba'el or Loed. Can
represent any God

Neso Chief God of
Borsippa. which was
3 hours from Babylon.

(23) Here God declares the truth of His Holy word (Righteousness).
For His word to return would make it untrue. Every knee is not a
universal salvation but that everyone at Judgment will finally admit He
is the one true God. (Rom 14.11) The following verses bear this
out.

(24) God is compared to the wicked here. Those w/out God have not
worshipped or acknowledged His Righteousness & strength. (Holiness & grace)
The wicked are seen as angry w/ God and His requirements on them.

(25) Here the offspring of Israel is to be seen in the light of N. T.
passages like Ju. 8.39-44 & Gal. 3.7-29. This is best stated in Gal 3.29
"Now that you belong to CHRIST, you are true children of Abraham."
This message of the offering of Salvation to all is in every
promise of the O.T. Starting w/ Abraham's call (Gen 15.5-6) This
is not a universal salvation but a universal offer to all who will
respond to God's righteousness and turn from idol worship of
the creation to worship the creator.

chapters 46-47 are what Sloan Coffin called "The Carried God and the
God who carries." Here God is contrasted to idols of men. Chapter
47 shows the fall of the city of Babylon that the gods were
supposed to protect.

(1-2) The gods of Babylon or their idols cannot move themselves. They
must be carried on animals who they cannot save and are a burden.
These idols can be taken captive and cannot save themselves
much less anyone who makes or worships them.

(3-4) In contrast God is not carried like an idol instead He is pictured
as the one who carries the people. God is not created by the people
but they come forward from Him. He always has carried them, and
always will. The idols are carried away into captivity while God
saves His people from captivity.