

In this passage God once again reveals to the nation that they will be carried away into captivity by Cyrus but assures them that this is His purpose and His plan and that it is for their good. But this morning I am not going to dwell on that but I want you to see how in this passage God gives to us His Gospel, here in the Old Testament. Once again we shall see that throughout Isaiah we see Christ, His Church and His Gospel clearly revealed.

A. The source of salvation, let the heavens rain down – v 8 *Rain down, you heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness*

1. Not the physical heaven, but a beautiful picture describing God as the source of our salvation
2. For, it is only from God's throne alone that righteousness can be realized by sinful men

*James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights*

3. Let the earth open and let salvation and righteousness spring forth

*James 1:18 Of His own will He **brought us forth by the word of truth**, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.*

- a. The Word of God which comes down to us from God brings forth faith (**Scripture alone**)

*Rom 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing **by the word of God**.*

- b. Then, it is God who works that faith in us through the word
4. It is true men respond by saying it is not fair if I cannot come to faith on my own
  - a. God responds, "woe to that piece of clay that strives with it's maker
  - b. Shall the pot respond to the potter who shapes it?

*Rom 9:20-21 But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?" Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?*

5. One of the very first aspects of true faith is a response of submission to God in all things - Isa 45:15 Truly You are God, who hide Yourself, O God of Israel, the Savior!
  - a. There may be times when it appears that God is not present in our circumstance (see Ps. 44:24-25)
  - b. That is we may not always understand why He allows certain things in our lives
  - c. Even the believing Jews may have wondered why they were being carried away into captivity
  - d. Joseph may well have wondered why the things that happened, happened as they did
  - e. In time it became apparent – You (his brothers) meant it for evil, God meant it for good for the saving of His elect from famine (cf. Gen. 50:20)
6. Indeed that all things work together for the good of our eternal salvation

B. Let's let God respond for Himself

*Isa 45:18-19 For thus says the Lord, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the Lord, and there is no other. I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth; I did not say to the seed of Jacob, 'Seek Me in vain'; I, the Lord, speak righteousness, I declare things that are right."*

1. God, as the Creator, is the Sovereign Lord over all
  - a. Of all planets in the universe He created the earth alone to be inhabited
  - b. God is saying here I know what I am doing and I know what is right
2. I have revealed what is necessary in a book of revelation to men - *I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth*
  - a. I have not said to Jacob, "Seek Me in vain".
  - b. *I, the Lord, speak righteousness, I declare things that are right."*

*Deut 29:2 "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

3. The problem is not with God's revelation
  - a. The problem lies with men who refuse to acknowledge His revelation
  - b. The problem lies with men who will not submit to His reveal Truth – ie. His law, His rightful authority

*Isa 45:21 Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the Lord? And there is no other God besides Me, a just God and a Savior; there is none besides Me.*

4. Who gave us the Book of Genesis?
  - a. Who has told us how all things have come into existence?
  - b. Why does our nation spend billions of dollars in space exploration? To find out how all things came into being, to find out how life came to exist.
5. Bring forth your case – the more modern science searches, the more evidence they find that there is without question an eternal, self-existing, self-sufficient, all powerful, all wise, Intelligent Designer.
6. The final conclusion: *"The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." (Ps 14:1)*

#### C. The great hope God has revealed

*Isa 45:22-25 "Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other."*

1. Throughout the Book of Isaiah God has proclaimed His salvation for lost sinners
  - a. A virgin born Son of God shall be born
  - b. God shall come to redeem lost mankind, His name is Emmanuel
  - c. He will offer Himself as and atoning sacrifice for the covering of the sin of His people
  - d. God will lay on Him the iniquity of us all
2. God graciously calls to mankind, *"Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth!"*
  - a. Salvation will be offered to all men, Jew and Gentile alike
  - b. This Gospel message shall go forth to the ends of the earth
  - c. The great commission of our Lord is clear – God into all the world and preach the gospel
3. God solemnly warns all mankind

*I have sworn by Myself; the word has go out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that to Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath.*

- a. A great day of judgment is before all men
- b. On that day every knee shall bow before our Lord Jesus Christ
- c. All men on that day will acknowledge Jesus

CONCLUSION: Important that the message of the church makes it clear that it is in God alone that one can find assurance and salvation

*He shall say, surely in the Lord I have righteousness and strength. To Him men shall come, and all shall be ashamed who are incensed against Him. In the Lord all the descendants of Israel shall be justified, and shall glory."*

Our witness this morning – In the Lord I have righteousness and strength

Note "In" the Lord, not just by or through but "in"

The Lord Himself is our righteousness

Our warning – if you reject this Redeemer you shall on that great day know only shame

Our Comfort - *In the Lord all the descendants of Israel shall be justified, and shall glory*