

ISAIAH 45

Cyrus Called by Name

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1 Thus says Yahweh to his anointed (מְשִׁיחַ), 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:¹

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,² that you may know that it is I, Yahweh, 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 Yahweh, and there is no other. Besides me there is no God. I equip you, though you do not know me, 6 that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me. I am Yahweh, and there is no other. 7 I form light and create darkness. I make well-being and create calamity. I am Yahweh who does all these things.

8 Shower, 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, Yahweh, have created it.

Woe to Those Who Ask Stupid Questions

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?

¹ Cyrus (and Darius) conquered the city of Babylon in 539 bc. **Da 5:30-31** 30 That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed. 31 And Darius the Mede [Cyrus's co-ruler] received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.

² Yahweh will allow Cyrus to capture much gold and treasure from the Babylonians. Cyrus will then supply that gold and treasure to Jews who will return to Israel and rebuild the Jerusalem temple.

11 Thus says Yahweh, the Holy One of Israel, and the one who formed (יצר) 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 [Cyrus] up in righteousness, and I will make all his ways level. He shall build my city and set my exiles free, not for price or reward,³ says Yahweh of hosts.

Israel's Everlasting Salvation

14 Thus says Yahweh:

The wealth of Egypt⁴ 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, 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 Yahweh with everlasting salvation (תְּשׁוּעַת עוֹלָמִים). You shall not be put to shame or confounded to all eternity. 18 For thus says Yahweh, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty; he formed it to be inhabited!):

I am Yahweh, and there is no other. 19 I did not speak in secret, in a land of darkness. I did not say to the seed (זֶרַע) of Jacob, Seek me in vain.⁵ I, Yahweh, speak the truth. I declare what is right.⁶

20 Assemble yourselves and come. Draw near together, you survivors (פְּלִיט)⁷ 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, Yahweh? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior. There is none besides me.

³ See *The Grace of God*.

⁴ Israel will once again plunder the Egyptians, and the Egyptians will be forced to recognize again the that God of Israel is God.

⁵ Yahweh doesn't play tricks on us. He says what he means and means what he says.

⁶ See *The Truth of God*.

⁷ "[S]urvivor from danger; ...designates someone who has managed to survive a battle" (*HALOT*, 932).

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 out in righteousness a word (דְּבַר) that shall not return:

To me every knee shall bow. Every tongue shall swear allegiance.⁸

24 Only in Yahweh, it shall be said of me, are righteousness (צְדָקָה) and might (עֹז). To him shall come and be ashamed all who were incensed against him. 25 In Yahweh all⁹ the seed (זֶרַע) of Israel shall be justified (צַדִּיק)¹⁰ and shall glory (הִלֵּל).

⁸ **Php 2:9-11** 9 Therefore God has highly exalted [Jesus] and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven, on earth, and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Messiah is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

⁹ Again we see Paul's Israelology comes from Isaiah. **Ro 11:25-26** 25 Lest you [Gentile believers] be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers and sisters. A partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written, The Deliverer will come from Zion. He will banish ungodliness from Jacob.

¹⁰ "[T]o be in the right, be right" (*HALOT*, 1003).

Notes