

Isaiah 44–45

Lesson 18

Isaiah 44–45: “There Is No Other”

(44:8; 45:5–6, 14, 18, 21)

Some Biting (Sardonic) Humor

Isaiah 44:14–20

God vs. Idols

God

- A Rock (44:8)
- Speaks righteousness, declares what is right (45:19)
- Maker of all things (44:24; see one application in 45:9–10)
- Saves, redeems, blots out sin (44:22; 45:17)

Idols

- A block of wood (44:19)
- A lie (44:20)
- Made by man (44:9–20)
- Cannot save (45:20)

God vs. Idols

God

- Declares future (44:7–8)
- Blesses people—with His Spirit, righteousness, peace, strength, everlasting salvation (44:1–5; 45:24–25)
- Worshipers **will not** be ashamed and disgraced (45:17)

Idols

- Neither see nor know (44:9)
- Profit no one (44:9–10)
- Worshipers **will** be brought to shame and disgrace (45:16)

The Appeal:

- Return to Me, for I have redeemed you” (44:22).
- “Look to **Me** and be saved, all you ends of the earth!
For I am **God**, and there is **no other**” (45:22).

“I have even called you by your name; I have named you, though you have not known me” (45:4).

Cyrus (41:2–4, 25; 44:28; 45:1, 13)

2 Chronicles 36:32–33; Ezra 1:1–4; 3:7

Blessings for your descendants or “seed”

- 44:3–5; 45:22–25
- Genesis 22:18: “In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed...”
- “Now the Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He does not say, ‘And to seeds,’ as of many, but as of one, ‘And to your seed,’ who is Christ” (Gal. 3:16).
- “And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Gal. 3:29).

Idols of the Enlightened

- The #1 idol we serve today?
 - “They are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly...” (Phil. 3:18–19).
 - “For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:21).
 - “Note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly...” (Rom. 16:17–18).

Idols of the Enlightened

- Can hobbies/recreation become an idol?
 - How can we tell when they've reached that status?
 - “lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God”
(2 Timothy 3:4).

Idols of the Enlightened

- What about money/things/possessions?
 - “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth...covetousness, which is idolatry” (Col. 3:5).
 - Problem for the rich fool (Luke 12:15–21); and the rich man (Luke 16:19–31).
 - When is someone covetous?

Idols of the Enlightened

- Is it possible to idolize individuals? (entertainers, politicians, preachers, coaches, etc.)
 - How do we know when we've esteemed them too highly?