

ISAIAH 44

- Isaiah for a
- Isaiah
- sin...
- Isaiah
- Israel
- The
 - Israel they
 - It EASY the
 - But let
 - They Jacob Israel
 - FIRE
 - They they
- Ends of
 - Israel
 - still

- Outline...
 - 40-48 - Comfort: people CAPTIVE in Babylon...
 - 49-55 - Redemption: for a people CAPTIVE to
 - 56-66 - Restoration: of and the world Redeemer... had MISSED why had been conquered by Babylon... would have been for them to think LORD had ABANDONED them... they were NOT to [jussive] themselves be AFRAID – God had REDEEMED them... were NO longer [liar] – they were [His people]
 - Though they would walk through DEEP waters and the [trials] would NOT be overwhelmed – would NOT be BURNED! the Earth... was NOT to let [jussive] themselves be AFRAID - God was with them...

- Although they had been SCATTERED [diaspora] because of their SIN – **II Kings 17:18**
- God would NOT leave them DISPERSED – He would call them BACK...
- He would bring them back from EVERY corner of the earth [rebirth of Israel]
- Then even the BLIND nations would see that the LORD was God...
- That He was the ONLY God – and there was NONE before or after Him!
- **1st – THE CHOICE... vs. 1-5**
 - 1st – Fear Not... vs. 1-2
 - Listen... vs. 1
 - Yet hear now O Jacob My servant - and Israel whom I have chosen!
 - Although God had promised to bring His people out of BABYLON...
 - Yet Jacob did NOT call [perfect] on the LORD - **Isaiah 43:22**
 - Instead they had BURDENED [perfect] the LORD with their SINS...
 - Yet NOW [וְעַתָּה] - the LORD commanded them to LISTEN [שָׁמַע]
 - Jacob [rebellious] who was His SERVANT [servants must listen to their masters]
 - God CHOSE [perfect] him to be Israel [ruled by God] - so He was giving them another chance!
 - If we had an employee who will NOT listen to INSTRUCTIONS...
 - Chances are we will FIRE them right there on the SPOT...
 - But if we LOVE them [chose them] - we will likely give them another chance!
 - Help... vs. 2
 - Thus says the LORD who made you and formed you from the womb - who will help you:
 - Fear not O Jacob My servant - and you Jeshurun whom I have chosen!
 - This is what the LORD said who MADE [עָשָׂה] Jacob His [rebellious] servant...
 - The God who FORMED [יָצַר] him from the WOMB [guiding him from the day he was born]
 - And the LORD who would continue [imperfect] to HELP him...
 - Therefore he had NO reason [jussive] to be AFRAID [תִּירָא]
 - God would make sure His CHOSEN - would be JESHURUN [walk right]!
 - When we are REBELLIOUS and insist on going our own WAY...
 - The Lord does NOT reject us - He keeps reaching out to us...
 - Because He has CHOSEN us - He gives us GRACE...
 - He reminds us that we are His SERVANT - we need to LISTEN...
 - But we do NOT need to worry - He is working to help us walk RIGHT [יִשְׁרֹן]!
 - 2nd – Blessed... vs. 3-5
 - The Spirit... vs. 3-4
 - For I will pour water on him who is thirsty and floods on the dry ground.
 - I will pour My Spirit on your descendants and My blessing on your offspring.
 - They will spring up among the grass - like willows by the watercourses!
 - The way the LORD would make Jacob into JESHURUN [walk right]
 - Was by pouring out WATER upon the THIRSTY...
 - Not just a little WATER - He would pour out FLOODS on the DRY ground...
 - NOT physical water - He was talking about His Holy SPIRIT [רוּחַ]
 - The LORD would pour Him out upon their SEED [decedents]
 - His SPIRIT would bring BLESSINGS [בְּרָכָה] to their CHILDREN [salvation] - **Joel 2:28**
 - So they would THRIVE like a WILLOW by the RIVERS of water!
 - When the Holy Spirit was poured out on the 120 in the Upper Room - **Acts 2:1**
 - He TRANSFORMED fishermen - and ordinary SINNERS...

- Into EXTRAORDINARY men and women that God used to turn the world around!
- The illustration of THIRST is common within the Bible...
- In the same way our body THIRSTS for water - our spirit THIRSTS for the Lord...
- If we are DRY spiritually - if it feels like we are missing the BLESSING...
- All we have to do is LISTEN to the LORD - and He will pour out His SPIRIT on us - **Luke 11:13**
- When He does it will TRANSFORM our lives – we will go from Jacob to JESHURUN!
- **Psalm 1:3** - " [We] shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water... and whatever [we do] shall prosper."

▪ Their Name... vs. 5

- One will say: I am the LORDs. Another will call himself by the name of Jacob.
- Another will write with his hand: The LORDs - and name himself by the name of Israel!
- Some will then say [imperfect] they belong to the LORD...
- There will be others who still want to be CALLED by Jacob [rebellious]
- But the rest will write the LORD on their hand - and be titled [piel] Israel!
- Paul would go on to say that NOT all from Israel - are Israel - **Romans 9:6**
- Not every Jew will be saved - there are some who are still Jacob...
- But for those who receive the LIVING water [Spirit] - they mark themselves for the LORD!
- God is always working to try and get our attention...
- He wants to pour His SPIRIT out on us - TRANSFORM our lives...
- He wants our identity to be ISRAEL - the people who belong to God...
- But it is a CHOICE - we must decide who MARKS our lives!

● 2ND – THE LORD... vs. 6-8

○ 1st – First and Last... vs. 6

▪ Their King...

- Thus says the LORD the King of Israel!
- To help the people see why they should LISTEN to the LORD...
- Why they should be JESHURUN and NOT Jacob [rebellious]
- God gave them the TWO options of WHO they could put their TRUST in...
- FRIST – they were given the identity of the LORD
- The LORD is the KING [מֶלֶךְ] over Israel [ruled by God]!
- This was an IMPORTANT – because Israel NO longer had a KING...
- The last king of Israel before the Babylonian captivity was Zedekiah...
- Then the line of kings was CURSED [curse of Jehoachin] - **Jeremiah 22:30**

▪ Their Redeemer...

- And his Redeemer the LORD of hosts!
- I am the First and I am the Last - besides Me there is no God!
- The LORD is the REDEEMER of Israel - the LORD of Hosts [צְבָאוֹת]
- But this is where it gets interesting – He ties another title to His REDEMPTION [גְּאֹל]
- He is the FIRST and the LAST – and other than Him there are NO [אֲיִן] gods [אֱלֹהִים]
- Who is the REDEEMER – who is the LORD who saves – Jesus [יְהוֹשֻׁעַ]!
- When Jesus appeared to John on the island of Patmos...
- He gave Himself the title – I am the FIRST and the LAST!
- **Revelation 1:18** – “I am He who lives - and was dead - and behold I am alive forevermore.”
- There can be NO doubt – the Old Testament is VERY clear...
- The LORD [יְהוָה] - the ONE and ONLY God - is FIRST and the LAST...
- Yet when did the LORD [יְהוָה] die – and then come back to life...

- This is one of the most powerful proof texts in the Bible for the DEITY of Jesus...

- There are THREE persons – but only ONE God – **I John 5:7**

- 2nd – Only God... vs. 7-8

- The Evidence... vs. 7

- And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me.
- Since I appointed the ancient people - and the things that are coming and shall come.
- Let them show these to them!
- WHO else can do what God has done...
- God who established Israel thousands of years earlier [ancient people] – **Genesis 12:2**
- And was able to tell them [imperfect] what the FUTURE held...
- If there is someone else who can do this - let them bring their EVIDENCE [hiphil]
- Let them show it [hiphil] – before the LORD [לִי] – and to Israel [לְמִן]!
- **Isaiah 46:9-10** – “I am God and there is no other. I am God and there is none like Me - Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things that are not yet done!”
- God gave us prophecy NOT because He wanted us to know the FUTURE...
- But so that when the FUTURE comes – we see God knew in advance...
- Because ONLY the Lord is outside of time – ONLY he sees the end from the beginning...
- The prophecies in the Bible are His FINGERPRINT proving He alone is God!

- The Rock... vs. 8

- Do not fear nor be afraid. Have I not told you from that time and declared it?
- You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me?
- Indeed there is no other Rock. I know not one!
- Therefore – there was NO reason [jussive] for Israel to let themselves TREMBLE [תִּפְתָּדוּ]
- There was NO reason [jussive] to let themselves be AFRAID [only here OT]
- Because the LORD had [perfect] made them LISTEN [שָׁמַע]
- Israel was His WITNESS that there was NO God like Him...
- There is NO [אֵין] Rock [צֹר] like God – the LORD does NOT know [יָדַע] of anyone!
- When Jesus taught the Sermon on the Mount...
- He concluded by saying those who LISTEN and DO what His Word says...
- He will liken them to a man who builds his house upon a ROCK – **Matthew 7:24**
- There is NO God like the Lord – because He knows the END from the BEGINNING...
- Therefore when we listen to and obey His WORD – we stand upon a SOLID foundation...
- We do NOT have to FEAR what will happen – TREMBLE at the FUTURE...
- Because we have put our TRUST in the God who knows what the FUTURE holds!

- 3rd – THE LIE... vs. 9-20

- 1st – Worthless... vs. 9

- No Profit...

- Those who make an image - all of them are useless and their precious things shall not profit!
- SECOND – men can put their TRUST in IDOLS...
- Unlike the God who formed [יָצַר] us – and is a ROCK because He knows EVERYTHING...
- Those who make [יָצַר] an IDOL [image] – those people are ALL [כָּל] useless [תִּהְיוּ]
- Because the things people DESIRE [תִּשְׁמְדוּ] will NOT be able to HELP them!
- When we think of IDOLS – we tend to imagine STATUES...
- But an IDOL is anything that we put our TRUST in other than the LORD...
- Things that we DESIRE [תִּשְׁמְדוּ] because we believe they are the ANSWER!

- The Witness
 - They are their own witnesses. They neither see nor know that they may be ashamed!
 - Just as Israel was a WITNESS to the POWER of the ONE God...
 - Those who worshipped IDOLS were their own WITNESS...
 - Because they did NOT see [imperfect] and did NOT know [imperfect]
 - That what they were TRUSTING in could NOT help them...
 - And as a result - they would be put to SHAME!
 - In the same teaching [Sermon on the mount]
 - Jesus said that those who do NOT stand upon His Word [the Rock]
 - Build their lives on SAND – and when the storms come – they will FALL – **Matthew 7:27**
 - If we put our TRUST in anything other than the LORD – we are a FOOL...
 - Because NOTHING other than the LORD is certain [rock] in this life...
 - What are setting ourselves up for a FALL – we will be put to SHAME!
- 2nd – Man Made... vs. 10-13
 - For profit... vs. 10
 - Who would form a god or mold an image that profits him nothing?
 - WHO would make [יָצַר] a god [אֱלֹהִים] that has no PROFIT...
 - This is the question that very few people ever take the time to ask...
 - If the IDOLS in our lives have NO power – and CANNOT help us...
 - Then WHO is it that takes the time and EFFORT to make them – and WHY!
 - The answer is in the question – there is PROFIT in them...
 - People make a LOT of money convincing us to TRUST in IDOLS!
 - People are always trying to convince us they have the ANSWERS...
 - If we try their PROGRAM – if we buy their BOOK...
 - If we subscribe to their CHANNEL – if we join their GROUP...
 - But what all these things have in common – is they are trying to MAKE money off of us!
 - Ashamed... vs. 11
 - Surely all his companions would be ashamed and the workmen they are mere men.
 - Let them all be gathered together - let them stand up.
 - Yet they shall fear - they shall be ashamed together!
 - BEHOLD [הִנֵּה] – all [כָּל] of those who make the IDOLS will be [imperfect] ASHAMED...
 - They are JUST men – even if they ALL [כָּל] stand TOGETHER [unity]
 - They will be [imperfect] AFRAID – and AHAMED together!
 - The world comes TOGETHER – putting their HOPE in their NUMBERS...
 - They VOTE to change LAWS – making WRONG seem RIGHT – **Isaiah 5:20**
 - But it does NOT make a difference what men say – God will always be TRUE!
 - **Romans 3:4** – “Let God be true but every man a liar.”
 - Blacksmith... vs. 12
 - The blacksmith with the tongs works one in the coals - fashions it with hammers.
 - And works it with the strength of his arms - even so he is hungry - and his strength fails.
 - He drinks no water and is faint!
 - The LORD describes those who are making the IDOLS...
 - The BLACKSMITH – he works with the tongs in the hot fires [coals]
 - He hammers and makes [יָצַר] the IDOL by the strength of his arms...
 - But if he does NOT eat he has NO [אֵין] strength – and if he does NOT drink he will faint!
 - We cannot make something GREATER than ourselves...

- Therefore if we are WEAK – then what we make also has WEAKNESS!
- Craftsman... vs. 13
 - The craftsman stretches out his rule. He marks one out with chalk - fashions it with a plane.
 - He marks it out with the compass and makes it like the figure of a man.
 - According to the beauty of a man - that it may remain in the house!
 - The CARPENTER – he measures out the wood and MARKS [piel] it with lines...
 - He shapes it down with a CHISEL [plane] – and a COMPASS [make circles]
 - So that it has the FORM [likeness] of a MAN [שִׁמְלָה]
 - It has the glory of a MAN [כְּדָאָר] – but just SITS in a HOUSE!
 - For all of the SKILL – the IDOL has no POWER...
 - It LOOKS like it has ability – it SEEMS like it should be able to talk and move...
 - But it has NO life – the best it can do is SIT in a home [décor]!
- 3rd – Deceived... vs. 14-20
 - The Tree... vs. 14
 - He cuts down cedars for himself and takes the cypress and the oak.
 - He secures it for himself among the trees of the forest.
 - He plants a pine and the rain nourishes it!
 - To prove the POINT on how USELESS idols are...
 - The LORD takes us through the process of making an IDOL...
 - The CARPENTER takes his time to get just the RIGHT tree...
 - He might pick [piel] a CEDAR – CYPRESS [only here OT] – or an OAK...
 - Or if none of those will do – he will plant a PINE [only here OT]
 - But he CANNOT make the trees grow – the RAIN has to do that [Lord]!
 - The IRONY is intentional – he takes his time to pick just the right WOOD...
 - But he has NO ability to be able to make the WOOD he is using!
 - Dual Purpose... vs. 15-17
 - Then it shall be for a man to burn - for he will take some of it and warm himself.
 - Yes - he kindles it and bakes bread. Indeed - he makes a god and worships it.
 - He makes it a carved image and falls down to it.
 - He burns half of it in the fire. With this half he eats meat. He roasts a roast and is satisfied.
 - He even warms himself and says: Ah! I am warm. I have seen the fire.
 - The rest of it he makes into a god. His carved image. He falls down before it and worships it.
 - Prays to it and says: Deliver me for you are my god!
 - The MAN [אָדָם] takes the WOOD – and uses it to make a FIRE...
 - He uses the FIRE to keep himself WARM – and even says AH [אָה] I am warmed by the fire...
 - Half he uses to bake BREAD [לֶחֶם] and cook MEAT – and he is FILLED [שָׂבַע]
 - Then he takes the remainder of the WOOD – and makes a GOD [אֱלֹהִים]
 - He MAKES a idol and FALLS down before it to worship [hithpael]
 - He PRAYS unto it saying – you are my GOD save me [imperative]!
 - A man who is drowning – cannot pull himself out of the water...
 - He needs someone who is NOT sinking to reach out and HELP!
 - Sometimes when we say the CRAZY part out loud – it becomes OBVIOUS...
 - We cannot TRUST in something we have MADE – and expect it to SAVE us...
 - Because if we NEED to be saved – it means we are the ones who need HELP!
 - Block of wood... vs. 18-19
 - They do not know nor understand - for He has shut their eyes so that they cannot see.

- And their hearts so that they cannot understand.
- And no one considers in his heart - nor is there knowledge nor understanding to say.
- I have burned half of it in the fire. Yes I have also baked bread on its coals.
- I have roasted meat and eaten it and shall I make the rest of it an abomination?
- Shall I fall down before a block of wood?
- But the world does NOT see this [יָדַעַ] – they do NOT understand [בִּינָה]
- Because [כִּי] the LORD has covered their eyes so their hearts [לֵב] are NOT wise [שָׂכַל]
- Why would God cover their EYES – because they do NOT want the LORD – **John 3:19**
- Therefore NO one stops to take this [שׁוּב] to heart [לֵב]
- There is NO knowledge [דַּעַת] – NO understanding [תְּבִינָה] – that would cause them to see...
- I burned HALF of the WOOD in the fire – baked bread and roasted meat and ate...
- With the REST should I make [imperfect] an ABOMINATION [תּוֹעֵבָה]
- Should I fall down and WORSHIP a BLOCK of WOOD [not a god]!
- We might think we do NOT have idols anymore – but people do NOT change...
- People still carve IDOLS out of metal – we call them FORD or TOYOTA...
- People still put their FAITH - in GOLD and SILVER – invest in the STOCK market...
- People still look to WOOD [paper money] to SAVE them...
- Yet these things have no POWER to save us – in the end they will always DISAPPOINT!

▪ The Lie... vs. 20

- He feeds on ashes. A deceived heart has turned him aside.
- And he cannot deliver his soul - nor say: Is there not a lie in my right hand?
- That man feeds [participle] on ASHES [ruined life]
- Because his HEART really deceived [hophal] him – turning him away from God...
- To a USELESS idol that CANNOT save his SOUL...
- Yet he is never willing to say [imperfect] – I am holding onto a LIE!
- This is the MIC drop – the line that should make us STOP...
- Are we the MAN who is still HOLDING the LIE in our hands...
- Are we still CONVINCED that something the world offers can HELP [idol makers]
- Are we DECEIVED into thinking something we can make will SAVE us...
- We cannot MAKE enough MONEY – we cannot WORK hard enough...
- We are SINKING – and the ONLY hope we have is TRUE God who is reaching down to save us!

● 4TH – REMEMBER... vs. 21-28

○ 1st – Come back... vs. 21-23

▪ Forgiven... vs. 21-22

- Remember these O Jacob - and Israel for you are My servant.
- I have formed you. You are My servant. O Israel you will not be forgotten by Me.
- I have blotted out like a thick cloud your transgressions - and like a cloud your sins.
- Return to Me for I have redeemed you!
- Therefore – in light of the CHOICE that God gave...
- Put their TRUST in the all-knowing LORD – or hold onto useless LIES...
- Jacob [rebellious] must REMEMBER [imperative] these things [plural]
- FIRST - that God was the one who FORMED [יָצַר] them [they did not make God]
- SECOND – that they are His SERVANT – made to SERVE Him [2x for emphasis]
- THIRD – Israel would NOT be forgotten [niphall] by the LORD [though they forgot Him]
- FOURTH – their SINS God had wiped away like [כָּ] a CLOUD that disappears...
- Therefore – they must come BACK [imperative] to the LORD who REDEEMED [perfect] them!
- When we STOP and REMEMBER who the LORD is...

- It makes the CHOICE of where we put our TRUST very easy...
- We need to come BACK to the One who MADE us – who called us to SERVE Him – **John 4:23**
- We need to put our TRUST in the One who can COVER our sin!

■ Restored... vs. 23

- Sing O heavens for the LORD has done it! Shout you lower parts of the earth.
- Break forth into singing you mountains - O forest and every tree in it!
- For the LORD has redeemed Jacob and glorified Himself in Israel!
- At that CONTRAST – between the LORD and the LIE...
- Isaiah command everyone to SING [imperative] to the LORD...
- From the HEAVENS – to the MOUNTAINS – and FORESTS with every tree [that is not an idol]
- Even to the LOWER parts [sheol] – those who have died...
- Because the LORD redeemed Jacob [rebellious] – and is glorified [imperfect] in Israel!
- And if God can REDEEM a people as STUBBORN as Jacob...
- Who were in CAPTIVITY in Babylon because of their HARD hearts...
- How much more can the LORD redeem us TODAY!

○ 2nd – The Redeemer... vs. 24-28

■ The Creator... vs. 24

- Thus says the LORD your Redeemer - and He who formed you from the womb:
- I am the LORD who makes all things - who stretches out the heavens all alone.
- Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself!
- Like a crescendo in a great concert – the Lord builds to the CLIMAX...
- Thus says the LORD – their REDEEMER [participle] – the one who FORMED them [יָצַר]
- He is the Lord – even He [אֱלֹהִים] is the maker [participle] of ALL [כָּל] things [no one else]
- He ALONE spread out the UNIVERSE [שָׁמַיִם] and the EARTH [הָאָרֶץ]!

■ The Frustrater... vs. 25

- Who frustrates the signs of the babblers and drives diviners mad.
- Who turns wise men backward and makes their knowledge foolishness!
- The LORD is the one who BREAKS [hiphil] - the oath [אִוֶּת] of the LIAR...
- He drives the FALSE prophets [diviners] – CRAZY [piel]
- And He turns [hiphil] the WISE back – to expose [piel] their FOOLISHNESS!

■ The Restorer... vs. 26

- 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!
- How did the God who ALONE created the HEAVENS and EARTH – **Genesis 1:1**
- Call out the LIARS – make the FALSE prophets crazy – and expose the FOOLS...
- By confirming His WORD to Israel [servant] He gave through His MESSENGERS [prophets]
- He said to JERUSALEM that it would be INHABITED again [hophal]
- To the cities of JUDAH that they would be REBUILT [niph'al]
- And to all the DESOLATED places – the Lord would RAISE them up [piel]!

- Remember that Isaiah is writing to Jews over one HUNDRED years in the future...
- Jews who saw the destruction of Jerusalem and Judah...
- To a nation who saw the Temple destroyed – and were now CAPTIVES in Babylon...
- Yet his WORD to them – was that ALL will be RESTORED!

- The River... vs. 27
 - Who says to the deep: Be dry! And I will dry up your rivers!
 - How – by the Lord saying to the DEEP [only here OT] – be DRY [imperative]
 - And the RIVERS flowing through Babylon would [hiphil] DRY up!
 - The DEPTH of the Euphrates River flowed through the city of Babylon...
 - When the Medo-Persian Empire besieged the city [539 B.C.]
 - They diverted the river allowing them to walk right into the city!

- The Shepherd... vs. 27-28
 - 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!
 - What Isaiah does next is one of the most controversial passages in the book...
 - A prophet who lived over a HUNDRED years before the rise of Babylon...
 - Calls out by NAME – the leader of the empire that would CONQUER Babylon [Medo-Persia]
 - The LORD says [participle] to CYRUS – you are my SHEPHERD [רֹעִי]
 - ALL that the LORD desired – He would make [hiphil] CYRUS do...
 - Even saying that Jerusalem and the TEMPLE would be REBUILT [niphal]!
 - When Cyrus conquered Babylon – and Belshazzar died – **Daniel 5:30**
 - He took the city without a fight - by redirecting the river flowing into the city...
 - It took THREE days for many of those who lived in the city to learn it had fallen...
 - Daniel [then an old man] is thought to have walked up and showed CYRUS this verse...
 - He was so IMPRESSED – he did EXACTLY what He was told to do!
 - **Ezra 1:2** – “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah.”
 - The simple question that this leaves us with is where our TRUST is...
 - Are we still looking for MONEY [wood] – to the useless things MEN have made...
 - Or to the God who can call our KINGS over a hundred years before they are born...
 - Are we putting our FAITH in the LORD or the LIE!