

SHEPHERD GIVEN

Isaiah 44

INTRODUCTION:

A cheerful promise in a dark hour is always good news. A pledge of internal prosperity and proof of the living God in contrast with all other gods. *Time of Hopelessness - Man & Nations have Reached The End of the Rope!*

Condemnation of man made gods. Made of materials used for other purposes.

Portrayed Israel's sin as a (dark cloud)

Further prophecy about (Cyrus) - called a shepherd. 41:25. "I have raised up one from the North" - represented as coming from the North and the East.

Outline:

- I. Speaking To His People 1-9.
- II. Shamefulness Of False Gods 10-20.
- III. Singing Through The Clouds 21-28.

I. Speaking To His People 1-9.

- Verse (1) - God is speaking - perfect knowledge. *Wm. Cowper; God Moves in a Mysterious Way His Wonders to perform; He plants his footsteps in the sea and rides upon the storm.*
- Verse (2) - Addresses - A. Servant - those that serve him.
- B. Chosen - He will protect - peculiar.
- C. Created Nation - Founded, made.
- D. Jesurun - "The upright one".

Word Jeshurun takes the place of Israel.

First called Jacob - Name brings to mind "crookedness" - Nature.

Jeshurun gives opposite idea meaning "The upright" - Grace.

The man described according to both nature and grace.

A said Nathanael, "in whom is no guile".

*Sounds like Romans*

God is speaking, telling that mercy will flow and sin will be blotted out.

Verse 3 - What he will do for them. Water a symbol of salvation and of the Holy Spirit.

Satisfaction in God -- if you desire spiritual.

Dry/Ground - soul/barren - I will pour out - destitution.

Promise was fulfilled when? Pentecost!

Pour - Disciples were to go and make disciples.

Upon the church - increase in growth and piety. Refreshing - church depressed.

Thy seed - and offspring - Gal. 3:16. The church is going to grow.

Christian parents can anticipate their children to unite in fellowship with Christ and the church. The Gospel will continue to live if not one heathen convert be made. It will not expire with the existing generation. This is a promise that the word of God will endure forever. Hereby, is the Christian parent under great obligation. Bible says you be loyal to your Lord and the Spirit will be poured upon your offspring!

Not 100% but near - if the parent is loyal to the church in attendance, his child will be. Note - where the church is 2nd in the parents choice it will become 3rd with the child.

Outpouring - reviving of national life - prosperity - vitality.

Some people use the church - like a drowning man who clings to the side of the boat - but he refuses to enter.

That is not God's fault! It is your own and question is - how long are you going to continue just barely hanging on?

Dry - barren - parched - no growth. Dead soul!

Pour - torrents of rain - fulness of the spirit - God's promise to the children of the church - give his spirit. Includes all spiritual blessings!

Perpetuated.

Verse 4 - Compares the offspring - children - rising generation - sure and certain as luxuriant growth on the banks of a river - edge of the water there is growth of grass

and willow trees. Comfort to Christian parents heart in regard too.

Verse 5 - Public profession of Religion.

An honour to subscribe to his name. Change of heart and love for God and love for his church -- He renews his covenant with God.

Backsliders must repent and do their first works.

I am the Lord's - surrender to his commands, his forever. Open confession - admit fellowship.

Calling by name of Jacob - Forgetting their own family the Gentile. Love God's family and want to be associated with the church.

Subscribe with their hand - pledging Neh. 9:38, Heb. 12:1 before witnesses. Ezek. 2:10. Honor to be his - Rev. 13:16. Mark self, bound to your commander. Christians use to mark themselves as belonging to Christ. Confirm - covenanting - bind fast - Ex. 24:7, Joshua 24:26-27.

Some hold back on a profession - I don't think the church will receive me, so mean and unworthy.

Or, so many in the church are not what they ought to be - Rom. 14:12, John 21:21-22.

Verse 6 - Clear Doctrine of One God.

Sovereignty incontestable - King and Redeemer.

Eternal - First and last - no room for God in between. Alpha and Omega. Rev. 1:11 and Rom. 11:36.

Creator - sustainer - ruler - redeemer.

Only God against all idols.

Verse 7 - Reads: / And who, as I, shall the future proclaim?

Then let him speak and declare it,  
Form it, and put it in order for me,  
Since I appointed the people,

The people abiding for ever.

The things that are now coming on,  
And what is so nearly approaching,  
Let them declare them to all.

What is hidden - in time - eternity - His people have permanency - abide forever.

Rivals - no - time look forward - foretell.

God goes further - He calls Cyrus - He calls Israel out of Babylon - he has foreknowledge of it and sets it in order - Knows the direction.

Could any other god do this? Led from Egypt to Canaan - No idol could tell Cyrus would deliver! Things that will come and come hereafter.

Verse 8 - Be Not In Terror - Did they ever meet any god like the one God? Why fear?

You are appointed people - (ancient) - Proof that he is God, he will redeem man - deliver?

(Don't hope) in any other god or fear any other god - counterfeit gods.

You are my witnesses - not in the dark. Look to God for light - take a stand - Prophets of Baal at Carmel.

Verse 9 - Well may they be ashamed.

- A. Makers of Idols are in despair - utter confusion.
- B. They are witnesses of despair!
- C. They shall not profit - idols not help. Hab. 2:18.

## II. Shamefulness of False Gods - Verse 10-20.

Verse 10 - Exposes the folly of idolatry. Man made god utterly worthless. Man is debased to form his own god. Warn the people against temptation of idol worship while captive in Babylon.

Worship while captive in Babylon.

Remove fear of the gods of the enemy.

Verse 11 - Maker of the idol is man - How then can idol be any better than man - workmen are men.

Let them be ashamed - alarmed and confounded together.

Workmen are of Adam of the dust therefore the idol is of low degree.

Verse 12 - Description of a maker of an idol.

✓ First - By metal.

Blacksmith - works while the iron is hot - gets hungry and thirsty. So eager to complete he can not slow up to eat. Now if the idol could help he would prevent his hunger and thirst.

Verse 13 - ✓ Second, with Wood.

Carpenter - stretches his rule on a block of wood, marks out a line with his pencil, gets his saw and cuts the line, then used his plane to polish the finish off.

Poor, weak man makes an idol in the shape he desires, shape of man and puts it in his dwelling. Household god! Or places in a temple.

Best style - compass make a circle add to beauty - handsome statue - likeness unto corruptible man. Rom. 1:23.

Verse 14 - Trace Block of Wood to Source

Cedar tree - Oak - Cypress - Or Plants his own tree, Mt. Ash. It must depend upon the one living God for rain.

No matter how fine these trees they are only trees. Man can plant his own tree, but cannot make it grow - Rain from Heaven.

Verse 15 - Trace True Use of Block of Wood.

Not for idol - But for man's comfort, to keep him warm.

Use for cooking bread over a fire. Fuel and cooking.

Verse 16 - Also, roast meat - Heats his oven.

I am warm, I feel its power.

Ha Ha, I'm comfortable, I sit by the fireside.

Verse 17 - Falls before this block of wood and cries "O save me" - Deliver.

Little exposition is needed here.

Verse 18 - Man as Blind as the Block of Wood.

Shut their eyes - plastered - Heb. 1:2.

Pharisees - Confessed no blindness - Eyes were plastered - closed - 2 Thes. 2:11.

Sealed the eyes of offenders in some eastern towns - customs.

Verse 19 - Man's heart as the block of wood - without knowledge. Fool hath said in his heart there is no God. Stupid - believe a lie - strong delusion.

Verse 20 - Idol Worshipper like block of Wood is Vain.

Natural man appetite craves that which is disappointing. Feedeth upon ashes.

Leaving him hungry.

Prov. 15:14 - Hos. 12:1 - Ephraim feedeth on wind.

This block of wood can be reduced to ashes and should be thought of as no better.

Deceived heart will go astray. Rom. 1:28. Eph. 4:18.

Lie in my right hand - this is my handiwork. It is self deceit. Cheat self.

Sinner - principle of secret inclinations - man depends upon the heart - "as he thinketh in his heart so is he". David in the matter of uriah!

Sin in the heart is hard to put out. He sits down to a meal of ashes as a habit and choice - eats husk of the swine!

Idols of ambition, mammon, worldly desire, folly reproduced - fruit of sin.

Lie in right hand - Hindue - Torture. Mohammedean fasts - prayers - long journey to false tomb. Romanist confess in ear of man or implore Virgin for aid.

Deut. 29:19.

Sin disguised in the heart - ashes.

III. Singing Through The Clouds - V. 21-28.

Verse 21 - Remember what you have been told about idolatry.

Remember that idolaters consider not in their heart.

Remember you are not slaves to the stock of a tree.

Remember you have not been forgotten of God.

Remember with your sins and wanderings, sorrows, God has not forgotten.

Promise! Even among these degenerate people there are some who mourn over their iniquities and trembled at God's word.

Comforting word of Isaiah - He will not forget your circumstances in your situation. His precious promises - your prayers.

Man often feels he has been forgotten of the Lord - tried - afflicted - our work drags. The church meets a crisis - He will not forget.

We forget God - suspicion - distrust. Don't forget the one God.

Verse 22 - Comparison - Sin As Thick Cloud.

As a dark cloud - thick cloud suspended between earth and heaven. Sins separates between us and God. Like storm. Hide the blue heaven. Dense.

I have blotted out - I Have NOW - blotted them all out - dispelled the dense cloud.

As cloud scattered away by the wind as far as the east is from the west.

Dark cloud getting thick, heavier, transgressions, covering the sky. I John. 1:7-9. Thy Sin.

Return - I have redeemed - doctrine of redemption: We do not repent in order that he may redeem us but because he hath redeemed us. Zech. 12:10, Acts 3:18-19.

Luke 7:43, 47. Who could turn from such love.

Sin is everywhere. Rom. 5:12. Man goes astray from birth. Figure of cloud - storm - God removes.

Bible gives story of grace - Rev. 22:17. Rom. 5:18.

God pardons - blots out this cloud.

Verse 23 - Sing Through The Clouds - Everybody invited. Rom. 8:20-21. Bird -

bursts into singing - not adequate to express the joy. Joy unspeakable. Heaven - Earth - Angels - Upper world. Luke 15:7.

Gentiles - Lower World.

Verse 24 - Kinsman - Redeemer - True Messiah. Maker of all things - stretched out the starry heavens - commissioning them.

Gods were plentiful - invented gods - political gods - mythical gods - Smith and Carpenter manufacturing gods.

Verse 25 - Turns wise men back - frustrate liars. Babylon - sophisticated -

boasted of science. False prophets boasting of a bright future. *NAZI Germany - War Machine*

*Failed - Madmen - Russia + Red China set 1973 Target Date take the World! Program - Division China + Russia - Mad men*  
These tokens frustrate - pretended miracles - supernatural powers -

astrologers - diviners. *Babylonian Soothsayers use Fraud - Bring to Naught their dying tokens.*

Great progress. Was there ever such progress? A man of 50 years ago would hardly know the earth today. His voice could be heard by millions - listen to music, a speech, across the world. Science. Psalm 2:2, 4-5.

What will fill the empty heart of man. Do these marvels satisfy? Electricity or candles? Radium - Man goes deeper into spiritual darkness.

Verse 26 - God confirms his word. Jerusalem was a prosperous city. Babylon a struggling small power. Foretold captivity and return to rebuild the city and repopulate.

Verse 27 - Dry Up Rivers - Euphrates.

Whatever is in the way of deliverance God can remove it. Dried up Red Sea. Jordon - Now Euphrates. Cyrus took Babylon he turned the river into canals used for irrigation and passed in on the river bed!

Verse 28 - Shepherd Given. A Chosen shepherd - type of Messiah. *Shepherd His people back home,*

Cyrus - Unknown - This was written 130 years, before Cyrus was born. Could have been as much as 150-200 years before fulfillment.

Isaiah spoken in The 8th Century B.C. Cyrus lived in The 6th Century B.C.

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Cyrus born in Persia, East of Babylon.

Move to Media lying on North of Babylon.

Came down conqueror of Babylon. 539 B.C.

Scarcely had he won a city before he stood thundering at the gates of another. Empires were like dust before him.

Belshazzar - handwriting on the wall - little time - sudden - unexpected - Cyrus.

Babylon - 15 miles square.

River Euphrates intersected the city. Folding gates. Wall solid. 350 ft. High - Broad, 4 Chariots driven abreast.

Cyrus not cross walls - marched in under on vacant bed of the river. Drunken palace.

See the meaning of the words - I will dry up thy rivers - I will loose the loins of Kings.

They could have captured the Persians, but taken by surprise.

Prophet told this 130 or more years before.

Where did he get his information? How did he know the man's name Cyrus? No soothsayer.

Like a Shepherd, let God's people go and rebuild the holy city. Give protection and assistance.

Shadow - The Good Shepherd + Psa, 23 The Lord is My Shepherd - Jesus said I am The Shepherd -