

*Is. 45:14 ¶ Thus says the Lord, "The products of Egypt and the merchandise of Cush And the Sabeans, men of stature, Will come over to you and will be yours; They will walk behind you, they will come over in chains And will bow down to you; They will make supplication to you: 'Surely, God is with you, and there is none else, No other God.'"*

Verses 14-17 address Israel's future restoration and spiritual regeneration, which will result in Gentile submission to the Jews. Gentile nations such as *Egypt...*, *Cush* (Ethiopia), as well as *the Sabeans* (a tribe which lived in the continent of Africa) serve as examples of how the Gentiles will submit to the Jews during the Millennium (v.14). We discussed this submission of *Cush* (Ethiopia) and *Egypt* earlier in Isaiah 18-20. The Gentiles will submit to the Hebrew people because they will finally realize that *God is with Israel* and that *No other God* exists besides Israel's God.

*Is. 45:15 Truly, Thou art a God who hides Himself, O God of Israel, Savior!*

As Isaiah looked into the future and saw the fulfillment of this prophecy, he understood well that *God...hides* His plans from the unredeemed (also read Romans 11:33-36). Consequently, only the true follower of Jehovah can comprehend His ultimate plan for man. I have often stated that all of history is explained in terms of one event only, a cross in 30 AD. Without it, the events of the past are totally meaningless and void of purpose.

*Is. 45:16 They will be put to shame and even humiliated, all of them; The manufacturers of idols will go away together in humiliation.*

*All of the unredeemed will be put to shame and...humiliated* because their *idols* are incapable of meeting their needs. After all, what idol has predicted the forthcoming of a single event, either good or bad? None! Not so with Jehovah, and His mention of *Cyrus* (in Isaiah 44 and 45) some 150 years before his time is only one example of how accurately He can predict what lies ahead.

The word "*humiliation*" in Isaiah 45:16 is interpreted "*confusion*" in the American Standard Version. It is interesting that God initially brought *confusion* upon mankind in Babylon (read Genesis 11:1-9 with a special emphasis on verse 9). And what was the problem? Idolatry, for the *tower* that the people attempted to build was dedicated to *Bel*, later known in Jewish history as Baal (more input is given concerning *Bel* in Isaiah 46:1). Their desire was to build a *tower* that would *reach into heaven*. Why? They possessed the same desire as their father Satan, a desire to be *like God* (read Isaiah 14:13-14). Therefore, idolatry had its origin in Babylon. However, *Babylon* will be judged at the end of the Tribulation, serving as a habitat for *demons* throughout the Millennium (Isaiah 13:20-22; Jeremiah 50:39-40; Revelation 18:1-2). Consequently, *Babylon*, the source of idolatry, will experience *humiliation* alongside those described in Isaiah 45:16, those unwise enough to follow *Babylon's* lead by worshipping the work of man's hands.

*Is. 45:17 Israel has been saved by the Lord With an everlasting salvation; You will not be put to shame or humiliated To all eternity.*

Isaiah looked into the future and saw Israel's national regeneration at the end of the Tribulation, which is addressed in verses such as Jeremiah 31:31-33 and Romans 11:26. Therefore, *Israel will not be put to shame* nor *humiliated* like the nations who have placed their trust in idols. Jehovah, the covenant keeper, will fulfill His promises to the Jews and save them *With an everlasting salvation*. This *salvation* will come in conjunction with the national regeneration of the Jews shortly before the Second Coming of Christ, after which the nation will never again subject herself to idolatry.

*Is. 45:18 ¶ For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, But formed it to be inhabited), "I am the Lord, and there is none else.*

In verses 18-21 we find that *God*, while addressing the salvation of the Jews, along with the futility of idols, states that He did not *create...the earth...a waste place* (v.18). This seems to give room for Satan's fall between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2, since in Genesis 1:2 we find *the earth...formless and void*, totally enveloped in water. So long as Satan ruled over the earth it was a mineral *garden* (Ezekiel 28:11-14), void of large masses of water. His fall resulted in his domain (earth) being cursed, God using water to bring it about. Therefore, we find water upon the whole face of earth in Genesis 1:2, leaving room for Satan's fall between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. It is interesting that no *sea* will exist in the Eternal Order (Revelation 21:1), for the waters that make up the seas today were generated when God judged the previous order. Consequently, for mankind to inhabit the earth subsequent to this judgment, God was required to separate the *waters* from the *land*, as confirmed by Genesis 1:9-10.

The last phrase of Isaiah 45:18, "*I am the Lord, and there is none else,*" points again to *God* alone as Creator. He is also the only *God* who can accurately predict the future, as the following verse verifies.

*Is. 45:19 "I have not spoken in secret, In some dark land; I did not say to the offspring of Jacob, 'Seek Me in a waste place'; I, the Lord, speak righteousness Declaring things that are upright.*

God has *not spoken in secret*, for He has revealed His plans to His people through His prophets. Neither did God require Israel to seek Him *in a waste place* ("*darkness*" ASV); for it was in such an environment, controlled by the realm of the demonic, that the inhabitants of Babylon originally lost their way. Consequently, anyone associated with idolatry (*darkness*) speaks falsehood. On the other hand, Jehovah speaks *righteousness*, always *Declaring things that are upright* for the good of His people.

*Is. 45:20 ¶ "Gather yourselves and come; Draw near together, you fugitives of the nations; They have no knowledge, Who carry about their wooden idol, And pray to a god who cannot save.*

The phrase, "*you fugitives of the nations,*" seems to point to the escaped of the Jews who have lived among the Gentiles, either the Jews who were held captive in Babylon before Cyrus brought deliverance or maybe even the Jews who will be brought back into Canaan to enjoy the Millennium. For sure, the Jews have seen, for short seasons of time during their storied past, that no *idol* can save in time of need. The Hebrew people learned this lesson while in Babylon; for it was God's man Cyrus who brought about their deliverance—not any of the worthless idols of the Babylonian Empire. Idolatry ceased within Israel after her return from Babylon but has appeared off and on since those days. It will continue to adversely affect the nation until all the Jews on the earth at the end of the Tribulation submit to Christ and call Him back (read the notes associated with Isaiah 40:12 for more input).

*Is. 45:21 "Declare and set forth your case; Indeed, let them consult together. Who has announced this from of old? Who has long since declared it? Is it not I, the Lord? And there is no other God besides Me, A righteous God and a Savior; There is none except Me.*

Tying verse 20 into verse 21, the Jews who have escaped will be able to testify with great boldness that God alone is capable of predicting the future and bringing His word to pass.

Therefore, He is *righteous*, the only true *God and...Savior* of the nation.

*Is. 45:22 "Turn to Me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other.*

Jehovah now addresses the Gentiles and asks that they *Turn to Him and be saved*. Why shouldn't they if no other *God* exists?

*Is. 45:23 "I have sworn by Myself, The word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness And will not turn back, That to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance.*

If the Gentiles do not repent and *bow* to God in faith, they will be required to *bow* to Him in judgment. Can you imagine all the unredeemed of all time bowing before the Creator? It will happen, verified by Paul in Philippians 2:10.

*Is. 45:24 "They will say of Me, 'Only in the Lord are righteousness and strength.' Men will come to Him, And all who were angry at Him shall be put to shame.*

The unredeemed will eventually *be put to shame* in the presence of the Lord. They will say, "*Only in the Lord are righteousness and strength.*" How humiliating!

*Is. 45:25 "In the Lord all the offspring of Israel Will be justified, and will glory."*

Isaiah is not teaching that every Jew who has ever lived *Will be justified* (be spiritually redeemed); for Paul refutes this idea in Romans 9:6. He is making reference to the same thing that Paul addresses in Romans 11:26, "*and thus all Israel will be saved*"; for at the end of the Tribulation, every Jew on the earth (at that time) will accept Christ as Messiah and be spiritually regenerated in preparation for the Millennium.