

God Alone is the only Potentate – King of kings and Lord of Lords

Isa 44:24-45:7 *Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, and He who formed you from the womb: "I am the Lord, who makes all things, Who alone stretches out the heavens, Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself; Who frustrates the signs of the babblers, and drives diviners mad; Who turns wise men backward, and makes their knowledge foolishness; Who confirms the word of His servant, and performs the counsel of His messengers; Who says to Jerusalem, 'You shall be inhabited,' to the cities of Judah, 'You shall be built,' and I will raise up her waste places; Who says to the deep, 'Be dry! and I will dry up your rivers'; 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." Thus says the Lord to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held — To subdue nations before him and loose the armor of kings, to open before him the double doors, so that the gates will not be shut: 'I will go before you and make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze and cut the bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places that you may know that I, the Lord, who call you by your name, am the God of Israel. For Jacob My servant's sake, and Israel My elect, I have even called you by your name; I have named you, though you have not known Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other; there is no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me, that they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting that there is none besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other; I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the Lord, do all these things.'*

When you leave here this morning, I want your hearts to burn within you. I want you to leave saying, yes, that is the God whom I serve. That is the God who redeemed me. The God we served, the God I serve, is the God of wisdom and of majesty, glory and power and might and all authority. This is the God who chose me to be His own, who loved me and sent His only begotten Son to redeem me, who loved me and gave Himself to redeem me from the wrath of God and has granted me an eternal and glorious hope.

A. God's self identification - He does this by the following proclamations: - *Thus says the Lord your Redeemer*

1. Your Redeemer – the one who has paid in full your price of redemption
2. The One who brought Israel into existence - *He who formed you from the womb*
3. The Creator of all things, the heavens and the earth - who stretched out the heavens
4. The Sovereign Ruler who drives diviners mad by thwarting their foolish predictions
5. The One who makes the knowledge of the wise man but foolishness

1 Cor 1:19 For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent."

6. In contrast He confirms the word of His servant, and performs the counsel of His messengers
 - a. For He is the Sovereign God who determines future events that shall come to pass
 - (1) Says to Jerusalem – you shall be built
 - (2) Says to Cyrus – you shall do my bidding
 - b. Who decrees whatsoever shall come to pass –

B. God's proclamations:

1. Proclaims Cyrus the King of Assyria will be His servant – anointed, that is, chosen or commissioned one
2. Proclaims that He will subdue nations and kings before Cyrus - *To subdue nations before him and loose the armor of kings*
3. Proclaims that the gates and walled cities will fall before him
4. Without question even secular historians state that Cyrus and the Persian empire became one of the greatest empires in the history of man
5. The God you serve – rules over all the affairs of men
6. What is the title given our Redeemer? – King of kings and Lord of lords

*1 Tim 6:15-16 He who is the blessed and **only Potentate**, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.*

C. The Purpose

1. God never does anything by accident or as an afterthought

Acts 15:18 *Known to God from eternity are all His works.*

2. The first reason is that Cyrus MUST recognize that the God of Israel is truly God - *that you may know that I, the Lord who called you by your name, am the God of Israel*
 - a. It is to be noted that Cyrus did acknowledge that the God of Israel did make him ruler over the kingdoms of the earth
 - b. Here is the declaration written by Cyrus himself

Ezra 1:2-3 Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the Lord God of heaven has given me. 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.

- c. This does not speak of the conversion of Cyrus
 - d. But it does speak of the fact that Cyrus did recognize that the God who called him by name was the God of Israel is truly God and that He was the true God
3. **Second reason** is that God did this for Israel's sake - *For Jacob My servant's sake, and Israel My elect, I have even called you by your name;*
 - a. Giving to him a title that distinguished him from other rulers by giving to him titles of honor such as *anointed* and *shepherd* was not for the sake of Cyrus or for his glory but to the glory of God and the good of God's elect
 - b. This assures us that all things are purposed for the glory of God and the good of God's elect
 4. **The third reason** for the work of Cyrus is that all men may know that there is no god beside Yahweh.
 - a. The world, rulers and all men alike had to acknowledge that there is no other God like the God of Israel - *that they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting that there is none besides Me*
 - b. Through the spread of the gospel this truth is known throughout the whole world, indeed all men know that there is no other God like the God of Israel
 - c. Yet Cyrus and men continued to serve their gods, this tells us of the hardness of men's hearts – when they know God they will not glorify Him as God – (cf. Rom 1:21)
 - d. This speaks of the necessity of electing grace and answers the question “what makes us to differ?”

1 Cor 4:7 For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

CONCLUSION: I am the Lord, and there is no other; I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the Lord, do all these things.

He creates light – open our eyes and granted us faith

He hardens the hearts of others lest they would believe

John quotes Isaiah where he wrote, *"He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, lest they should see with their eyes, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them."* (John 12:40)

I make peace - as our Mediator He has made peace between us and God – for Jew and Gentile alike

Eph 2:15-17 thus making peace, that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

He also creates calamity – that is, He will stand as the eternal judge bringing judgment upon all the ungodly on that great day

From all this we learn that He alone is the God who is – the eternal – The One whose name is "I AM WHO I AM." (Ex 3:14)

And most glorious of all – this majestic, Most High, Almighty God loved you and redeemed you from all your sins

Thus we of all people upon the earth now look “. . . for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. (Titus 2:13-14)