

The King of Jacob

Isa 41:21-29²¹ "Present your case," says the Lord. "Bring forth your strong reasons," says the King of Jacob. ²² "Let them bring forth and show us what will happen; let them show the former things, what they were, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare to us things to come. ²³ Show the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that you are gods; yes, do good or do evil that we may be dismayed and see it together. ²⁴ Indeed you are nothing and your work is nothing; he who chooses you is an abomination. ²⁵ "I have raised up one from the north, and he shall come; from the rising of the sun he shall call on My name; and he shall come against princes as though mortar, as the potter treads clay. ²⁶ Who has declared from the beginning, that we may know? And former times, that we may say, 'He is righteous'? Surely, there is no one who shows, surely there is no one who declares, surely there is no one who hears your words. ²⁷ The first time I said to Zion, 'Look, there they are!' And I will give to Jerusalem one who brings good tidings. ²⁸ For I looked, and there was no man; I looked among them, but there was no counselor, who, when I asked of them, could answer a word. ²⁹ Indeed they are all worthless; their works are nothing; their molded images are wind and confusion.

As we noted last Lord's Day, God in this passage is bringing a charge against the idolater. God is acting as both Judge and litigant. As litigant He is bring a charge against the Idolater, as Judge he will pronounce the final verdict. In this second half of the chapter, He will challenge the idolaters to bring forth their best case. He challenges them to show their proof that their gods are indeed gods, that is, that they exist and have power to show forth their abilities and authority. Finally, God will decree His verdict upon them. Also, I believe there is something important to take note of where God calls Himself the "King of Jacob". I desire to search that out more fully in the second half of our message this morning.

A. God's challenge to the idolaters

1. Present your case, your best argument
 - a. Show things that are yet future
 - b. When they come to pass we will know of your knowledge and ability to bring your purpose to pass
 - c. Even give us history of things that are ancient
2. These are the marvels of Holy Scripture
 - a. Moses wrote about ancient history years after the events took place
 - b. The Bible is filled with prophecies of future events that came to pass in perfect detail
3. God is simply say, you with the aid of your gods write what happened in history and tell of events yet future
 - a. The mythologies of pagan religions are foolish and senseless
 - b. Literally unbelievable
4. The God proclaims that He will raise up one from the north who would acknowledge the God of Israel

Ezra 1:1-4 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the Lord God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel (He is God), which is in Jerusalem.

- a. He did conquer kingdom after kingdom
 - b. He is call just here, it is true he never enslaved those he conquered but liberated them
 - c. The very one who restored the Jews to Israel
 - d. Known by those whom he conquered as a great law maker
5. Who has declared from the beginning that we may know that you exist?
 - a. Did any of them foretell of Cyrus?
 - b. Did any of them name Cyrus 150 years before his birth?

Isa 44:27 Who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd, and he shall perform all My pleasure, saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," and to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid."'

Jer 29:10 For thus says the Lord: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.

6. Then God, as Judge, renders His judgment, "*Indeed you are nothing and your work is nothing; he who chooses you is an abomination*". (cf. Ps. 115:3-8)
 - a. The gods of this world do not exist
 - b. The servants of such gods are an abomination, that which is detestable to God
 - c. They are nothing less than nothing
7. This also applies to the vain philosophers and scientists in our present age

- a. We may not deal with idolatry in America but we do deal with those who pretend to have a wisdom that mocks the God of Scripture
 - b. But we do have those who proclaim that all things came from nothing and they are not far from being idolaters
 - c. It is in a very real sense it is idolatry, for their god is still a god of their own making
- B. The One speaking here is none other than “the King of Jacob”
- 1. The church is a Theocracy
 - a. It is not a democracy, not a people ruled by an earthly king, nor is it headed by one who would call himself the “vicar of Christ”.
 - b. For, there is no other head of the church but our Lord Jesus Christ (cf. Eph. 1:21-23)
 - 2. We need a bit of history here
 - a. Remind you that there was a time when Israel rejected God as their king
 - b. When Samuel was judge they informed him that wanted a king so they could be like the nations of this world
 - c. Samuel was quite upset, until God pointed out to him **for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them**. 1 Sam 8:8
 - d. So God did give them a “Regent”, that is, someone who rules in the place of the King
 - e. Isaiah is prophesying here that they are coming to a time when the earthly regency is coming to an end
 - 3. Some struggle with the fact that the earthly throne is coming to an end, how then are we to understand the words, of Gen. 49:10 - The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes.
 - a. This has been understood to mean that a king would reign upon David’s throne until the Messiah would come rather we should read, “The scepter shall not cease until that one comes to whom it belongs”
 - b. Jacob here is saying that a King will come from Judah’s line to whom this scepter NOW belongs, to whom the scepter always will belong
 - c. The prophecy here is not about an earthly king that will always reign on an earthly throne, (David’s throne)
 - d. Rather Jacob pronouncement is that of Judah’s lineage a King will be born, One who is presently the King, has always been the King and will always be the King of kings
 - e. And He was indeed that King who was born in Bethlehem.
 - 4. Oh I know the earthly descendants of Jacob rejected Him as their King and I know men can refuse to serve Jesus Christ as King but they cannot remove Him from His throne
 - 5. They can even crucify Him, place Him in a tomb, but they cannot keep Him in the tomb

Acts 2:23-24 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

- 6. Men cannot remove Him from His throne
- 7. Thus it is Christ, the King of Jacob who is declaring this judgment to Isaiah

Conclusion: **We must always keep in mind the true design of the Holy Spirit**

This being the message of the Old Testament it must always be expounded clearly and plainly

Since God determined that thru the tribe of Judah that King would come He proclaimed that He would preserve and keep that bloodline until Shiloh comes - the one to whom the rule truly belongs will come

That bloodline did indeed continue until that night when it was fulfilled and there was born in the City of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord

It was indeed true when Pilate nailed this word to the cross - Jesus, the King of the Jews

It is this Jesus whom they crucified but God raised Him from the dead

And it is this Jesus who is this day King of kings and Lord of lords

And He will be King on that day when *“at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”*. Phil 2:10-11