

<p><i>Fear Not, for I Am with You</i></p> <p>1“Listen to Me in silence, you coastlands, And let the peoples gain new strength; Let them come forward, then let them speak; Let’s come together for judgment.</p>	<p>Lit. Keep silence before me coastlands..</p>
<p>2“Who has stirred one from the east Whom He calls in righteousness (צִדִּיק) to His feet? He turns nations over to him And subdues kings. He makes them like dust with his sword, Like the wind-driven chaff with his bow. 3“He pursues them, passing on in safety, By a way he had not been traversing with his feet.</p>	<p>Cyrus the Great (559-530), Isa 44:28, 45:1 (about 150 years later) The righteous God calls Cyrus to His feet – Cyrus is God’s servant. Cyrus is pictured as a ‘type of’ Messiah.</p> <p>The expansion of the Medo-Persian empire.</p>
<p>4“Who has performed and accomplished <i>it</i>, Summoning the generations from the beginning? I, the LORD, אֲנִי יְהוָה am the first (rishon) ראשון, and with the last אַחֲרָיִם (acharon). I am He.” (Ani hu)</p>	
<p>5The coastlands have seen and are afraid; The ends of the earth tremble; They have approached and have come. 6Each one helps his neighbor And says to his brother, “Be strong!” 7So the craftsman encourages the smelter, <i>And he who smooths metal with the hammer encourages him who beats the anvil,</i> Saying of the soldering, “It is good”; And he fastens it with nails, <i>So that it will not totter.</i></p>	<p>The nations tremble at the advance of Cyrus. They try to encourage each other while their hearts melt like wax.</p>
<p>8“But you, Israel, My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, Descendant of Abraham My friend, 9You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth And called from its remotest parts, And said to you, ‘You are My servant,</p>	<p>Look at this love letter from God to Israel. Gen 12:1-3 Israel the servant: Isa 43:1-10, 44:1-8, 45:4, 48:20 In other passages, Jesus is the servant. Acts 8:28-35 Cyrus is God’s servant. What about us, are we God’s servants?</p>

<p>I have chosen you and have not rejected you.</p>	<p>Rom 11:1</p>
<p>10 'Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will also help you, I will also uphold you with My righteous right hand.'</p>	<p>Remember God's salvation in Egypt, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, Daniel, Are we fearing today, or trusting God?</p>
<p>11 "Behold, all those who are angered at you will be shamed and dishonoured; Those who contend with you will be as nothing and will perish. 12 "You will seek those who quarrel with you, but will not find them, Those who war with you will be as nothing and non-existent.</p>	<p>The eventual outcome of Babylon, and all nations who war against Israel. Eze 38, Zech 13, Rev 19:17-21</p>
<p>13 "For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand, Who says to you, 'Do not fear, I will help you.' 14 "Do not fear, you worm Jacob, you people of Israel; I will help you," declares the LORD, "and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.</p>	<p>Redeemer – pays a price for your salvation</p>
<p>15 "Behold, I turned you into a new, sharp threshing sledge with double edges; You will thresh the mountains and pulverize them, And make the hills like chaff. 16 "You will winnow them, and the wind will carry them away, And the storm will scatter them; But you will rejoice in the LORD, You will boast in the Holy One of Israel.</p>	<p>No longer the worm... God's promise of protection for Israel.</p>
<p>17 "The poor and needy are seeking water, but there is none, And their tongues are parched with thirst. I, the LORD, will answer them Myself; As the God of Israel I will not abandon them. 18 "I will open rivers on the bare heights, And springs in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, And the dry land fountains of water. 19 "I will put the cedar in the wilderness,</p>	<p>God will bless their return from captivity to Israel. Another prophecy with double fulfilment. Also in the end-times when Israel has to flee into the desert, God will provide for them.</p>

The acacia, the myrtle, and the olive tree;
I will place the juniper in the desert,
Together with the elm tree and the cypress,
20 So that they may see and recognize,
And consider and gain insight as well,
That the hand of the LORD has done this,
And the Holy One of Israel has created it.

Now God foretells this. When it happens, they will see and gain insight that God is true.

The Futility of Idols

21 "Present your case," the LORD says.
"Bring forward your evidence,"
The King of Jacob says.
22 Let them bring them forward and declare to us what is going to take place;
As for the former events, declare what they were,
So that we may consider them and know their outcome.
Or announce to us what is coming;
23 Declare the things that are going to come afterward,
So that we may know that you are gods;
Indeed, do good or evil, that we may be afraid and fear together.
24 Behold, you are less than nothing,
And your work is less than nothing!
He who chooses you is an **abomination**.
25 "I have put one from the north into motion, and he has come;
From the rising of the sun he will call on My name;
And he will come upon rulers as upon mortar,
As the potter treads on clay."

Elijah and the prophets of Baal. 1Kings 18
Ex 20:5 "I the Lord your God am a jealous God"

Let these gods prophecy.

Where do they come from?

Where is their 'revelation'?

Prove to us that you are indeed who you say you are.

Cyrus will come from the East (Persia) and attack from the North.

In contrast to the idols, God IS telling Israel what will happen in the future and this will be proof to them that HE IS GOD.

The God of Israel is raising up his servant, a Persian king, Cyrus, in about 150 years, who will subdue kingdoms and restore Israel. He will let Israel go back to their land, help with the restoration of the temple and return all the vessels that belong to the temple that Nebuchadnezzar will be removing in the future.

Note that the Assyrians are still the empire of the day. Isaiah not only warns that the Babylonians are the actual threat – but that the M-Persian empire will come after the Babylonians.

<p>26Who has declared <i>this</i> from the beginning, that we might know? Or from former times, that we may say, "He is righteous!"? There was no one at all who declared, There was no one at all who proclaimed, There was no one at all who heard your words.</p> <p>27"Previously (rishon) I said to Zion, 'Behold, here they are.' And to Jerusalem, I will give a messenger of good news.'</p> <p>28"But when I look, there is no one, And there is no counsellor among them Who, if I ask, can give an answer.</p> <p>29"Behold, all of them are false; Their works are nothing, Their <u>cast metal images</u> are wind and emptiness.</p>	<p>Matt 23:37</p>

Application:

1. It is God who raises and destroys kingdoms – even today
2. God is not done with Israel, his servant. Because of his covenant with Abraham.
3. Those nations who turn against Israel will encounter God's judgement.
4. Do not fear, God is with us.
5. What are our idols (things that we put our trust in, that consume our time and attention)?