

Sunday, September 22, 2019

God is My Salvation – Isaiah

50. Directing World History – [Isaiah 41:21-29](#)

Intro: The Court Room Scene (Present Your Case) – In [Isaiah 41:1-7](#), God predicts the coming of Cyrus and the nations panic and immediately run to make more idols. God addresses the idols and those who create and worship them.

- I. Idols Exposed – vs. [21-24](#)
  - A. Present Your Proof (vs. 21)
    1. Make your strongest case
    2. Says Jacob’s King – absolute Lordship – [Psa. 95:3](#)
  - B. Understanding Existence (vs. 22-23)
    1. Bring your gods in – carry them
    2. Explain the flow of history
      - a. Can you make sense of what has happened?
      - b. Can you predict the outcome?
      - c. Can you explain the past so as to make sense of the present?
    3. Predict the future
    4. Do something, anything – [1 Kings 18:20-39](#)
      - a. From prediction to direction
      - b. Surprise us together (all at once)
  - C. Nothing (vs. 24)
    1. Indeed – see, idols don’t answer – silence/crickets
    2. Nothing = “partakers in non-existence”
    3. Nothing = “utterly worthless” – insubstantial, imaginary, not real – [1 Cor. 8:4](#)
  - D. Attacking the Root of Paganism
    1. God is Independent – Quote #1
    2. Those who follow idols are an abomination (detestable) – [Deut. 7:25-26](#); [Psa. 115:8](#)
    3. People become like their gods – [Rom. 1:18-23](#); [Josh. 24:14-15](#)
- II. The Lord’s Claim – vs. [25-29](#) – (Point 2 overview)
  - A. Cyrus is Coming (vs. 25)
    1. Future event, 160 years
    2. He will proclaim My name – [Ezra 1:2-4](#)
  - B. Declare Beforehand (vs. 26)
    1. God is right (correct, His case is proved against the idols) – He alone is God
    2. Surely, Surely, Surely
      - a. Indeed – no informant (witness) can disprove His case/word

- b. Yes, Indeed – no reporter is bringing a response from the idols
  - c. Oh, Yes, Indeed – there is nothing to report because there is no voice to be heard
- C. Good News! (vs. 27)
- 1. The first time – “the first thing that happened was that I...” – God is the first cause
  - 2. Watch for these things – [Matt. 24:42; 25:13; 1 Cor. 16:13](#)
  - 3. The fulfillment will be good news for Jerusalem
- D. The Nothingness of Idolatry (vs. 28-29)
- 1. The idol worshipping world has no sure voice
    - a. No revelation
    - b. Unable to hear, because no one is speaking
    - c. Who can explain history? – [Isa. 40:13](#)
  - 2. A delusion
    - a. No works, do-nothings
    - b. Wind and confusion - meaninglessness

### III. Lies and the Truth

- A. Loving and Practicing a Lie – what is it to worship idols?
- 1. Idols are nothing – [1 Cor. 8:4; 12:2; Acts 7:40-41](#) – Quote #2
  - 2. Idol worship is a bankrupt religion
  - 3. Idol worship is demonic – [Rev. 9:20](#)
- B. Truth and Consequences
- 1. Truth – [John 8:32; 14:6; 17:17; 1 Cor. 10:14](#)
  - 2. Consequences – [1 Cor. 6:9-10; Eph. 5:5; Rev. 21:8; 22:15](#)
- C. God is the God of Salvation – [Isa. 43:12; 50:2; 59:16](#) – Quote #3

Quote #1 – “God is absolutely transcendent. He acts independently of the system and predicts what that system will do even in new and yet unexperienced situations.” – John Oswalt

Point 2 overview – God is initiating historical movements and events, and He predicts what will happen and directs things so that they do happen as predicted. He does not just know the future, He predicts and directs it to the outcome He has determined.

Quote #2 – “The gods are not false because they are represented by idols. Rather, the beautiful idols are worthless because the gods behind them are nothing.” – Oswalt

Quote #3 – “It is only a God who is totally Other than this world that He can never be imagined in any of this world’s forms (Exodus 20:4-5a), Who can explain to us why He created the world, and Who can be free enough from it to direct it and redirect its progress so as to deliver it from itself.” - Oswalt