

ISAIAH 45

Lesson 35: "The Temporary Empire of Cyrus Serves the Eternal Empire of Christ"¹

Mike Taylor

www.MondayNightBible.Org

KEY POINTS

- ✓ God clearly demonstrates his sovereignty by naming and empowering Cyrus the Persian king over 100 years before he was born.
- ✓ God will use Cyrus to restore his people from Babylon so they can return to Jerusalem and rebuild its temple.
- ✓ Eternal salvation comes only through the living God, not through idol worshipping.

SUMMARY OUTLINE

I. GOD GRANTS CYRUS AN EMPIRE FOR THE SALVATION OF HIS ELECT (45:1-8)

- A. God will empower Cyrus the Persian king, to become very powerful and so rich that he will eventually know that it is accomplished by Israel's God (45:1-3).
- B. God will do this for the sake of his people, Israel (45:4).
- C. God called Cyrus by name even when Cyrus did not know him (45:5).
- D. All this is done so the whole world will know there is no other God (45:6-8)

II. GOD REBUKES ARROGANT HUMAN QUESTIONING OF HIS PLANS (45:9-13)

- A. It is foolish to argue with God the Creator when his plans don't make sense to mere humans (45:9-11).
- B. God will guide Cyrus so that he frees his people and restores his city, Jerusalem (45:13).
[Note: Cyrus will also decree to have the temple in Jerusalem rebuilt at his expense, Ezra 6:3-5].

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

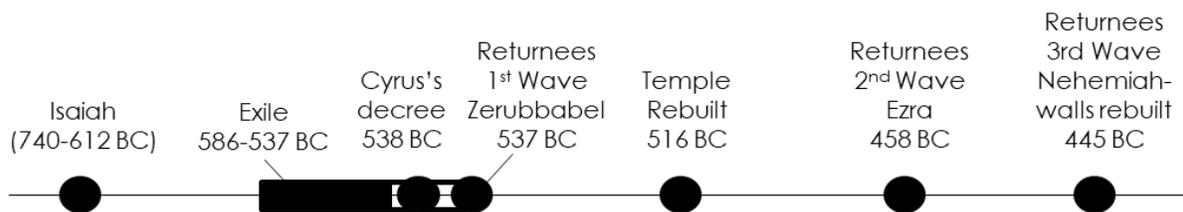
IV. GOD'S MYSTERIOUS PLANS FOR GENTILE SALVATION (45:14-17)

- A. Not only will God restore his people to their homeland, he will also bring the wealth of the Gentile nations, Egyptians, Ethiopians and Sabeans, to them (45:14a). Note: this wealth will be used to rebuild the temple and the city of Jerusalem (Isa. 60:7-14).
- B. Even as Israel was led away in the captivity of a forced relocation, so one day Israel will be supreme among the nations and lead them as they and the LORD please. (45:14b)
- C. These Gentile nations will also acknowledge the God of Israel as being the only God. The "hiddenness" of God is in the secret councils of his eternal plan (45:15-17).

V. GOD'S GOSPEL CALL TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH: TURN TO CHRIST (45:18-25)

- A. By sheer repetition, Isaiah virtually pounds it into our awareness – that God is our Creator, and we have obligations to Him as our Creator (45:18-19).
- B. As the LORD declares His own greatness, faithfulness, and saving power, it naturally contrasts with the foolish idols of the nation – which must be carried, instead of being able to carry the one who worships them! (45:20-21).
- C. This simple but powerful statement shows the plan of salvation (45:22).
- D. When God confirms an oath, who does He swear by (be accountable to)? He swears by Himself. There is no one greater, so He swears by His own holy name and character (45:23-25).

TIMELINE



APPLICATION

Just as God clearly demonstrated his Sovereignty through the fulfilled prophecy of Cyrus, we are to trust him completely even when we don't understand his ways (Isa 55:8-9).