

**Lesson 90 - CHRIST, GOD'S WAY OF JUSTIFICATION      *Isaiah 45***

**(Isa. 45:1-7)** - This chapter contains prophecies concerning the Medo-Persian king Cyrus (deliverer of the Jews from the Babylonian captivity) and the great things God would do for him and by him. Though Cyrus was an idolatrous king, he was a type of Christ, the Deliverer of spiritual Israel from captivity to sin, Satan, and the condemnation of the law. The reason God would do these things was for the sake of Israel and that He might be known as the only true God, the maker and owner of all things.

**(Isa. 45:8-10)** - A declaration is made of the Messiah as the author of salvation and righteousness. The ultimate reason that God chose the nation Israel and preserved them from all enemies in spite of their sins and rebellion was to bring Christ into the world in the flesh to save His people (spiritual Israel, God's elect, Jew and Gentile) by accomplishing their redemption and working out a righteousness on which God justifies them and from which He gives them spiritual life. *Verses 9-10* describe the contentious complaining of the unbelieving Jews against God's promised Messiah and God's way of salvation.

**(Isa. 45:11-14)** - Christ is the antetype of Cyrus. The Lord says, "Ask of Me and expect great things to be done by me through the Messiah, whom I have raised up in righteousness. He shall build my city." As Cyrus commissioned and enabled the Jews to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple, the Lord God commissioned and enabled His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to build the heavenly Jerusalem and the spiritual temple of God which is His church. *Verse 14* is a prophecy of the salvation and conversion of God's elect among the Gentiles. They shall come over to the church, subdued and conquered by the grace of God, saying, "God, the only God, is in thee."

**(Isa. 45:15-16)** - God is sovereign in mercy and will reveal Himself as Savior when and to whom He will. But the makers of idols and worshippers of false gods shall be confounded and ashamed forever.

**(Isa. 45:17)** - "*But Israel shall be saved in the Lord.*" The word "Israel" is used in the Bible over 2500 times. Most of the time it refers to the nation Israel, the typical people. But here, and in many other places, it refers to spiritual Israel—the true people of God among all nations. True Israel are the sons of Abraham in Christ, the seed (*Rom. 4:16; Gal. 3:7, 16, 29*). Paul wrote that he is not a Jew (Israel) which is one outwardly (*Rom. 2:28-29; 9:7-8*). All who are given to Christ, for whom He died, who are called to repentance and faith, are Israel and shall be saved "*with an everlasting salvation*" (*Mal. 3:6; Rom. 11:29; John 6:37-39*). They shall never be ashamed nor put to shame, forever!

**(Isa. 45:18)** - This is no idle promise! God's creation is not in vain. He created the heavens and the earth; and out of all of it will come His new heaven and new earth, which He will form to be inhabited by a people conformed to the image of Christ (*Rom. 8:19-23, 29-30*). The end of all things is decreed and determined by our God before one stone was laid in the earth's foundations (*Isa. 46:9-11; Eph. 1:3-6*).

**(Isa. 45:19)** - This covenant of grace and plan of redemption is no secret plan! God said, "I did not whisper the way of life in secret; I did not hide it in a dark place, nor did I say in vain to the sons of Jacob, "Seek ye the Lord." God, the Lord, speaks in righteousness and justice to all the earth. He has made known His law, His righteousness and holiness, and His mercy to sinners by His grace through the one great mediator, high priest, and reconciler, which

enables Him to be both just and justifier (*Rom. 3:19-26*). The Scriptures are clear to all who read them, but we all by nature are so blind and self-righteous that we will not of our own wills come to Christ (*John 5:39-40; 6:44; Rom. 3:10-12; 1 Cor. 2:14*).

**(Isa. 45:20)** - Men who turn from the Almighty God to their own gods and ways of salvation have no knowledge, for they pray to and preach an impotent god who cannot save. The god of men cannot do his will but must wait upon the will of the creature. The living God cannot lie and can do nothing contrary to His nature; but He can save sinners, for in His infinite wisdom and power He has provided in Christ a righteousness which enables Him to justify the ungodly and still honor His justice.

**(Isa. 45:21)** - God has declared this glorious salvation from ancient times, from before the foundation of the world (*Eph. 1:3-4; 2 Thess. 2:13; Matt. 25:34; 1 Peter 1:20; Rev. 13:8*). Who can do this? Who only can declare the end from the beginning? Only the sovereign, almighty, omnipotent God; and there is none beside Him. But here is a key—a truth to be learned—He is a **“JUST GOD AND A SAVIOUR.”** In saving sinners God cannot, will not, and does not compromise His holiness and justice. That is why Christ, the God-man, must come, must obey the law, must die on the cross. By His death, He is the way that God is just as well as merciful (*Rom. 3:25-26; 2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 1:16-17*). It is upon the ground of Christ’s righteousness imputed to God’s elect that God can be both just and justifier.

**(Isa. 45:22)** - To whom must we look if we would be saved? We must look to Him Who is both a just God AND a Savior. This means we must look to Christ, the Lord our righteousness (*Rom. 10:1-4*). The word is **“LOOK,”** not work, labor, nor serve. These things are the results of salvation, but salvation and eternal life is the gift of God through the glorious Person and finished work of Christ as the Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer of His people. This is the look of God-given faith. As sinful persons, we by nature are spiritually blind and unwilling to look to the God of all grace. Any who look to Christ with the eye of faith have been given spiritual life, spiritual eyes to see, spiritual ears to hear, in the new birth (*Matt. 13:15-16; John 1:11-13; 3:3-7; 2 Cor. 4:3-6*). This message of the Gospel of God’s grace in Christ goes to **“all the ends of the earth.”** God has a people from every tribe and nation. He will save them and bring them all to faith in Christ and repentance of dead works and idolatry. He is not willing that any of them should perish but that they all should be brought, by His grace and power, to repentance (*2 Pet. 3:9; John 6:37-40; 10:27-30*).

**(Isa. 45:23)** - Christ, being the true God manifest in the flesh, can swear by no greater (*Heb. 6:13*). This shows that what follows is of the greatest importance. **“The word is gone out of My mouth in righteousness,”** concerning how sinners are to be saved, agreeable to truth and justice, **“and shall not return”** or be changed. Unto Christ Jesus shall every knee bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord (*Php. 2:9-11*). Men will repent, believe, and own Christ to be their Lord now and be saved (*Rom. 10:9-10*); or they will, in the day of judgment, confess it in their utter damnation.

**(Isa. 45:24-25)** - This is the confession of all believers - **“In the Lord Jesus Christ we have righteousness, acceptance, and strength.”** We came to Him; and in coming to Him, we came to God (*1 Peter 3:18*). We were at one time **“incensed against Him”** and are ashamed of our unbelief, and those who continue to reject Him shall eternally be ashamed. All of spiritual Israel, whether Jew or Gentile, given to Christ, represented by Christ, redeemed by Christ, and interceded for by Christ shall be justified in Him and shall glory in Him, not in themselves but in Him Who is made unto us all we need (*1 Cor. 1:30-31*).