



44. But now hear, O Jacob my servant, Israel whom I have chosen!

² Thus says the Lord who made you, who formed you in the womb and will help you:

Do not fear, O Jacob my servant, Jeshurun whom I have chosen.

³ For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground;

I will pour my spirit upon your descendants, and my blessing on your offspring.

⁴ They shall spring up like a green tamarisk, like willows by flowing streams.

Isaiah 44

⁵This one will say, "I am the Lord's," another will be called by the name of Jacob, yet another will write on the hand, "The Lord's," and adopt the name of Israel.

6 Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:

I am the first & I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

7 Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me
who has announced from of old the things to come?

Let them tell us, what is yet to be

8 Do not fear, or be afraid;

Have I not told you from of old & declared it?
You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?

There is no other rock; I know not one.

The Absurdity of Idol-Worship.

⁹ All who make idols are nothing, and the things they delight in do not profit; their witnesses neither see nor know.

And so they will be put to shame.

¹⁰ Who would fashion a god or cast an image that can do no good?" Look, all its devotees shall be put to shame; the artisans too are merely human.

Let them all assemble, let them stand up; they shall be terrified, they shall all be put to shame.

¹² The blacksmith fashions it and works it over the coals, shaping it with hammers, and forging it with his strong arm; he becomes hungry and his strength fails, he drinks no water and is faint. ¹³ The carpenter stretches a line, marks it out with a stylus, fashions it with planes, and marks it with a compass; he makes it in human form, with human beauty, to be set up in a shrine. ¹⁴ He cuts down cedars or chooses a holm thorn or an oak and lets it grow strong among the trees of the forest. He plants a cedar and the rain nourishes it.

¹⁵

Then it can be used as fuel. Part of it he takes and warms himself; he kindles a fire and bakes bread. Then he makes a god and worships it, makes it a carved image and bows down before it.¹⁶ Half of it he burns in the fire; over this half he roasts meat, eats it, and is satisfied. He also warms himself and says, 'Ah, I am warm, I can feel the fire!' ¹⁷ The rest of it he makes into a god, his idol, bows down to it, and worships it; he prays to it and says, 'Save me, for you are my God!'

¹⁸ They do not know, nor do they comprehend; for their eyes are shut, so that they cannot see, and their minds as well, so that they cannot understand. ¹⁹ No one considers, nor is there knowledge or discernment to say 'Half of it I burned in the fire; I also baked bread on its coals, I roasted meat and have eaten. Now shall I make the rest of it an abomination? Shall I fall down before a block of wood?'

²⁰ He feeds on ashes; a deluded mind has led him astray, and he cannot save himself or say 'Is not this thing in my right hand a fraud?'

²¹ REMEMBER THESE THINGS O JACOB AND ISRAEL.
FOR YOU ARE MY SERVANT.

I FORMED YOU. YOU ARE MY SERVANT.

O ISRAEL YOU WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN BY ME.

²² I HAVE SWEEP AWAY YOUR TRANSGRESSIONS
LIKE A CLOUD AND YOUR SINS LIKE MIST.

RETURN TO ME FOR I HAVE REDEEMED YOU.

²³ SING O HEAVENS FOR THE LORD HAS DONE IT.
SHOUT O DEPTHS OF THE EARTH.

BREAK FORTH INTO SINGING O MOUNTAINS.

O FOREST AND EVERY TREE IN IT.

FOR THE LORD HAS REDEEMED JACOB AND
WILL BE GLORIFIED IN ISRAEL.

²⁴ THUS SAYS THE LORD YOUR REDEEMER WHO
FORMED YOU IN THE WOMB.

I AM THE LORD WHO MADE ALL THINGS.
WHO ALONE STRETCHED OUT THE HEAVENS.
WHO BY MYSELF SPREAD OUT THE EARTH.

²⁵

who frustrates the omens of liars,
and makes fools of diviners;
who turns back the wise,
and makes their knowledge foolish;

²⁶

who confirms the word of his servant,
and fulfils the prediction of his messengers;
who says of Jerusalem, 'It shall be inhabited',
and of the cities of Judah, 'They shall be rebuilt,
and I will raise up their ruins';

²⁷

who says to the deep, 'Be dry -
I will dry up your rivers';

²⁸

who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd,
and he shall carry out all my purpose';

and who says of Jerusalem, 'It shall be rebuilt',
and of the temple, 'Your foundation shall be laid.'



Isaiah 45

Cyrus, God's Instrument

1 Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,

whose right hand I have grasped

to subdue nations before him

and strip Kings of their robes,

to open doors before him -

and the gates shall not be closed:

2 I will go before you

and level the mountains,

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 riches hidden in secret places,

so 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 surname you, though you do not know me.

5

I am the Lord, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.

6 I am you, though you do not know me,
So that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
7 I am the Lord, and there is no other.
I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

8

Shower, O heavens, from above
and let the skies rain down righteousness;
let the earth open, that salvation may
spring up,
and let it cause righteousness to sprout up
also;
I the Lord have created it.

9

Woe to you who strive with your maker,
earthen vessels with the potter!



Does the day say to the one who fashions it,
'What are you making?' or 'Your work has no handles'?
Woe to anyone who says to a father,
'What are you begetting?'.
or to a woman, 'With what are
you in labour?'

"Thus says the Lord,
the Holy One of Israel, and its Maker:
Will you question me about my children,
or command me concerning the work of
my hands?
¹²I made the earth,

and created humankind upon it;
it was my hands that stretched out the heavens,
¹³and I commanded all their host.

I have aroused Cyrus in righteousness,
and I will make all his paths straight;
he shall build my city
and set my exiles free.

not for price or reward,
¹⁴ says the Lord of hosts.

Thus says the Lord:

The wealth of Egypt and the merchandise of Ethiopia,

and the Sabeans, tall 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 make supplication to you, saying,

'God is with you alone, and there is no other,

¹⁵ there is no god besides him.'

Truly, you are a God who hides himself,

¹⁶ O God of Israel, the Saviour.

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;

he did not create it a chaos,

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 chaos.'

I the Lord speak the truth,

I declare what is right.

Idols Cannot Save Babylon.

20

Assemble yourselves and come together,
draw near, you survivors of the nations!

They have no knowledge~

those 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?

There is no other god besides me,
a righteous God and a Saviour;
there is no one 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,

from my mouth has gone forth in righteousness

a word that shall not return:

'To me every knee shall bow,

every tongue shall swear.'



Isaiah 45

29 Kirkbymoorside

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

25 In the Lord all the offspring of
Israel shall triumph and glory.

