

Prophecy Becomes History

Because God is God

Isaiah 44:24-45:13

Long before God's people were conquered by King Nebuchadnezzar and taken captive to Babylon . . . and more than 150 years before Cyrus the Great of the Medo-Persian Empire in turn conquered Babylon and returned the Jews to the Promised Land . . . Isaiah prophesied of those very events.

- I. Who God _____ (44:24-28)
 - A. Sovereign _____ (44:24; 45:11-12)
 - B. Gracious _____ (44:24a; 45:13b)
 - C. Providential _____ (44:25-28; 45:13)
- II. What God has _____ (44:28-45:10)
- III. What God has _____ (Ezra 1:1-11)

As Christians, we know that everything happens for a reason because the personal triune God has created all things and has a plan for everything that happens. He is sovereign over all such that even a sparrow cannot fall to the ground apart from His will (Matt. 10:29). He works out all things, not just some things, according to the counsel of His will (Eph. 1:11). This, essentially, is what theologians mean by *providence*—God has a plan and a purpose for the world and governs history such that everything from the least to the greatest contributes to the achievement of that plan and purpose. He isn't merely a passive observer of history; rather, He has designed history to achieve a particular end and He directs history so that it will surely reach that end.

- Robert Rothwell