

ISAIAH 44-45

Sunday, October 16, 2016

Ch. 44:1-23 – REDEMPTION FROM CAPTIVITY (CONTINUED)

I. GOD, THEIR ROCK (44:1-8)

II. IDOLATRY RIDICULED (44:9-20)

III. A PLEA TO REMEMBER AND RETURN (44:21-23)

Ch. 44:24 – 45:25 – CYRUS, GOD’S INSTRUMENT

I. CYRUS INTRODUCED (44:24-28)

A. 44:27 – “Who says to the deep, ‘Be dry!’”

“The reference ... is ambiguous. It may be a figure for divine power, as when Jehovah parted the Red Sea (Ex. 14:21). On the other hand, it could be a veiled allusion to the manner in which Cyrus would take Babylon by divergent the river Euphrates and the adjacent streams so that he could invade the city from beneath the city walls surrounding it” (Jackson, 72).

B. 44:28 – “Your foundation shall be laid”

“It is significant that Isaiah announces concerning the temple, and the connection of Cyrus with that edifice, that the ‘foundation shall be laid’ (v. 28). The foundation was laid in 535 BC, and it was not until about 516 BC that the temple was completed (Ezra 6:14). How minutely accurate Isaiah’s prophecy was with reference to Cyrus’ connection with the temple! Truly stunning” (Jackson, 73).

II. GOD SPEAKS TO CYRUS (45:1-8)

A. 44:3 – “That you may know that I, the LORD, Who call you by your name,
Am the God of Israel”

“Josephus declares that Cyrus was influenced to release the Jews from captivity due to the fact that he saw this prediction, containing his name, in the book of Isaiah (*Antiquities of the Jews*, 11.1.2)” (Jackson, 73).

III. OPPOSITION REBUKED (45:9-13)

IV. DIVINE PURPOSE INCLUDES ALL NATIONS (45:14-25)

Concluding Observations:

1. Isaiah 45:18 was used by JW’s at my door to argue that heaven will be on earth. How would you answer them?
2. Does Isaiah 45:25 apply to us? How?