

ISAIAH 44

Lesson 34: "The Solitary God Ridicules Idolaters and Raises Up Cyrus"¹

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KEY POINTS

- ✓ Israel, I am your God, I chose you, so stop worshipping man-made objects.
- ✓ Idols can't predict the future, they're just pieces of wood and plaster.
- ✓ I God am your Redeemer and I will restore you.

SUMMARY OUTLINE

I. GOD PROMISES TO POUR OUT HIS SPIRIT AND CREATE HIS CHILDREN (44:1-5).

- A. God chose you Israel and made you (44:1,2).
- B. God formed you Israel, and loved you (44:2).
- C. God will pour out his Spirit on your offspring and bless them (44:3-4).
- D. Your offspring will in turn honor God (44:5)

II. GOD ALONE CAN EXPLAIN THE PAST AND PREDICT THE FUTURE (44:6-8).

- A. I am the only God, there is no other (44:6, 8b).
- B. Can anyone, or anything else, predict the future like me? (44:7-8a)

III. GOD RIDICULES IDOL MAKERS (44:9-20).

- A. Even those people who make idols are wasting their time, and those who defend these idol makers are blind spiritually and ignorant of who God is (44:9-11).
- B. Mere humans cannot produce deities. They even throw these idols in the fire to keep warm, or to cook their meals (44:12-16).
- C. Idols cannot save you (44:17).
- D. The idols they make are only plaster, they are not alive (44:18).

¹ Outline adapted from "Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Isaiah," by Andrew Davis.

- E. Think about it, isn't the act of worshipping pieces of plaster and wood ridiculous to you? (44:19-20)

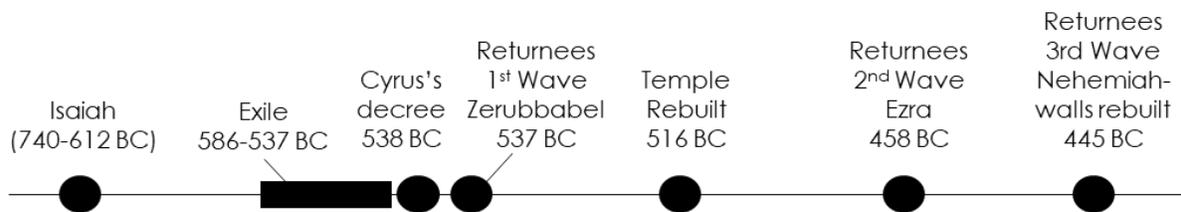
IV. GOD HAS SWEPT AWAY OUR SINS LIKE A MIST, SO REJOICE (44:21-23).

- A. God has already made plans to redeem (buy back from slavery to sin) those who return to him/repent (44:21-22; cf. Isa. 59:20).
- B. As a result of this redemption, all creation will be liberated from its decaying bondage, and its groaning for freedom, and will break forth into joyful celebration (44:23).

V. GOD RAISES UP CYRUS TO REBUILD JERUSALEM (44:24-28).

- A. God (not idols) created his own nation (44:24a).
- B. God (not idols) created the cosmos (44:24b).
- C. God (not idols) trips up false prophets (44:25).
- D. God (not idols) honors his own true prophets with predictions that come true (44:26-27).
- E. God directed the Persian king to allow the Jews to return to Jerusalem so it could be rebuilt. God even revealed the king's name (Cyrus) over 100 years before he was born. Idols cannot do these spectacular things (44:28).

TIMELINE



APPLICATION

Action: Ask God to make you aware of anything that has taken his rightful place in your life.