

A Trek Through Isaiah 62: 44:24 - 48:22 Review

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For this week: 44:24 - 48:22 Review

Context

- The book of the Servant (38 - 55)
 - Isaiah had prophesied that Israel would go into captivity in Babylon.
 - How will God's people be redeemed from captivity?

<u>The LORD's Plan Fulfilled (44:24 - 55:13)</u>	
The Great Deliverance: the Work of Cyrus (44:24 - 48:22)	The Greater Deliverance: the Work of the Servant (49:1 - 55:13)

The Great Deliverance: the Work of Cyrus (44:24 - 48:22)
Cyrus: builder and conqueror 44:24 - 45:8
Rebellion and resolve, quibbling and consolation 45:9 - 46:13
Free but not yet home 47:1 - 48:22

- Two sections about the LORD's plan paralleled by two sections about fulfillment.
- First fulfillment section describes the work of Cyrus: rescue from political bondage.
 - Cyrus' commission
 - The reaction of God's people, and His resolve
 - The fall of Babylon and the return of God's people to Jerusalem.

Cyrus: Builder and Conqueror 44:24 – 45:8

- God and His word 44:24-26a
 - V24 Here the LORD, Israel's Creator and Redeemer, presents Himself as the creator of heaven and earth.
 - V25 He makes the wisdom of men foolishness
 - V26a He performs His word given through His Servant and His prophets.
- God and His purpose 44:26b-28
 - V26b Here is God's purpose: to raise up Jerusalem and the cities of Judah from their ruins
 - V27 He will make a way for His people.
 - V28 Here is God's means: He will bring Cyrus to perform this as the shepherd of God's people
 - V28 He will accomplish His purpose for Jerusalem and the temple.
- God and His Anointed 45:1-7
 - V1-3 Here is Cyrus' commission. He (a pagan king) is God's anointed one to perform His purpose. God will take his hand and go before him to subdue nations, to open gates, to level temples of pagan gods, to obtain treasures and hoards. This is so that Cyrus will know that it is the LORD who does this.
 - V4-6 Here are the reasons for raising up Cyrus: (1) that Cyrus may know that the LORD raised him up (2) for the sake of Israel (3) that all people from east to west may know that I am the LORD and there is no other.
 - V7 Here the LORD presents Himself as the first cause of all things.
- God and His Creative Resolve 45:8
 - V8 Picture of the earth blossoming after a rain, bringing forth righteousness and salvation. The LORD has created this.

Rebellion and Resolve, Quibbling and Consolation 45:9 – 46:13

- The rebels and the sovereign LORD 45:9-13
 - V9-10 Challenging the quibblers
 - V9 Woe to the clay that speaks back to the potter.
 - V10 Woe to the child who speaks back to the parents who begat him.
 - V11-13 God's purpose
 - V11 Command to seek the LORD
 - V12 Who the LORD is: I am the Creator.
 - V13 What the LORD is doing: I have stirred one up and he will build My city and set My exiles free.
- Unchanged Purpose for Israel 45:14-25

Here the prophet answers the assertion that the Davidic promises are lost.

 - V14-17 The submission of the world
 - V14 The nations will come to Israel bringing their wealth. They will say that God is there and there is no other.
 - V15 Spontaneous praise.
 - V16-17 The makers of idols are put to shame and confounded, but Israel is saved by the LORD with an everlasting salvation.
 - V18-21 The living God
 - V18 The God of creation
 - V19 The God of revelation.
 - V20-21 The living God
 - V22-25 Call to salvation
 - V22 Here is a call to salvation to all the ends of the earth.
 - V23 God has sworn that every knee will bow to Him. Only in God are righteousness and strength.
 - V24 All those who were angry at Him will be put to shame.
 - V25 All the offspring of Israel will be justified and glorified.

- Appeal to the Rebels 46:1-13
 - V1-4 Dead idols and the living God
 - V1-2 Fall of Babylon's idols. They will be borne into captivity they cannot save themselves.
 - V3-4 The living God. God, rather than being borne by men, has borne His people from their birth, and will deliver them.
 - V5-7 Man-made gods, unable to save
 - V5 The idols are challenged.
 - V6-7 Here is the verdict: Idols are made by men, carried by men and set in their place by men. They cannot move by themselves. Men cry to them, but they cannot answer or save.
 - V8-11 Appeal to remember God
 - V8-9a The transgressors are challenged to remember who God is and what He has done.
 - v9b-11 The LORD is God and there is no other. He declares the end from the beginning and His counsel will stand. He will bring a man from a far country to accomplish His purpose.
 - V12-13 Appeal to be saved
 - V12 Call to God's people.
 - V13 God's plans He is bringing His righteousness and salvation without delay. He will bring His salvation to Zion, and His glory to Israel.

Free but not yet home 47:1 – 48:22

- **Babylon's Fall 47:1-15**
 - **V1-7 Divine vengeance**
 - V1a The prophet pronounces vengeance on Babylon.
 - V1b-3a She will no longer be tender and delicate, rather she will know slavery and violation.
 - V3b-4 The LORD will take vengeance and will spare no one. He is the Redeemer and the Holy One of Israel.
 - V5-7 Here is the cause for vengeance. The LORD was angry with His people and gave them into your hand; you showed them no mercy. Rather you said, "I shall be mistress forever." You did not consider these things.
 - **V8-11 Judgment for pride**
 - V8 The prophet describes Babylon's pride. She is a lover of pleasures who sits securely, who says in her heart, "I am, and there is no one besides me, I shall not sit as a widow or know the loss of children".
 - V9 The prophet pronounces judgment: You will be childless and a widow in spite of your many sorceries and great enchantments.
 - V10 Continues the description of Babylon's pride: you felt secure in your wickedness; you said, "No one sees me"; your wisdom and your knowledge led you astray, and you said in your heart, "I am, and there is no one besides me."
 - V11 Continues the pronouncement of judgment: Disaster and ruin will come upon you suddenly. You will not be able to atone, or to charm it away.
 - **V12-15 Religion that failed**
 - V12 Challenge to look to enchantments and sorceries.
 - V13 Challenge to look to the astrologers upon whom Babylon depended for counsel.
 - V14-15 The result: All are consumed as by fire. They had made religion a business. Now they wander about and cannot save.

- Home, Yet Not Home 48:1-22
 - Theme
 - Ch 48 is the climax of the section on the delivery from Babylon (44:24 - 48:22)
 - V20-21 brings the fulfillment of the LORD's plan to deliver His people from Babylon through Cyrus.
 - But there is a further problem: they are still the same people in bondage to sin
 - The LORD's solution introduced
 - Structure
 - V1-11 The former things and the new things
 - V12-22 Delivered but not yet free
 - V1-2 Israel called to hear
 - V1-2 The house of Israel is called to hear. They are very religious: they swear by the name of the Lord and confess the God of Israel; they call themselves after the holy city, and stay themselves on the God of Israel...but not in truth or right.
 - V3-5 The former things
 - V3 The former things: Deliverance through Cyrus. LORD declared the former things and then performed them.
 - V4-5 Why the LORD declared them: He knew that Israel was obstinate and would say that their idols were responsible.
 - V6-8 New things declared
 - V6 Now the LORD announces new things, that Israel has not known.
 - V7-8 Likewise, they were not revealed previously because God knew that Israel was rebellious and would deal treacherously.
 - V9-11 The reason for the new things
 - V9 God's mercy. For the sake of His name God defers His anger, otherwise Israel would be cut off.
 - V10 Refining. He has refined Israel with affliction.
 - V11 Basis for mercy. He does this for the sake of His name. His glory He will not give to another.

- V12 starts the second half of the poem. Three parts, each starting with “listen”
- V12-13 The sovereign Lord
 - V12a Israel is called by the LORD to hear.
 - V12v-13 He is the first and the last. He laid out the earth and spread out the heavens.
- V14-15 The acting Lord
 - V14a Call to hear.
 - V14b First reassurance. God has declared these things.
 - V14b He will call one to perform His purpose on Babylon
 - V15 Second reassurance. I have brought him.
- V16 A new actor
 - V16a Call to come near. God has not spoken in secret; has been in these events from the beginning.
 - V16b One sent by God; having His Spirit.
- V17-19 The peace that was forfeited
 - V17 God leads His people in the way they should go.
 - V18-19 Blessings forfeited. If they had heeded Him, they would have had peace and righteousness, their descendants would have been as numerous as the sand on the seashore, and they would have never been cut off from God.
- V20-21 Deliverance from Babylon
 - V20 Call to come out. Israel is called out of Babylon. They are to shout with joy, and proclaim their salvation to the end of the earth.
 - V21 The LORD’s provision. A way is made for them just as in the Exodus.
- V22 The continuing problem
 - V22 But these are the same people who abandoned the LORD’s peace. Delivery from Babylon has not changed them. For the wicked there is still no peace.

For next week: Cyrus: builder and conqueror 44:24 - 45:8

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