

Series: Isaiah 2024
Title: Christ our Sovereign Savior
Text: Isaiah 44: 24-45: 1-25
Date: April
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Subject: Christ our Sovereign Savior

Proposition: From Isaiah 44: 24 to Isaiah 45: 25 the LORD declares he is sovereign to work his eternal purpose in and by Christ Jesus his Son.

This is one message from the LORD down to Isaiah 45: 25. Read it all and hear what our Lord declares.

Isaiah 44: 24: Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb,...

Hear who is speaking. This is the LORD, Jehovah, thy Redeemer, he that formed thee from the womb. He declares that he is sovereignly, powerfully working his will in all.

In creation.

Isaiah 44: 24...I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;

In providence, including unregenerate men and in his elect.

Isaiah 44: 25: [I am the LORD] That frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and maketh diviners mad; that turneth wise men backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish; 26: That confirmeth the word of his servant, and performeth the counsel of his messengers;

In the salvation of his people.

Isaiah 44: 26: I am the LORD] that saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof: 27: That saith to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers: 28: That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.

God sovereignly brings to pass everything in creation, everything in providence with unbelieving men and with his saints, and God sovereignly brings to pass everything in the salvation of his people.

This prophecy of Cyrus was given by the Lord nearly two-hundred years before the man, Cyrus, was born. And God brought it all to pass. Cyrus was a heathen king who never knew God. He was a Mede. His uncle was King Darius. But the LORD anointed Cyrus to be his servant, not sparingly, but to use to deliver the children of Israel out of Babylonian captivity to typify God's anointed Christ Jesus our King. A few verses down in Isaiah 45: 4, God says of this man, Cyrus.

Isaiah 45: 4: For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.

Cyrus' father was likely a shepherd. History says Cyrus was brought up as a shepherd boy. That is probably why his father named him Cyrus. It means shepherd. But unbeknown to his father, he named him Cyrus because two-hundred years before God named him--"*I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee.*" God named him Cyrus, Shepherd, because God used him to deliver Israel to typify Christ our Shepherd.

History says Cyrus read this prophecy and gave lip-service to God saying he was the God of heaven. Yet, he never knew God spiritually--"*I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.*" History says Cyrus was a pagan idolater till he died. Near his death he offered sacrifices to

Jupiter, to the sun, to all his many idol gods and thanked them for making him do all these things throughout his life.

But everything God did with Cyrus, God did it for one reason, "*For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect.*" Though Cyrus did not know God or why God was using him, God used Cyrus to glorify Christ his Son in type to show forth Christ who is the salvation of his elect Israel, Jew and Gentile.

Robert Hawker said, "How often, in the present hour, are men made the unconscious ministers of God for good to his people, although their heart thought not so, neither did they intend it."

Let's consider a few ways Cyrus typifies Christ.

THE LORD JESUS IS GOD'S ANOINTED

Isaiah 45: 1: Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,...

"Christ" means anointed. The LORD anointed Cyrus to be his servant two-hundred years before it came to pass. No one knew who Cyrus was, yet. What does that picture? Long before anyone knew the Lord Jesus, in eternity, God our Father anointed his Son to be Prophet, Priest and King. God anointed him the Christ, the Savior of his elect people. The following scripture are God the Father speaking to his anointed Son, the Lord Jesus.

Psalm 45:7: Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

Psalm 89: 20: [King David typified Christ. God said] I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him: 21: With whom my hand shall be established: mine arm also shall strengthen him...27: Also I will make him *my* firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth. 28: My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him. 29: His seed also will I make *to endure* for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven.

1 Samuel 2: 10: The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.

What does this mean for his people? By God anointing his Son the Christ it means he shall save all his people from our sins.

Isaiah 61: 1: The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are* bound; 2: To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; 3: To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

CHRIST IS THE SUCCESSFUL REDEEMER

Isaiah 45: 1: Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to [the Shepherd], whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;

Christ is the redeemer who accomplished the redemption of God's elect.

Over two-hundred years after Isaiah delivered this word of our Lord, God used Cyrus to subdue many enemy nations, including Babylon, where the children of Israel were in captivity. God said of Christ, "*I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut.*"

Well over two-hundred years later, Belshazzar, Nebuchadnezzar's son, was king of Babylon. He was holding the children of Israel in captivity. One night he took the vessels from the house of the Lord and was in the midst of a drunken orgy. That is what's going on in the devil's churches. That is what is going on in the hearts of unregenerate religious men and women, including God's unregenerate elect people. Unregenerate men and women using God's word to have a drunken orgy. God showed Belshazzar the writing on the wall and loosed his loins.

Daniel 5: 6: Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.

God used Daniel to preach how God humbled his father, making him like a beast, *'till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will.* Then Daniel interpreted the writing on the wall.

Daniel 5: 26:...MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. 27: TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. 28: PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

Cyrus was king of the Medes. God made a noise outside the walls of Babylon and God opened *the two-leaved gates* and Cyrus came in and delivered Israel out of Babylon. Christ is God's King. Christ came from a far country like Cyrus did. By his finished work on the cross, Christ redeemed his people from the curse of the law by being made a curse for us. He justified God's elect from all our sins. Christ put away all our sins before God. He made us the righteousness of God in him. He crushed the devil's head by doing so.

CHRIST IS THE SHEPHERD OF HIS SHEEP

Isaiah 45: 2 I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: 3 And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel.

Cyrus means shepherd. Christ is our Shepherd. Like as Cyrus delivered Israel and led them back to Jerusalem so Christ has redeemed his people, is calling us out and shall lead us to heavenly Jerusalem.

God said to Christ, *"I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places."* Our Shepherd comes to his lost, unregenerate child. *We* are in darkness but God's elect are Christ's treasures of darkness. We were hidden, bound, in secret places but God's elect are Christ's hidden riches in secret places.

We were bound in captivity in Babylon by the devil and by our sin-nature, captive behind *gates of brass and bars of iron.* But Christ declared the gates of hell shall not prevail against him and his gospel. He *"opens before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut."* Christ our Shepherd *"will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron."*

In mercy, grace, and power, Christ *looses our loins* in regeneration, making us hear the law and know our sins. As he said in

Isaiah 44: 26: [He] confirmeth the word of his servant, and performeth the counsel of his messengers; that saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof: [Christ works all God's pleasure]

When Christ confirms the gospel of his messenger in our hearts, he makes us know him; he gives us *his unsearchable riches.* The riches hidden from us by nature, riches in secret place are all in Christ. The riches are Christ our Wisdom when he gives us the mind of Christ in regeneration. He is our Righteousness in whom we are righteous. He is our Sanctification who made us holy. He is our Redemption who set us free, *"that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel."*

Has he made you know the writing on the wall? That you are weighed in the balance and found wanting? That you have been dethroned and Christ is now your King?

From the day he gives us faith to believe on him and follow him, Christ our Shepherd says to us, "*I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight.*"

All our days, Christ makes us know *he is the Way*: no man comes to the Father but by him--that is how our crooked ways are made straight.

Pilate asked Christ, "What is truth?" He was insinuating Christ was a liar. Christ makes us know ALL MEN ARE LIARS AND CHRIST IS THE TRUTH. That is how our Shepherd makes our crooked places straight.

When we are seeking life by the works of our hands. Christ makes us know *he is the Life*--that is he makes our crooked places straight.

I can't preach the rest of what God says but let's read it together. Christ makes the crooked places straight by continually renewing his child to know.

Isaiah 45: 5: I *am* the LORD, and *there is* none else, *there is* no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: 6: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that *there is* none beside me. I *am* the LORD, and *there is* none else. 7: I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these *things*. 8: Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it.

Christ our King has accomplished our redemption. He is calling each one. He is leading us through this wilderness. He alone delivers his elect Israel from Babylonian captivity and carries us all the way back to heavenly Jerusalem.

Amen!