

“I, The LORD, Do All These Things!”**Isaiah 45:1-7****Facilitator, Rev. Alice Tamrie****I. Historical Background and Biblical Context****A. Historical Background**

The Book of Isaiah presents more insights into the nature of God than any other book in the Old Testament. God, Himself, is continually demonstrating the awesome power He has in choosing a foreign pagan to carry out His will in Cyrus and call this king- “My shepherd-everything he will do is all I want him to do” (Isa. 44:28). We see how the Lord our God, the Redeemer, describes Himself as buying us back which demonstrates to the world His mercy and His power. God has the zeal and desire to defend, protect his people for their salvation. The golden thread of his mighty power runs deep

B. Biblical Context

Today’s Lesson: Isaiah 45:1-7, affirms and confirms once again the awesomeness of the God we serve. We must it seriously seeing what God has done for his servant, Israel. It is on display in these verses, as it is written, “I am God. I made all that is, with no help from you I spread out the skies and laid out the earth. Those who call themselves magicians, fortunetellers, so-called experts all look trivial as compared to what I can do!” He says to the ocean, “Dry up” and now here again using a pagan king, Cyrus saying, I am making you my shepherd and you will do all that I want you to do”! God has the power to do and use as his godly instrument!

God is saying prophetically, you may not understand this, but I can establish, rebuild, loose things you don’t know about in your life. I will go before you, break bars all the while holding your right hand, so you will know I am the Lord. I can do all these things and give

you a title of honor even though you don't know me. I am the Lord. There is no other God; I am the only God, so that everyone will know there is no other God. No idols can do what I can do. I made the light and the darkness. I bring peace, and I cause trouble. I, the Lord, do all these things (Isaiah 45:1-7). This is what a believer knows about God's sovereignty. I, the LORD, do all these things, I am sovereign!

II. The Lesson: "I, The LORD, Do All These Things!" Isaiah 45:1-7

1. vv.1-3: This is the first mention of Cyrus in Scripture, chronologically speaking. He was named by God over 150 years before he was born, or about 200 years before he made the decree to rebuild before he made the decree to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple as verified in 2 Chron., Ezra, and Daniel. Cyrus did not rebuild Israel, God did it! These are the things Cyrus was to do for Jehovah:

- a) Be a shepherd of God's people (44:28)
- b) Perform God's pleasure in liberating the Jews (44:28; 45:13)
- c) Decree the rebuilding of Jerusalem
- d) Decree the rebuilding of the temple of God at Jerusalem. (44:28)
- e) Subdue nations (45:1)

Cyrus was to be God's shepherd in permitting the Jews to go back to their own land to restore their nation and rebuild their temple and cities. He was only an instrument directed and guided by God. The idea is that God always supports the word that He gives to prophets to speak to men, fulfilling the promises and predictions thereof. Repeatedly in O.T. days He performed miracles to confirm the ministries of His servants; and this is amply demonstrated in the record of men and women from Abel to Malachi, and summed up in Heb. 11, the rollcall of the faithful. In the N.T. the same program is enlarged upon by the experiences which would be

normal today if men would believe the gospel and seek God for the enduement of power from on high. This is so by the hundreds of promises and commands to us as disciples and that certain signs would follow them. So, Cyrus refers to an appointment to an office and a setting apart to a definite work, not especially to holiness and character, as you and I are as disciples. So, Cyrus, however, is called a righteous man in the sense of doing right to God's people. God made/direct/guided Cyrus, He couldn't help himself! We are being made witness of seeing God's activity in Him:

Things we see in Isaiah 45:1-3:

- His anointed raised up (41:2; 45:13)
- Call him (41:2)
- Make him rule over kings
- Give nations to him to destroy
- Hold his right hand (45:1)
- Loose the loins of kings (45:1)
- Open the two (made of brass and iron) gates before him
- God before him (45:2)
- Make crooked places straight
- Break the gates of brass
- Cut the bars of iron in sunder
- Give him the treasures and riches of Babylon (45:3)
- Direct all his ways (45:13)

All these magnify the infinite power and knowledge of God. There were 100 gates on the outer walls, making 25 gates on each side of the city. God's help to Cyrus was recognized by him as well as by all pagans who saw the great success of his arms. Ezra 1:2 affirms that Cyrus acknowledged that it was God who had given him all the kingdoms of the earth. Many treasures of Babylon were kept and hidden and plundered and were used when necessary. The wealth today in these treasures (gold and silver) amounted to over \$353M!!

Again, God called attention to the fact that only a Divine Being could foretell this prediction 200 years before it happens! Only our LORD God can do this. All of God's elect, not just a part of them.

- I will open doors for you (45:1)
- I will go before you (45:2)
- I will break down and cut (45:2)
- I will give you wealth (45:3)

So, you will know I am the Lord, the God of Israel.

2. v. 4. would have us observe that it is not God's choice alone; there must also be the choice of the individual to meet God's terms of salvation. It is the plan of God is elected; foreknown, chosen. The same is the plan of alike; and everyone is invited to the end of life! We must conform to the gospel; otherwise, one will be lost, as terms must be met. Don't get it twisted!! We must meet the salvation – which is to be born again becoming a new creature in Christ (John 3:1-8, 2 Cor. 5:17-18), and of living soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. If one commit sin after becoming born again, repentance is in order and turn from sin. Don't be a rebel!! God has called us to be saved! All Christians are the elect of the Lord; and all are called to become God's elect:

- I do these things for my servants
- I will call you by name
- I give you a title of honor even though you don't know me

3. vv. 5-7. The reason for you being helped, like Cyrus:

- I am the Lord. There is no other God; I am the only God (5).
- I will make you strong, even though you don't know me
- After God's call of Cyrus, he did know God (44:28; Ezra 1:1-6)
FACT: Cyrus did not know God personally. God did this to establish again the people whom God loved. That is, by My blessing you will conquer. Fact: Cyrus, is the son of Esther,

brought up in Jewish training and taught about God. He did eventually yield himself to God as a tool and servant, he decreed the rebuilding of Jerusalem. There is somebody always praying for us to know God! Somebody prayed for you to be saved! Amen!

- So that everyone will know there is no other God (6). From the east to the west, they will know that I alone am the LORD. From the rising of the sun to its setting means everywhere (Psalm 113:3). No other person or object can compare to the holiness and power of our living Creator. He is sovereign over everything-both good and evil.
- I made the light and the darkness. I bring peace, and I cause troubles, I, the Lord, do all these things (7). God is sovereign!

III. CONCLUSION:

Woe to the person that rebels against God or refuses to honor his presence. The true purpose of God in creating the Earth is not in vain. The conversion of the world is at hand; this is an invitation to us all today. It is still fresh and refreshing to be obedient and willing to be saved. It is never too late, come to Jesus now, He will save you!

PRAYER: Hallelujah! You who serve God, praise God! Just to speak his name is praise! Just to remember God is a blessing-now and tomorrow and always from the east to the west, from dawn to dusk, keep lifting all your praises to God!