

Isaiah

“The Evangelical Prophet”

VI. Isaiah’s Divine *Prophecies* of Consolation for Israel (40:1-48:22)

F. The *Prophecies* of Israel’s Restoration (43:1-44:28) (Parts I, II)

1. Israel’s *Redemption* Proclaimed (43:1-4)
2. Israel’s *Regathering* Predicted (43:5-7)
3. Israel’s *Role* as God’s Witness (43:8-13)
4. Israel’s *Restoration* from Babylonian Exile (43:14-21)
5. Israel’s *Recalcitrance* Recalled (43:22-28)
6. Israel’s *Revival* Predicted (44:1-5)

(Part III)

7. Israel’s *Redeemer*—His Unique Position and Sovereign Power (44:6-28)

a. A *Declaration* of God’s Uniqueness (44:6-8)

⁶“Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer,
the LORD of hosts:

‘I am the *first* and I am the *last*,
and there is no God besides Me.

⁷‘Who is like Me? Let him proclaim and declare it;
yes, let him recount it to Me in order,
from the time that I established the ancient nation.

And let them declare to them the things that are *coming*
and the events that are going to *take place*.

⁸‘Do *not* tremble and do *not* be afraid;
Have I not long since announced *it* to you and declared *it*?

And you are My witnesses.
Is there any God besides Me,
or is there any *other* Rock?
I know of none.”

b. A *Description* of the Folly of Idolatry (44:9-20)

⁹ Those who fashion a **graven image** are all of them **futile**,
and their precious things are of **no profit**;
even their own **witnesses** fail to **see** or **know**,
so that they will be **put to shame**.

¹⁰ Who has **fashioned a god** or **cast an idol** to **no profit**?

¹¹ Behold, all his companions will be **put to shame**,
for the craftsmen themselves are **mere men**.

Let them all assemble themselves, let them stand up, let them tremble,
let them together be **put to shame**.

¹² The man **shapes iron** into a cutting tool and does his work over the coals,
fashioning it with hammers and working it with his **strong arm**.
He also **gets hungry** and his **strength fails**;
he drinks **no water** and becomes **weary**.

¹³ *Another* **shapes wood**, he extends a measuring line;
he outlines it with red chalk.

He works it with planes and outlines it with a compass, and makes it like
the **form** of a **man**, like the **beauty** of **man**, so that it may **sit** in a **house**.

¹⁴ Surely he cuts **cedars** for himself, and takes a **cypress**
or an **oak** and raises *it* for himself among the trees of the forest.
He plants a **fir**, and **the rain** makes it **grow**.

¹⁵ Then it becomes *something* for a man **to burn**,
so he takes one of them and **warms himself**;
he also makes a fire to **bake bread**.

He also makes **a god** and **worships it**;
he makes it a **graven image** and **falls down** before it...

¹⁸ **They** do **not know**, **nor** do they **understand**,
for **He** has **smear**ed over their **eyes** so that they **cannot see**
and their **hearts** so that they **cannot comprehend**...

c. A *Divine* promise of Israel's **Redemption** (44:21-28)

²¹ "**Remember** these things, **O Jacob**, and **Israel**, for you are **My servant**;
I have **formed** you, you are **My servant**,
O Israel, you will **not** be **forgotten by Me**.

²² "I have **wiped out** your **transgressions** like a thick cloud
and your **sins** like a heavy mist.
Return to Me, for I have **redeemed you**."

²³ Shout for **joy**, **O heavens**, for the **LORD** has done *it*!
Shout **joyfully**, you **lower parts** of the **earth**;
Break forth into a shout of **joy**, you **mountains**,

O forest, and every **tree** in it;
For the **LORD** has **redeemed Jacob** and in **Israel He** shows forth **His glory**.

²⁴ Thus says the **LORD**, your **Redeemer**,
and the **one** who **formed you** from the **womb**,

“**I, the LORD**, am the **maker** of all things,
stretching out the **heavens** by Myself
and **spreading out** the **earth** all alone,

²⁵ **Causing** the omens of **boasters** to **fail**, making **fools** out of **diviners**,
causing **wise men** to **draw back** and **turning** their **knowledge** into **foolishness**,

²⁶ **Confirming** the word of His **servant**
and **performing** the **purpose** of His **messengers**.

It is I who says of **Jerusalem**, ‘She shall be **inhabited!**’
And of the **cities of Judah**, ‘They shall be **built.**’
And **I will raise up** her ruins **again**.

²⁷ “**It is I** who says to the **depth** of the **sea**, ‘Be **dried up!**’
And **I will** make your **rivers dry**.

²⁸ “**It is I** who says of **Cyrus**, ‘**He is My shepherd!**’
And he will perform all **My desire.**’

And he declares of **Jerusalem**, ‘She will **be built,**’
And of the **temple**, ‘Your **foundation will be laid.**’”

Message Summary **God Declares to the World, “I AM” (He)**

→ “**I Am**” the **King** of **Israel** and
his **Redeemer**,
the **LORD of hosts** (44:6a).

→ “**I Am**” **uniquely God**, the **Eternal One**.

“**I am** the **first** and **I am** the **last**,
and there is **no God** besides **Me**. (44:6b)”

→ “**I Am**” **sovereign** over the **events of History**—**declaring them**,
and **bringing them to pass**.

‘**Who is like Me?** Let him **proclaim** and **declare it**,
yes, let him **recount it to Me** in **order**,
from the **time that I established** the **ancient nation**.

And let them **declare** to them the things that **are coming**
and the **events** that are going to **take place**.(44:7)

→ “**I Am**” **God**, and there is **no other God** besides **Me**, and there
is no other **Rock** (44:8).

Is there **any God** besides **Me**,
or is there any **other Rock**? I know of **none**.”

Those who fashion a **graven image** are all of them **futile**,
and their **precious things** are of **no profit**,
even their **own witnesses** *fail* to **see** or **know**,
so that they will be **put to shame**. (44:8b-9)

→ “**I Am**” **Israel’s Great Redeemer**:

- **Who** has “**formed**” **Israel** to be **His servant** (44:21)
- **Who** has **wiped out** **Israel’s transgressions** (44:22)
- **Who** establishes **joy** throughout **creation** with the **redemption**
of Israel (44:23)
- **Who** is the **Creator** of **all things** (44:24)
- **Who** makes **foolish** the **wisdom** of the **wise** (44:25)
- **Who** has **promised** the **restoration** of **Jerusalem** and **Judah** (44:26)
- **Who** has declared **Cyrus** to be **His “shepherd,”** and **instrument** to
rebuild **Jerusalem**, and lay the **foundation** of the **temple** (44:28)

Personal Application

Israel’s Great Redeemer—Our Great Redeemer

In **Him (Jesus)** we have **redemption** through **His blood**,
the **forgiveness** of our **trespasses**,
according to the **riches** of **His grace**...(Ephesians 1:7)

... knowing that you were **not redeemed** with **perishable things**
like **silver or gold** from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,
but with **precious blood**, as of a lamb **unblemished** and **spotless**,
the blood of Messiah. (I Peter 1:18-19)

But when **Messiah** appeared as a **high priest** of the **good things** to come,
He entered through the **greater** and **more perfect** **tabernacle**,
not made with **hands**, that is to say, **not** of **this creation**;

and **not** through the **blood** of **goats** and **calves**,
but through **His own blood**, **He entered** the **holy place** **once for all**,
having obtained **eternal redemption**. (Hebrews 9:11-12)