

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

ISAIAH 44-45

When we say “[God is eternal](#),” we’re not just saying God has lots of time on his hands - but that He dwells outside of time altogether. Einstein showed that time is a physical property relative to other physical properties.

And since God is spiritual, He exists outside the time domain. He occupies a different, eternal dimension.

Thus, Isaiah 57:15 sounds like it was written by a modern-day physicist, when the verse refers to God as “[the High and lofty One Who inhabits eternity...](#)”

And since God dwells outside of time, He sees the end from the beginning. In fact, He declares Himself as the God “[Who was, Who is, and Who is to come.](#)”

God revealed His name to Moses as the “[I am.](#)”

He’s always present, and current, and now. And to prove His sovereignty over time God utilizes predictive prophecies. He writes history before it happens.

The most obvious example is the first coming of Jesus. The OT is packed with over 300 detailed predictions of Jesus’s birth, and ministry, and death.

In his book, [Science Speaks](#), Peter Stoner calculates the probability of just 8 of the OT’s 300 prophecies coming true by chance. The odds are 1 in 10 (17th).

That's the equivalent of filling the state of Texas two feet deep with silver dollars, painting one red, blindfolding a man, then having him pick the right one.

The accuracy of biblical prophecy authenticates God's authority and substantiates the Bible's reliability.

This is the purpose in tonight's chapters. God writes history before it happens and prophecies future events.

One-hundred years before his birth, Isaiah writes of a king. He speaks of his career, his methods, even his name. It's amazing validation of God's amazing book.

Isaiah 44 begins, "Yet hear now, O Jacob My servant, and Israel whom I have chosen."

God didn't choose two people groups, but one people with two names. "*Jacob*" and "*Israel*" are the two sides - the two natures - of the same people.

When the nation strayed into sin, it was called, "*Jacob*" or "*scoundrel*." Jacob was a thief, a conniver, a deceiver... But when the nation proved faithful to God it was "*Israel*" - "*God prevailed*" or "*Governed by God*."

But God chose this people for better or worse - as Jacob or Israel. His choice was unconditional.

Thus says the Lord who made you and formed you from the womb, who will help you: 'Fear not, O Jacob My servant; and you, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.'

"*Jeshurun*" is another name for the Hebrews. It was first used in Deuteronomy 32. It means "Upright One."

Notice God had a parental connection with Israel.

He made them - formed them in the womb. And a parent never stops being a parent. The responsibilities and roles change as a child grows older, but parenting is a lifelong commitment. And this is how God felt about Israel. They didn't need to fear. Since God had birthed them, He would never abandon them.

And this is God's attitude toward those who are *in Christ*. We have been adopted into His forever family.

He's made us, and thus, He'll never abandon us.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 tells us, "He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it." Philippians 1:6 puts it, "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." I've heard of parents who disowned or disinherited their kids, but you never have to worry about that kind of treatment from God. He's faithful.

Whether you're a wayward child like a Jacob, or you're governed by God like an Israel, as long as you trust in Christ, you're God's child. And as a faithful father, God will never disavow His obligation to you.

Verse 3, "For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your offspring; they will

spring up among the grass like willows by the watercourses.’ One will say, ‘I am the Lord’s’; another will call himself by the name of Jacob; another will write with his hand, ‘The Lord’s,’ and name himself by the name of Israel.” Men will proudly take the name “*Jacob*” or “*Israel*” - and call themselves God’s people.

And here God promises to bless His people with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, that will cause growth.

Israel predicts what occurred 50 days after Jesus’ ascension in the upper room at Jerusalem, on the Day of Pentecost. We read about it in Acts. 2. The power of the Holy Spirit was poured out on dry and thirsty souls.

Throughout the OT this promise of refreshment was repeated again and again... In Numbers 11 the Holy Spirit anointed the 70 men who would help Moses lead the nation. The job had gotten too big for one man.

Two of the leaders happened to be in the camp - out in public - when the Spirit was poured out. When they prophesied it exposed this special anointing to the common people. Joshua was upset. He assumed the outpouring of the Spirit was reserved for a special few.

He said, “Moses, my Lord, forbid them!”

But Moses replied, “Are you zealous for my sake? Oh, that all the LORD’S people were prophets and that the LORD would put His Spirit upon them.” Moses longed for the day when sons and daughters, old and young - all God’s people - will experience this blessing.

Ezekiel 39:29, Joel 2:28 are just a few of the OT predictions of a future outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

This is what the risen Christ meant, when just before He ascended to Heaven, He told His disciples, “Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” Jesus referred to the anointing of the Holy Spirit as “the promise of the Father.”

Notice in Isaiah this outpouring of the Spirit achieves two purposes - **refreshment** and **recognition**.

Isaiah depicts a man’s soul as dry, parched ground. But the Spirit softens. He makes us supple and fertile.

It reminds us of the Feast of Tabernacles. Every year the priest conducted a ritual. He brought jars of water up from the Pool of Siloam and poured them out before the altar in the Temple. It was at that exact moment when Jesus cried, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me, and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”

Jesus offers **refreshment** for the dry and thirsty soul.

And notice too, this outpouring of the Spirit brings about a **recognition**... Look at verse 5, once anointed, One will say, “*I am the Lord’s.*” He’ll write in his hand, “*The*

Lord's.” The baptism of the Spirit brings about a new assurance, and confidence, and recognition.

This is what Paul meant in Ephesians 1:13 when he told the believers, “*You were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.*” A seal is a mark of ownership - a proof of purchase. And when we receive the filling of the Spirit it’s evidence that we belong to Jesus - we’re His child.

This experience with the Holy Spirit eliminates all doubts and fears. Afterwards, we *know that we know*. The Spirit is the inner witness that we belong to Jesus.

And let me remind you, the baptism or filling of the Spirit isn’t a one-time experience. The same folks filled with the Spirit in Acts 2, were filled again in Acts 4.

RA Torrey once said, “*We need to be filled again and again with the Holy Spirit. I am sometimes asked, 'Have you received the second blessing?' Yes, and the third, and the fourth, and the fifth, and hundreds beside, and I am looking for a new blessing today.*”

If you’re enduring a period of spiritual dryness, ask God to shower you again with the water of His Spirit!

As the hymn writer put it, “*Oh, for the Spirit's quickening power; Oh, for a soul-refreshing shower; Oh, for the Pentecostal power; Lord send it now.*”

Verse 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; besides Me there is no God. And who can*

proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, since I appointed the ancient people.

And the things that are coming and shall come, let them show these to them. Do not fear, nor be afraid; have I not told you from that time, and declared it?

You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.”

There is one God and one God only!

Here God says, *If there is another god, I don't know it!* God has no competition. He's Ruler and Redeemer, the First and the Last - the Beginning and the End.

Everything originates and culminates with God.

He proclaims, *“Besides Me there is no God.”*

And notice, what He appeals to as proof of His sovereignty... It's **His ability to predict the future.**

Amos 3:7 tells us, *“Surely the LORD God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.”* Every significant thing God has done throughout history was first predicted by His prophets.

In other words, *He told His people in advance.*

This is God's way of affirming His authority! Only God can predict the future with precision accuracy - for only God dwells outside of time. Only God is timeless.

Satan on the other hand is a creature of time, he can't see into the future, even though he wants you to think he can. But he too offers up future predictions.

We've always had soothsayers, diviners, astrologers, fortune tellers who look into their crystal balls and claim to see the future. Psychics from Nostradamus to Jeane Dixon have attempted to predict future events.

And on occasion, if the prediction is vague enough they might observe a trend and hit on the obvious.

But only God is 100% accurate 100% of the time!

In fact, I looked up a few of psychic predictions for 2014, just to check up on the correctness of their forecasts. And their accuracy rate was pretty dismal...

Queen Elizabeth will no longer reign.

Housing market crashes again.

An earthquake alters course of the Mississippi River.

VP Biden plays a larger role in the government.

A natural disaster hits the Sydney Opera House.

SETI, the search for extra terrestrial intelligence receives a loud and clear signal from the heavens.

Brazil wins the 2014 World Cup.

Scotland breaks away from the UK.

Pope Francis appoints the first female Cardinal.

It's interesting, Deuteronomy 18:22 says if a prophet is not right 100% of time - then they're a false prophet.

I heard of a woman who charged her clients \$25 per session to gaze into her crystal ball. The fee paid for two questions. One visitor complained "Isn't that a lot of money for only two questions?" She replied "Yes sir, it is... *And now what is your second question?*"

Hey, there are many so-called *fortune tellers* making a fortune ripping off naive and gullible people.

Charles Ryrie points out the odds of one person, by chance, making 100 error-free predictions in sequence.

He says you'd have to take 200 billion earths, each populated with 4 billion people to find one person who by chance could make 100 predictions without an error.

Yet the Bible makes over 300 predictions of the first coming of Jesus, all of which were fulfilled in precise detail. **God proves His supremacy with prophecy.**

Verse 9, "Those who make an image, all of them are useless, and their precious things shall not profit; they are their own witnesses; they neither see nor know, that they may be ashamed. Who would form a god or mold an image that profits him nothing?" God mocks the idolaters, for creating worthless, empty idols.

"Surely all his companions would be ashamed; and the workmen, they are mere men. Let them all be gathered together, let them stand up; yet they shall fear, they

shall be ashamed together.” Shame on the *idol-makers*, and the *fakers*, and all the foolish *takers*.

“The blacksmith with the tongs works one in the coals, fashions it with hammers, and works it with the strength of his arms. Even so, he is hungry, and his strength fails; he drinks no water and is faint.” The blacksmith makes a god, but grows tired in the process. His god is unable to strengthen its maker.

Contrast that with the true God. Isaiah 40:31, “Those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” The true God gives strength to those who worship Him.

“The craftsman stretches out his rule, he marks one out with chalk; he fashions it with a plane, he marks it out with the compass, and makes it like the figure of a man, according to the beauty of a man, that it may remain in the house.” Here’s the appeal of idolatry - *it’s flattery that causes men to overlook its futility*. An idol gives man the opportunity to make a god in his image.

He can make a god like himself - *in his own likeness*.

This is one slender step removed from *self-worship*.

Men today are no different. He claims to worship the god within - his own inner light - the indomitable human spirit. It’s a just step away from idolizing himself.

GK Chesterton once warned of this idolatry, "That Jones shall worship the god within him turns out ultimately to mean that Jones shall worship Jones. Let Jones worship the sun and moon, anything rather than the Inner Light; let Jones worship cats or crocodiles, if he can find any in his street, but not the god within."

At least an idol allows for the fact that God exists outside of ourselves. It keeps us searching... But the ultimate delusion is to make myself god. I become not only a slave to *my ignorance*, but also *my arrogance*.

Verse 14 continues talking about the idol-maker, "He cuts down cedars for himself, and takes the cypress and the oak; he secures it for himself among the trees of the forest. He plants a pine, and the rain nourishes it. Then it shall be for a man to burn, for he will take some of it and warm himself; yes, he kindles it and bakes bread; indeed he makes a god and worships it; he makes it a carved image, and falls down to it."

The picture is obvious. He uses a tree to warm himself, cook his food - then he worships what's left over? Hey, to worship mere *wood... would be foolish!*

"He burns half of it in the fire; with this half he eats meat; he roasts a roast, and is satisfied. He even warms himself and says, "Ah! I am warm, I have seen the fire." And the rest of it he makes into a god, his carved image. He falls down before it and worships it, prays to it and says, "Deliver me, for you are my god!"

This is not just foolish, it's the height of insanity!

Verse 18, “They do not know nor understand; for He has shut their eyes, so that they cannot see, and their hearts, so that they cannot understand. And no one considers in his heart, nor is there knowledge nor understanding to say, “I have burned half of it in the fire, yes, I have also baked bread on its coals; I have roasted meat and eaten it; and shall I make the rest of it an abomination? Shall I fall down before a block of wood?” He feeds on ashes; a deceived heart has turned him aside; and he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, “Is there not a lie in my right hand?” He holds up the idol he has made. Isaiah says he’s holding a lie!

“Remember these, 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!” **Amazing!**

Even though Israel rejected God for foolish idols, God never forsook Israel. He set them aside for a time to teach them a lesson, but He’ll never forget Israel. He is a faithful father who never abandons His kids.

Verse 22, “I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions, and like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you.” This is how God treats our sin! He blots it out! He permanently eradicates it.

He doesn’t just put sin in the trash bin, where it can still be retrieved later. He erases it from the hard drive.

“Sing, O heavens, for the Lord has done it! Shout, you lower parts of the earth; break forth into singing, you mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For the Lord

has redeemed Jacob, and glorified Himself in Israel. Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, and He who formed you from the womb: “I am the Lord, who makes all things, Who stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself...”

God our Redeemer, is also Creator of the universe.

He “*stretches out the heavens...*” Astronomers today teach an expanding universe. That the galaxies are traveling away from each other at enormous speeds.

The physical universe is stretching or spreading out. And the implication of an expanding universe is that it had a beginning - a starting point. Cosmologists call it the Big Bang. I would call it *the moment of Creation*.

Isaiah says in verse 25, “Who frustrates the signs of the babblers, and drives diviners mad...” The Lord is so accurate with His predictions, it makes the so-called soothsayers, the wannabes jealous and frustrated.

“Who turns wise men backward, and makes their knowledge foolishness; Who confirms the word of His servant, and performs the counsel of His messengers; Who says to Jerusalem, ‘You shall be inhabited,’ to the cities of Judah, ‘You shall be built,’ and I will raise up her waste places...” Understand, Isaiah is writing for a future people, at a future date. This sounded strange to his contemporaries. Jerusalem was inhabited. It was built out - had it’s suburbs. The area was prosperous.

But Isaiah is looking ahead 160 years. He's speaking to the Jews who'll live after the fall of Jerusalem.

Isaiah is writing around 700 BC. The Babylonians will sack Jerusalem in 586 BC. Then the Persians will conquer Babylon in 539 BC. And one of the first decrees issued by the new Persian ruler, Cyrus, will be for the Jews to return and rebuild the city of Jerusalem.

And here a century-and-a-half beforehand God is promising Jerusalem, *"You shall be inhabited..." "You will be built..." "I will raise up her waste places..."*

In fact, through Isaiah the prophet, God writes a letter to the future king of Persia. He predicts his triumph and greatness. He even calls Cyrus by name.

It's one of the most amazing prophecies in all the Bible. And when Cyrus reads it, it's a testimony to him.

Let me chart what happened during the 160 years between Isaiah and Cyrus. The world was dominated by the Babylonian empire and its most famous king, Nebuchadnezzar. It was a golden age. Babel reached its zenith. It was a military and commercial giant.

Judah surrendered to Babylon in 605 BC... In 597 its princes were deported to Babel, including Daniel... In 586 Babylon put down a final Jewish revolt by burning their Temple and destroying the city of Jerusalem.

At the time Babylon was considered the strongest city on Earth. Its walls were impregnable. Babel had a double wall - 311' high, 87' thick - wide enough for a line of 11 cars door panel to door panel. The Euphrates River flowed under those walls, providing fresh water.

The fall of Babel came on October 12, 539 BC, while Nebuchadnezzar's successor, King Belshazzar, partied in his throne room. This king was proud and pompous.

At that very moment the Persians were camped outside the walls of Babylon. Yet rather than show concern, he was arrogant and defiant. Babylon was invincible. Rather than fear, he would throw a party!

That night, he called for the Jewish treasures - the bowls and jars taken from the Temple. The sacred vessels used in the worship of God - Belshazzar used as beer mugs and shot glasses. It was blasphemy!

Suddenly, a mysterious hand appeared on the wall. It was the hand of God writing Belshazzar a message.

Daniel 5 recounts the episode. Here's verses 5-6 from the OKJV, "In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against the other." Catch the phrase, "*the joints of his loins were loosed...*" Not only did his knees start

knocking, but it scared the stuffing out of him. Perhaps he had to race to the palace potty.

It reminds me of the British naval captain. One day, a cabin boy raced into his quarters and told him that a Spanish galleon was just off the starboard bow. He ordered, "Fetch me my red vest and sound the battle stations." The crew was able to defeat the enemy.

But a few days later the boy rushed into his quarters again. This time there were two Spanish galleons off the port bow. But again the brave captain barked, "Fetch me my red vest and sound the battle stations."

The captain's aid was so inspired. He asked for permission to ask the captain a question. "Sir, why do you always ask for a red vest before going into battle?"

The brave captain answered, "Son, in case I sustain a hit in battle, and start to bleed, I don't want my men to see the blood, and my wound discourage them." The boy left the cabin so proud of his courageous captain.

Well, the next day the same boy came racing into his captain's quarters, "Captain, Captain, the whole Spanish Armada is on horizon!" The captain ordered, "Son, fetch my red vest - my brown pants - and sound the battle stations." That's was Belshazzar - he was so frightened - he needed a good pair of brown pants.

In response to God's writing on the wall, Daniel was called in to interpret the message. "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin" - "Your number is up. You've been weighed and found lacking. Your kingdom will be divided."

While God's message was preoccupying the king in his palace, the Persian army had been busy.

General Ugabaru had gone upstream and diverted the river into a lake. It dried up the riverbed. That night as the king partied the Persians invaded the city, but from under the walls, not over them. It was a complete surprise. They conquered Babylon without firing a shot.

It was on October 27 that the Persian king, Cyrus, rode into Babylon. And the Hebrew Prophet Daniel met him, with a scroll of Isaiah. Daniel showed Cyrus, here in Isaiah 44-45, where the God of the Hebrews had predicted him by name 160 years previously.

And here's what Cyrus read, verse 27, "Who says to the deep, 'Be dry! And I will dry up your rivers'..." Which is exactly how Cyrus conquered Babylon.

Then verse 28, "Who says of Cyrus..." God had mentioned Cyrus by name to Isaiah the prophet.

And then God said of Cyrus, "He is My shepherd, and he shall perform all My pleasure, saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," And to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid." Cyrus will be God's servant and fulfill His purposes, and Cyrus complied.

In Chapter 45 the prophecy continues, “Thus says the Lord to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held - to subdue nations before him...” History tells us Cyrus conquered a total of 46 nations.

“And loose the armor of kings...” Remember Belshazzar’s experience. His loins were loosened. I’ll bet he was glad he didn’t have to take off his armor.

“To open before him the double doors, so that the gates will not be shut...” When Persia invaded Babylon the gates of the city were left unlocked that night.

Whether it was negligence or a covert operation we don’t know. But it was predicted by God. Cyrus’ surprise invasion had been aided by the hand of God.

Verse 2 speaks to Cyrus, ‘I will go before you and make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze and cut the bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places, that you may know that I, the Lord, Who call you by your name, am the God of Israel.

For Jacob My servant’s sake, and Israel My elect, I have even called you by your name; I have named you, though you have not known Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other; there is no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me, that they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting that there is none besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other; I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the Lord, do all these things.’” The Persians worshipped “Mazda” the god of light. Here Yahweh says to Cyrus that He created light.

The God of Israel called Cyrus by name a century before his birth. Yahweh is the only God. There is no other beside Him. He alone is worthy of worship.

Josephus, the Jewish historian, says Cyrus was so impressed with Isaiah's prophecy he felt compelled to help the Jews return to their land. His first decree allowed their return, along with their Temple treasures.

Cyrus even financed part of the operation from his own royal treasuries. A pagan king sought to fulfill the role God had for him, and be the Lord's shepherd. I wouldn't be surprised if we don't meet Cyrus in heaven.

Verse 8, "Rain down, you heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness; let the earth open, let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together. I, the Lord, have created it." He creates *the universe*, and *our salvation!*

"Woe to him who strives with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth! Shall the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?' Or shall your handiwork say, 'He has no hands'?" Isaiah warns Cyrus not to buck God's plans.

The clay doesn't talk back to potter, and neither should Cyrus question the God Who created him.

"Woe to him who says to his father, 'What are you begetting?' Or to the woman, 'What have you brought forth?'" Thus says the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, and his

Maker: “Ask Me of things to come concerning My sons; and concerning the work of My hands, you command Me. I have made the earth, and created man on it. I - My hands - stretched out the heavens, and all their host I have commanded. I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways; he shall build My city and let My exiles go free, not for price nor reward,” says the Lord of hosts.” Just as God stretched out the heavens, He created Cyrus’ kingdom. God blessed Cyrus and put him in position to serve His purposes - to set the exiles free and rebuild Jerusalem.

And Isaiah makes a point, Cyrus' cooperation wasn't *bought* or *bribed*, it was prophesied in advance. It was the will of God. Cyrus had not choice but to obey.

“Thus says the Lord: “the labor of Egypt and merchandise of Cush and of the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over to you, and they shall be yours; they shall walk behind you, they shall come over in chains; and they shall bow down to you. They will make supplication to you, saying, ‘Surely God is in you, and there is no other; there is no other God.’”

The other nations Cyrus conquers will likewise give glory to God. Cyrus’s success will be attributed not to the idols of Persia, but to the one, true God of Israel.

“Truly You are God, who hide Yourself, O God of Israel, the Savior! They shall be ashamed and also disgraced, all of them; they shall go in confusion together, who are

makers of idols. But Israel shall be saved by the Lord with an everlasting salvation; you shall not be ashamed or disgraced forever and ever.”

To this point Isaiah has been describing the salvation brought by Cyrus. But Cyrus' salvation was not everlasting. The Persian empire lasted only 200 years.

It was upset by the Greeks and Alexander the Great.

Another salvation is also in view. Cyrus was actually a type of another Savior, the Christ, and the salvation from sin Jesus would bring to those who trust in Him!

We're told in verse 18, “For thus says the Lord, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: “I am the Lord, and there is no other.” This is such an interesting passage. In this great declaration of God's supremacy He makes a few provocative statements...

He “did not create (the universe) in vain...” He “formed it to be inhabited...” This is very suggestive...

The first 3 verses of Genesis read, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. Then God said, ‘Let there be light.’”

Notice the expression “without form and void” - the Hebrew translation is “tohu, vobohu.” Yet here in Isaiah we're told God did NOT create the universe in tohu.

Here's an apparent contradiction, Genesis 1 insists God created the universe **in tohu - without form and uninhabitable**. Whereas Isaiah 45, says He created it **not in tohu - it was not without form and uninhabitable**.

So which is it? Form or without form is the question?

There are people, myself included, who believe this opens the door for a gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. God's original creation occurs in 1:1. As Isaiah 45 tells us God created the heavens and earth with shape and design and ready to be inhabited by humans. The universe was a fully furnished apartment for mankind.

But something cataclysmic occurred that threw God's original creation into chaos and disorder. It made the universe uninhabitable. In fact, some scholars have suggested the language of Genesis 1:2 suggests this. It could be rendered, **"The earth became without form and void..."** Not just that it was, but that it *became*.

I believe it's possible, although certainly not conclusive, that the fall of Satan and his demons took place in this gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2.

We know that Satan was once Lucifer, the anointed angel who covered God's throne. He had considerable influence, so when he rebelled, a third of the angels joined his revolt. It was a major mutiny. A war erupted. God had to kick him and his cronies out of heaven.

It's possible that Genesis 1:2 describes the collateral damage resulting from Satan's fall. The Earth was without form and void. That's not the way God created it originally, but it was the result of this war in heaven.

And the six days of creation in Genesis 1 are essentially the re-creation of the heavens and earth.

How long of a gap occurred? We're not told and have no way of knowing. This is why I'm not sure how old the Earth might be. The only person around when it was created was God, and He's chosen not to tell us.

It's my belief that life on Earth is relatively young - 6000 to 10,000 years old. But the age of the Earth itself could be much longer - maybe even billions of years.

There is one disclaimer I want to insert. Sometimes ["The Gap Theory"](#) is used to explain the fossil record and geological column, and to make room for billions of years of evolution. I couldn't disagree with that more!

Fossils imply death and death doesn't enter the picture until after the fall of Adam and Eve, Genesis 3.

Genesis 1:2 does paint a picture of darkness, and chaos, and evil. Yet it was not caused by human sin, but by the rebellion of Satan and the sin of the angels.

A better explanation for the fossil record is the flood of Noah - not a gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2.

Back to our text, in verse 19 God speaks again to Cyrus, “I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth; I did not say to the seed of Jacob, ‘seek Me in vain’; I, the Lord, speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.” God hasn't spoken secretly - or whispered in cryptic codes - that only few can decipher.

God has spoken plainly and clearly for all to learn.

“Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, you who have escaped from the nations.

They have no knowledge, who carry the wood of their carved image, and pray to a god that cannot save.

Tell and bring forth your case; yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the Lord? And there is no other God besides Me, a just God and a Savior; there is none besides Me.” Are you picking up on a reoccurring theme? There's one God!

Here God is warning Israel, once Cyrus sets them free and allows them to return to their homeland, they shouldn't make the same mistake twice! Beware of idolatry! *Which of their idols has predicted the future?*

Verse 22, “Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.”

Notice how simple God makes His salvation..

He says to us to everyone - to people from one end of the Earth to the other, *“Look to Me, and be saved.”*

Just look with an eye of faith. One look is all it takes!

Verse 23, *“I have sworn by Myself; the word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that to Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath.”* We probably recognize this verse.

Philippians 2:10 says that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

These two chapters, Isaiah 44-45, are actually chalked full of various proof-text for the deity of Jesus...

If there's only one Savior, yet Yahweh and Jesus both claim to be Him... If there's only one First and Last, yet Yahweh and Jesus both claim to be Him... If there's only One before Whom every knee will bow, yet Yahweh and Jesus both claim to be Him... Then either the Bible contradicts itself (which it doesn't), or Yahweh and Jesus are both One in the same (which they are)!

Verse 24, *“He shall say, ‘surely in the Lord I have righteousness and strength. To Him men shall come, and all shall be ashamed who are incensed against Him. In the Lord all the descendants of Israel shall be justified, and shall glory.’”* Only in the Lord will you find righteousness and strength. Don't be angry with Him!