

# Pentwater Bible Church

*Isaiah Message 109*

*April 25, 2021*



*The Storm on the Sea of Galilee by Eugene Delacroix Cir 1854*

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# Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Isaiah

Message One-Hundred-Nine

THE LORD USES ISRAEL TO INFLUENCE THE EARTH PT I

April 25, 2021

Daniel E. Woodhead

Isaiah 45:14–19

*<sup>14</sup>Thus saith Jehovah, The labor of Egypt, and the merchandise of Ethiopia, and the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over unto thee, and they shall be thine: they shall go after thee, in chains they shall come over; and they shall fall down unto thee, they shall make supplication unto thee, saying, Surely God is in thee; and there is none else, there is no God. <sup>15</sup>Verily thou art a God that hidest thyself, O God of Israel, the Saviour. <sup>16</sup>They shall be put to shame, yea, confounded, all of them; they shall go into confusion together that are makers of idols. <sup>17</sup>But Israel shall be saved by Jehovah with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be put to shame nor confounded world without end.*

*<sup>18</sup>For thus saith Jehovah that created the heavens, the God that formed the earth and made it, that established it and created it not a waste, that formed it to be inhabited: I am Jehovah; and there is none else. <sup>19</sup>I have not spoken in secret, in a place of the land of darkness; I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I, Jehovah, speak righteousness, I declare things that are right (ASV, 1901).*

THE NATIONS WILL SERVE ISRAEL

Isaiah 45:14

*<sup>14</sup>Thus saith Jehovah, The labor of Egypt, and the merchandise of Ethiopia, and the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over unto thee, and they shall be thine: they shall go after thee, in chains they shall come over; and they shall fall down unto thee, they shall make supplication unto thee, saying, Surely God is in thee; and there is none else, there is no God (ASV, 1901).*

Once the highest become the lowest, and the lowest are the highest! So here the proudest are bending to the humblest. The oppressing enemies of Israel shall in the end confess their dependence upon her, and become believers of the true God.

Deuteronomy 28:13–14

*<sup>13</sup>And Jehovah will make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if thou shalt hearken unto the commandments of Jehovah thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them, <sup>14</sup>and shalt not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them (ASV, 1901).*

These passages describe some aspects regarding the Triumph of Israel in the Messianic Kingdom. All nations, even former will pay homage to Israel. The labor (wealth) of Egypt, and merchandise of Ethiopia and of the Sabeans will be transferred over to Israel and be hers when she becomes the head (of the nations) and not the tail (Deuteronomy 28:13; Isaiah 14:1-2; 53:4; 60:10; 61:5). The text explain that these nations will come in humiliating submission (Psalm 149:8), bowing down (Isaiah 49:23; 60:14), making supplication, declaring that God is with Israel. These three nations cited have all had issues of dominance over Israel.

## Egypt

God in the book of Ezekiel describes a massive judgment upon Egypt that is discussed beginning in chapter 29 and continues through chapter 32. It is the longest prophecy that the Lord gave Ezekiel about any nation. The Old Testament has over 700 references to the land of Egypt, with 250 of them being prophecies. If you put all the prophecies about Egypt together, God gives us an epic picture of His judgment on Egypt from the time of the Babylonian captivity through to the present day, and lastly in the Messianic kingdom. Many of these predictions deal with the present-day situation. The parallel passages to be coupled with the Ezekiel chapters are the found in Isaiah 19:1–22, Daniel 11:4–8, 11–13, and Joel 3:19. Because of their long history of mistreatment of Israel, the land of Egypt will suffer a period of total desolation that will last for forty years. During that time the Egyptians will be scattered all over the world. This will be just like Israel was dispersed out of their land for 1,813 years starting with the Babylonian captivity in 586 B.C. until they again became a sovereign nation again on May 14, 1948.

## ETHIOPIA

A series of allied nations will come against Israel in the future but, yet before the Tribulation. One of these is Ethiopia also called Cush at times. These nations are Russia and the allied states of Iran, Ethiopia, Somalia, Germany and Armenia (eastern Turkey). These nations are located geographically north and south of Israel, but the controlling nation is Russia, and the invasion comes from “*the north*.”

In Esther 1:1 and 8:9 Ethiopia is described as the most distant southwesterly province in the Persian empire. Its “rivers” were presumably the Nile and the Atbara (Isaiah 18:1; Zephaniah 3:10). The products of Kush were referred to in Job 28:19 and Isaiah 45:14, which according to Egyptian lists included semiprecious stones, as well as animal and agricultural products. Some prophets expected exiled Jews in Ethiopia to return (Psalm 87:4; Isaiah 11:11), while others foresaw divine judgment coming upon the land (Isaiah 20:3; Ezekiel 30:4; Zephaniah 2:12). But since Kush (Ethiopia) was under God’s sovereignty, it could hope for divine blessing as well as punishment; hence the expectation in Psalm 68:31; Isaiah 45:14; and Zephaniah 3:10 is that its peoples would be converted to the Hebrew faith. The Ethiopia of Acts 8:27 was the kingdom of Candace (“queen”), who ruled from Meroë, near the Nile Delta where the capital of Kush had been moved about 300 B.C.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Elwell, W. A., & Beitzel, B. J. (1988). [Ethiopia](#). In *Baker encyclopedia of the Bible* (Vol. 1, p. 728). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

## SABEANS

The Sabeans from Southwest Saudi Arabia were noted as men of stature (Isaiah 45:14), as a nation far off (Joel 3:8), and for their murder and theft of Job's servants and property (Job 1:15).<sup>2</sup>

The Sabeans or people of Saba or Sheba are also referred to as traders in gold and spices, and as inhabiting a country remote from Israel (I Kings 10:1 Isaiah 60:6 Jeremiah 6:20 Ezekiel 27:22 Psalm 72:15 Matthew 12:42), also as slave-traders (Joel 3:8), or even desert-raiders (Job 1:15; Job 6:19). The queen of Sheba is mentioned in Scripture as visiting Solomon and being amazed at his wealth (II Chronicles 9: 1). She brought gifts of gold and spice traditionally what they traded. These people worshipped a pagan moon god. The moon was viewed as a male deity and the sun as a female deity. In their crude pagan understanding of creation the two together begat the stars. The Quran refers to this pre-Islamic practice in Sura 41:37 and elsewhere. This is the beginning of Islam.

The text explain that these nations will come in complete submission (Psalm 149:8), bowing down (Isaiah 49:23; 60:14), making supplication, declaring that God is with Israel (Jeremiah 16:19) only and that there is no other God besides Him. With the conversion of the nations of the Messianic Kingdom, their wealth and homage will pour into Israel as they acknowledge and submit to Israel's God. Earlier, the nations mentioned here served as Israel's ransom but they themselves will be ransomed and enter into the blessings of the Messianic Kingdom.

Isaiah 43:3–4

*<sup>3</sup>For I am Jehovah thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour; I have given Egypt as thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in thy stead. <sup>4</sup>Since thou hast been precious in my sight, and honorable, and I have loved thee; therefore will I give men in thy stead, and peoples instead of thy life (ASV, 1901).*

## SHAME COMES TO THE NATIONS

Isaiah 45:14–17

*<sup>15</sup>Verily thou art a God that hidest thyself, O God of Israel, the Saviour. <sup>16</sup>They shall be put to shame, yea, confounded, all of them; they shall go into confusion together that are makers of idols. <sup>17</sup>But Israel shall be saved by Jehovah with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be put to shame nor confounded world without end (ASV, 1901).*

The captives will say that although God is invisible, He becomes apparent through His salvation communication to, and blessings upon Israel. They all will be ashamed and humiliated. Shame is an internal feeling whereas humiliation is public, caused by situations created by others. This will occur when the heathens see God's redemption of the Jewish people and the destruction of His enemies, they will then become aware that they served false gods that have no power. The prophet refers sarcastically to other deities as causing sharp pains to their worshipers, when they recognize the futility of the idols. God's genuine salvation is not short lived it is truly eternal redemption.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid [Sabeans](#). In *Baker encyclopedia of the Bible* (Vol. 2, p. 1879). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

Israel will never again experience the shame they have endured at the hands of the Gentile nations for several thousand years.

#### THE EARTH WAS CREATED NOT AS A WASTE

Isaiah 45:18

*<sup>18</sup>For thus saith Jehovah that created the heavens, the God that formed the earth and made it, that established it and created it not a waste, that formed it to be inhabited: I am Jehovah; and there is none else (ASV, 1901).*

#### Something Happened to Create Chaos

Genesis 1:2a

*<sup>2a</sup>And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness [was] upon the face of the deep. (KJV)*

Other things happened before time began that are revealed in Scripture, such as the rise and fall of Halal, the anointed cherub mentioned earlier (Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28). When he fell and became Satan, he ruined everything he touched, including the earth. God is perfect in all He does, and is perfection Himself. He created perfect heavens and earth as stated in Genesis 1:1. Something happened between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2 to cause the Bible to give us a description of the earth being “waste,” “void,” and “dark.” These are not words that describe God’s perfectness in creation. These are terms used to describe His judgment. In Isaiah 45:7 God says, *I form the light*, which is grateful and pleasing, and *I create darkness*, which is grievous and unpleasing. *I make peace* (put here for all good) and *I create evil*, not the evil of sin (God is not the author of that), but the evil of punishment through disorder or chaos. *I the Lord* order, and direct, and *do all these things*.

Therefore, it is most probable that when Satan fell God’s judgment caused the chaos described in Genesis 1:2a.

God clearly did not create the earth that was “without form, (waste), void; and darkness” as described in verse two. Isaiah affirms this:

Isaiah 45:18

*<sup>18</sup>For thus saith Jehovah that created the heavens, the God that formed the earth and made it, that established it and created it not a waste, that formed it to be inhabited: I am Jehovah; and there is none else. (ASV, 1901)*

The Hebrew term for “darkness” is *chosheck*, and refers to “death and evil,” which is not conducive to life. “Darkness” is a symbol of divine judgment throughout the Old Testament (Exodus 10:15; 21–23; 1 Samuel 2:9; Psalm 35:6; 105:28). In the New Testament “darkness” is also associated with Satan and his demons (Ephesians 6:12). The Hebrew word for “without form” and “void”

describes the earth as becoming undifferentiated, unorganized, confused, and lifeless as a result of the sin that Satan brought upon God's perfection. What all this means is that God originally created the earth perfectly, and it was the place that Satan, as Halal, was living. He was the guardian over the earth in its original form. This beautiful earth was made "waste" and "void" of its original design by Satan's sin. Revelation 21:9–27 discusses the new earth coming sometime in the future, and describes it like the first earth that Satan polluted.

Every word of these early verses is vitally important to the development of a sound understanding of God's created universe. Some expositors claim that there were "millions" of years between verse one and two (the "Gap Theory"). There is nothing in the Bible to support this view. Some, who believe in evolution, have tried to reconcile it with the creation account by inserting it here, between verses one and two. Verse two simply says that earth had no "form." The initial creation was made imperfect due to Satan's corruption, and had become empty and uninhabited.

#### THE CREATOR AFFIRMS HIS DEITY

Isaiah 45:19

*<sup>19</sup>I have not spoken in secret, in a place of the land of darkness; I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I, Jehovah, speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.*

God's oracles have not been given, like those of the necromancers, idolaters, or those of the heathen gods, given in dark places of the earth but openly on Sinai, or by the mouth of prophets who proclaimed His words to all Israel. God openly proclaimed to Israel His requirements and met with them frequently in the Tabernacle and Temple.

Deuteronomy 31:11–14

*<sup>11</sup>For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not too hard for thee, neither is it far off. <sup>12</sup>It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, and make us to hear it, that we may do it? <sup>13</sup>Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, and make us to hear it, that we may do it? <sup>14</sup>But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it (ASV, 1901).*

As the works of God freely given prove that He is God alone, so does His Word, and the discovery He has made of Himself and of His mind to the world. His oracles far exceed those of the Pagan deities. The preference is here placed in three things: All that God has said is plain, satisfactory, and just.

(1.) In the manner of the delivery of it is plain and open He says: *I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth.* The Pagan deities delivered their oracles out of dens and caverns, with a low and hollow voice, and in ambiguous expressions; those that had "familiar spirits" whispered and muttered (Isaiah 8:19); but God delivered his law from the top of Mount Sinai before all the



thousands of citizens of Israel, in distinct, audible, and intelligible sounds. Christ Himself made it very clear in His own defence what God says here, *In secret have I said nothing* (John. 18:20).

(2.) In its use benefit it was highly satisfactory: *I said not unto the seed of Jacob*, who consulted these oracles and governed themselves by them, *Seek you me in vain*, as the false gods did to their worshippers, who sought *for the living to the dead*, (Isaiah 8:19. This includes all the gracious answers that God gave both to those who consulted Him (His word is to them a faithful guide) and to those that prayed to Him. God not only gives a gracious answer to those that diligently seek him, but will reward those that do so abundantly.

(3.) His communication is just, and there is no iniquity in it: *I the Lord speak righteousness, I declare things that are right*, and consonant to the eternal rules and reasons of good and evil. The heathen deities dictated attractive evil and deception to their worshippers which were given to cause them to desire anything away from God. God speaks righteousness, dictates that which is right in itself and tends to make men righteous; and therefore, He is God, and there is none else.

## THE ORIGIN OF THIS BATTLE

### Understanding the Spiritual Battle Introduction

The long war is actually between God and His archenemy Hallel who became Satan when he defiled Heaven and God cast him out of exclusively serving Him in His presence. Paul made this quite clear in the sixth chapter of Ephesians.

Ephesians 6: 12

*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (KJV).*

It is important that we recognize that there is a supernatural war in Heaven. We must rely on the truth of God's Word for our direction and walk through this life. It is only found in His Word.

Psalms 119:105

*Thy word [is] a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path (KJV)*

Until one is actually born again of the Spirit we cannot understand how wonderful it is. So a child of God must be born again and then will desire the Scriptures and want to live a life conformed to God's Word. The battleground in the spiritual realm is our minds. Satan wants to sift them as wheat. The believer in Christ has protection that must be appropriated on a daily basis to be effective.

Philippians 4:8-9

*<sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things <sup>9</sup> Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you (KJV).*

Paul knowing the issue well assembles the entire list of the components to guard our minds for a virtuous outcome.

1. Truth: refers to facts that are in accordance with the reality around us. It does not refer to lies or deceptions. Truth is a characteristic of God.
2. Honest: refers to what is dignified and worthy of respect.
3. Just: refers to conformity to God's standards of rightness.
4. Pure: refers to what is wholesome, not mixed with moral impurity.
5. Lovely: speaks of thoughts of moral and spiritual beauty.
6. Good Report: (commendable or admirable) relates to what is positive and constructive rather than negative and destructive.
- 7.

He then says, "*if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*" Paul is not saying that there might not be any virtue he is simply saying that because there is virtue it is praiseworthy!

Paul is simply not saying that we should just do things like this. He says that we must "*think on these things.*" This is the essence of success in the Christian life. We must prevail in the battle for our mind as Satan and his minions want to derail us from achieving peace in living for Christ. Solomon said several thousand years ago that a man's behavior emanates from his mind, when he said "*For as he thinketh in his heart, so [is] he*" (Proverbs 23:7). Every action a human can and will do comes from the thoughts he has first and Satan is right in there influencing those thoughts.

The unsaved person has a darkened mind (Ephesians 4:17-18) and is incapable of resting on Spiritual matters. He may be able to discern highly complex concepts like advanced physics but is unable (darkened) about the matters about God. Paul explains it this way.

II Corinthians 4:3-4

*<sup>3</sup> But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: <sup>4</sup> In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them (KJV).*

Next message ISRAEL IS TO INFLUENCE THE WORLD PT. II  
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