

# WELCOME TO THE MOB!

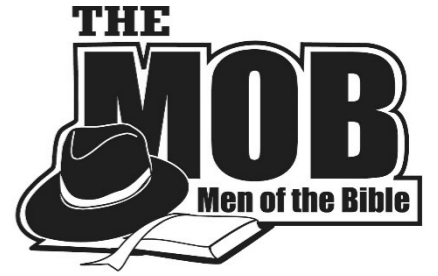
**All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.**

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)**



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# Announcements



- **MOB Website & Resources: [www.ibcmob.net](http://www.ibcmob.net)**
- **Thanksgiving Day service – Thurs, Nov 23, 10 AM**
- **Christmas Concerts – Dec 7-10**

- **Invocation/Prayer**

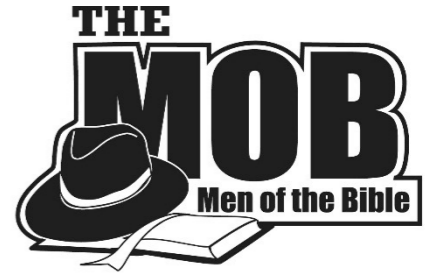
- **Hymn:**

**Immortal, Invisible**



# Immortal, Invisible

By Walter Chalmers Smith, Verse 1 of 4

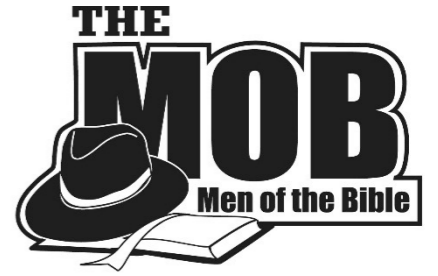


**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.**



# Immortal, Invisible

By Walter Chalmers Smith, Verse 2 of 4

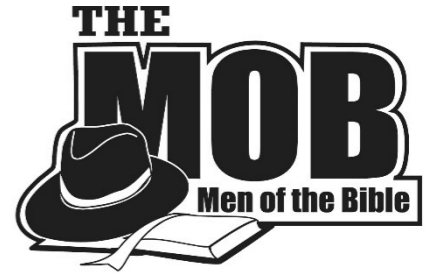


**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might:  
Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;  
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**



# Immortal, Invisible

By Walter Chalmers Smith, Verse 3 of 4

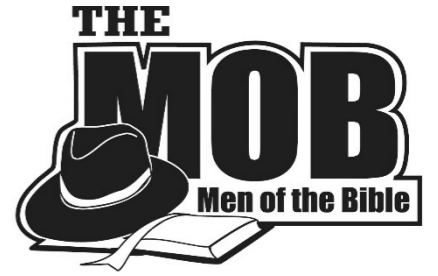


**To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small.  
In all life Thou livest, the True Life of all.  
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
Then wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.**



# Immortal, Invisible

By Walter Chalmers Smith, Verse 4 of 4

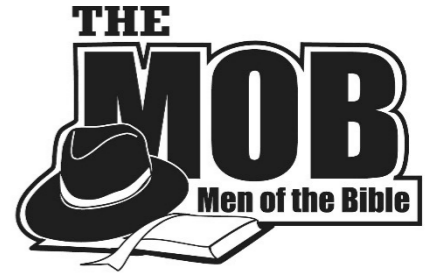


**Thou reignest in glory; Thou dwellest in light.  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight.  
All praise we would render; O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!**



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# Memory Verse



**Isaiah 45:8 (ESV)**

**Show, O heavens, from above,  
and let the clouds rain down righteousness;  
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness  
may bear fruit;  
let the earth cause them both to sprout;  
I the LORD have created it.**

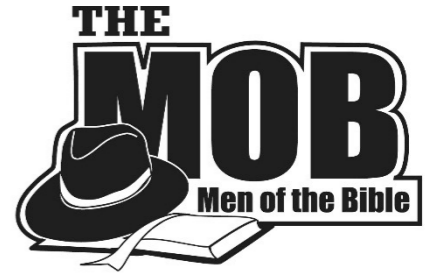
Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from NASB95





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# Our Study of Isaiah



## ■ Last Meeting:

- Isaiah 44, The Blessings of Israel and the Folly of Idolatry
- Memory Verse: Isaiah 44:6
- *Dr. Constable's Notes, 2023 Ed.*, pp. 298-310; *Motyer*, pp. 341-356

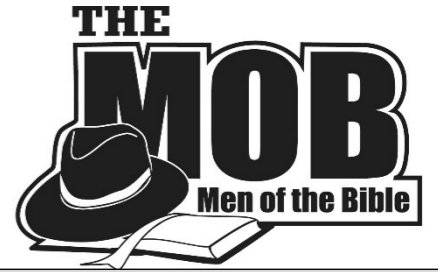
## ■ This Meeting:


- Isaiah 45, Cyrus God's Instrument & The LORD, the Only Savior
- Memory Verse: Isaiah 45:8
- *Dr. Constable's Notes, 2023 Ed.*, pp. 310-319; *Motyer*, pp. 356-367
  
- Refreshment Host: Group A



# Isaiah Outline

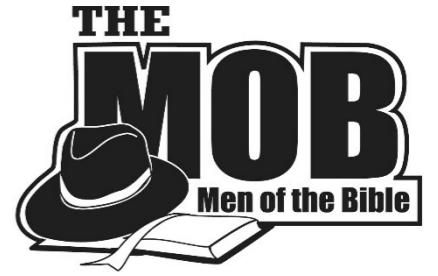
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Focus	Prophecies of Condemnation								Historical Parenthesis		Prophecies of Comfort					
	1:1		35:10						36:1	39:8	40:1		66:24			
Divisions	Prophecies Against Judah		Prophecies Against the Nation		Prophecies Against the Day of the Lord		Prophecies of Judgement and Blessing		Sickness and Sin	Hezekiah's Salvation	Israel's Deliverance		Israel's Deliverer		Israel's Glorious Future	
	1:1	12:6	13:1	23:18	24:1	27:13	28:1	35:10	36:1	39:8	40:1	48:22	49:1	57:21	58:1	66:24
Topics	Prophetic Judgement								Historic Transition		Messianic Hope					
																
Place									Israel & Judah		We are here!					
Time									740 - 680 B.C.							



## Unlikely Headlines Department



# *The Jerusalem Times*

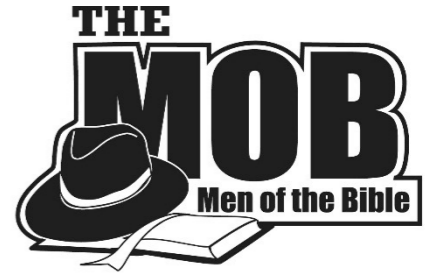
**Dateline: 700 BC - 586 BC**

- Jews released from captivity!**
- Temple to be rebuilt!**
- Gentile king to pay for it!**



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## Background: Isaiah 44:26b



**YHWH will rescue**

■ ***It is I*** who says of Jerusalem, ‘She shall be inhabited!’ And of the cities of Judah, ‘They shall be built.’

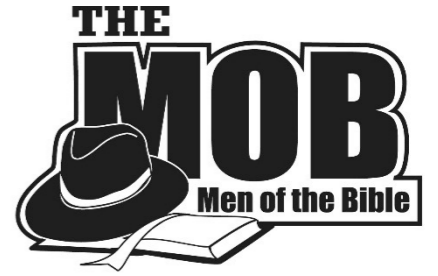
■ **And I will raise up her ruins *again*.**





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## Background: Isaiah 44:27



### YHWH provides historical evidence

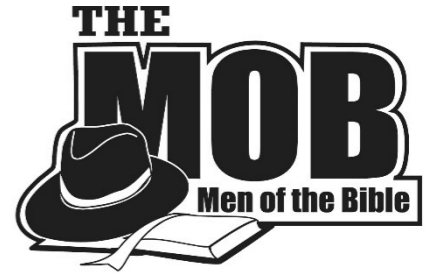
- *It is I* who says to the depth of the sea, ‘Be dried up!’
  - Reminiscent of Israel crossing the Red Sea
- And I will make your rivers dry.
  - Reminiscent of Israel crossing Jordan into Canaan





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## A Twist: Isaiah 44:28



**YHWH will do something *NEW***  
(cf. 43.19)

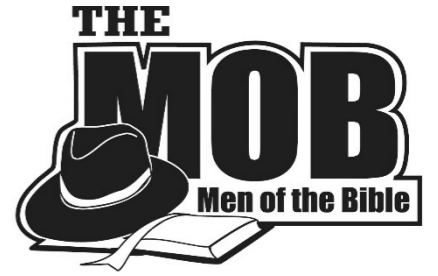
- *It is I* who says of Cyrus, ‘*He is My shepherd! And he will perform all My desire.*’
- And he declares of Jerusalem, ‘*She will be built,*’ And of the temple, ‘*Your foundation will be laid.*’





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# A Twist: Bible Critics Reaction



**The Bible critics say:**

- **Isaiah could not possibly have known Cyrus' name in advance.**
- **This proves there must be a second writer, Deutero-Isaiah, about 550 BC or later, when Cyrus was living.**

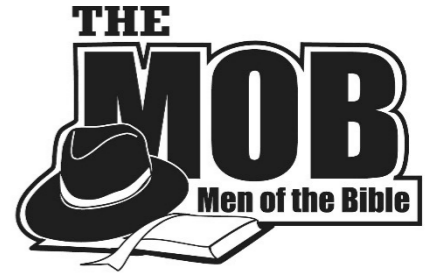
**We would respond:**

- **No. Since God is omniscient, He knows in advance. Since God speaks through prophets, He could tell Isaiah in advance.**
-



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## A Twist: Jews Reaction



**At this point, apparently Israel took exception too.**

**Remember Isaiah wrote this ~700 BC. Israel had a lot of issues. And the Exile was not clearly in their view. But ...**

**Perhaps they were expecting somebody from the line of David. (Remember God's covenant with David.)**

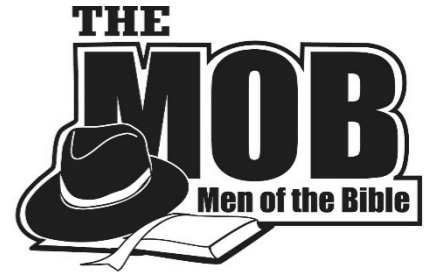
**At any rate, like Jonah, they wanted nothing to do with Gentiles**

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# Why Cyrus? “Doing Something New”



By calling Cyrus His anointed, the LORD was teaching [Israel] that He was the sovereign of all the earth, not just Israel. He could and would use whomever He chose to deliver His people.

Constable

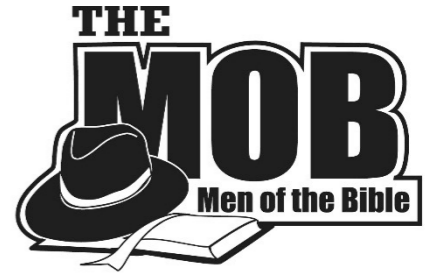
The issue behind God's choice of Cyrus is who the LORD is, not who Cyrus is. Yahweh is the only true God, so He could choose whom He would, even though Cyrus did not know Him.

Constable



# Isaiah 45:1-3a

## Cyrus' Secret Weapon

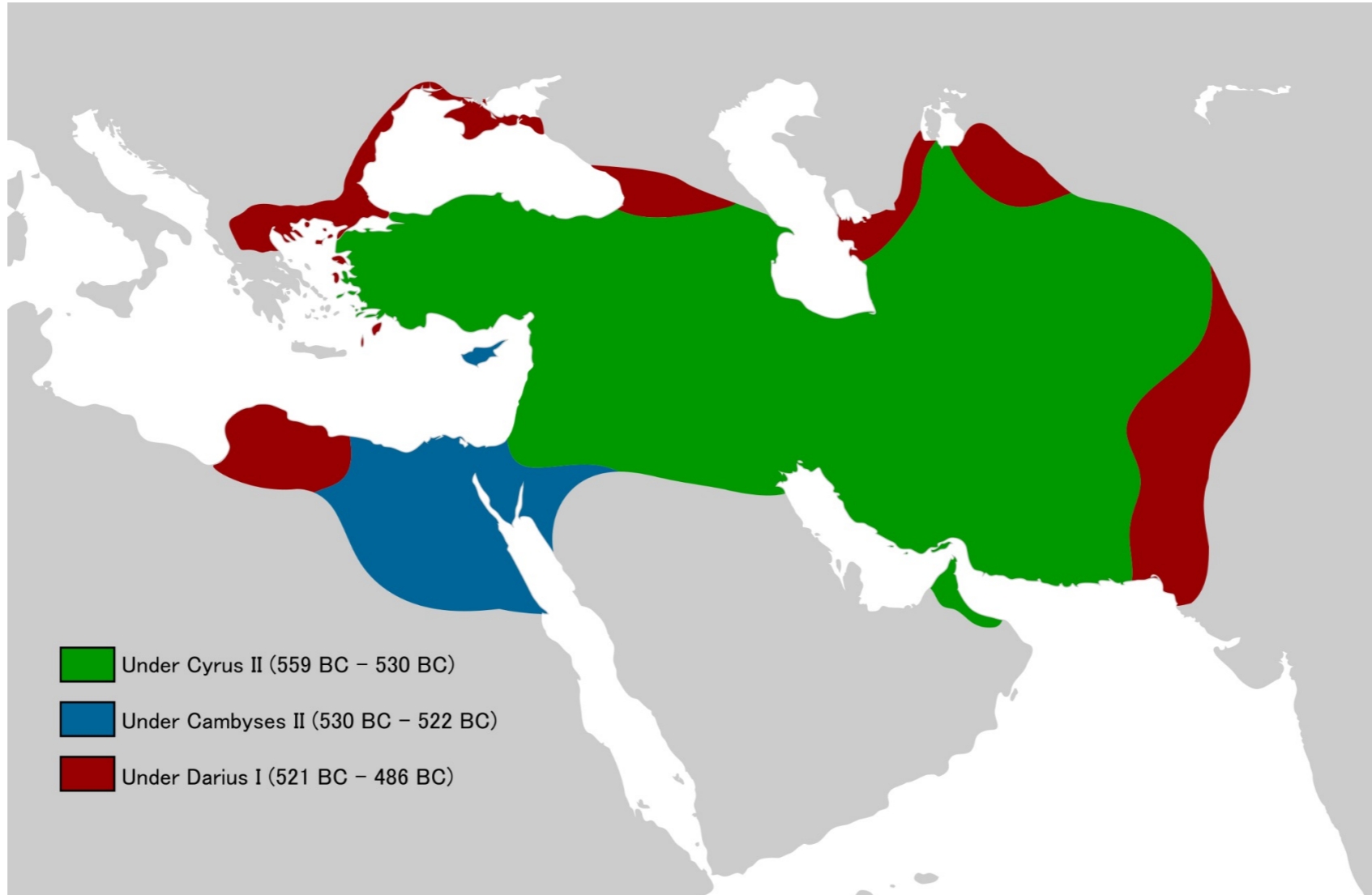
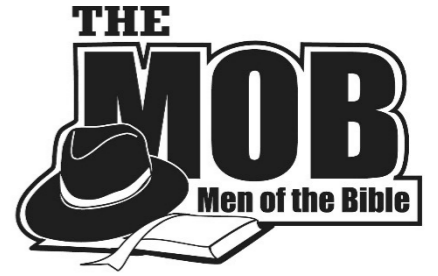


**<sup>1</sup> Thus says the LORD to Cyrus His anointed, Whom I have taken by the right hand, To subdue nations before him And to loose the loins of kings; To open doors before him so that gates will not be shut: <sup>2</sup> “I will go before you and make the rough places smooth; I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their iron bars. <sup>3</sup> “I will give you the treasures of darkness And hidden wealth of secret places,**



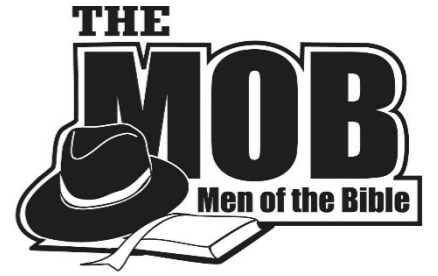
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# Cyrus' Empire





# God's Three-Tiered Purpose for Cyrus



**YHWH gave Cyrus astonishing success 45.1-3a**

**- With a purpose in mind:**

**So that Cyrus would know that YHWH, the God of Israel, did it – 45.3b**

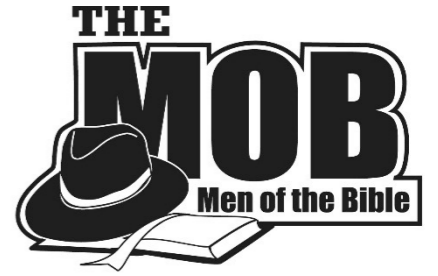
**So that Cyrus would promote the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the temple - 45.4a**

**So that all men everywhere might know YHWH is the only God – 45.6a**



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## How Did Cyrus Do?

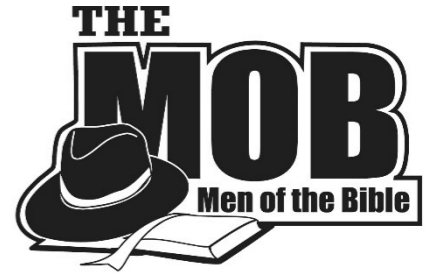


**<sup>1</sup> Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also *put it* in writing, saying: <sup>2</sup> “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, ‘The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. ...**



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## How Did Cyrus Do? p2

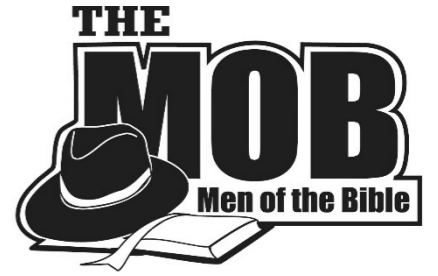


**<sup>3</sup> ‘Whoever there is among you of all His people, may his God be with him! Let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah and rebuild the house of the LORD, the God of Israel; He is the God who is in Jerusalem. Ezra 1:1-3**



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## How Did Cyrus Do? p3



In the first year of King Cyrus, Cyrus the king issued a decree: *‘Concerning the house of God at Jerusalem, let the temple, the place where sacrifices are offered, be rebuilt and let its foundations be retained, its height being 60 cubits and its width 60 cubits; <sup>4</sup> with three layers of huge stones and one layer of timbers. And let the cost be paid from the royal treasury. Ezra 5:3-4*

## *The Babylon Post*

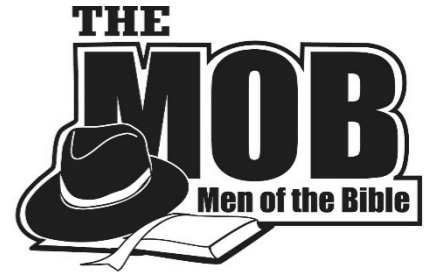
Dateline: ~~700 BC~~ - ~~586 BC~~ 539 BC

- Jews released from captivity!
- Temple to be rebuilt!
- Gentile king to pay for it!





# What Cyrus/Israel Knew About YHWH

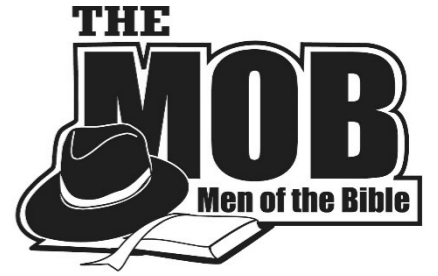


- YHWH said He would subdue nations before me – 45.1
- YHWH told me to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple – 44.28
- YHWH said He calls me by name for the sake of Israel – 45.4
- YHWH said, “I am the LORD, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God.” – 45.5
- YHWH purposes that all men on earth would know that there is no God besides Him – 45.6



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## A Repeating Theme



**I am the LORD, and there is no other (45:5)**

**I am the LORD, and there is no other (45:6)**

**I am the LORD, and there is none else (45:18)**

**Is it not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me (45:21)**

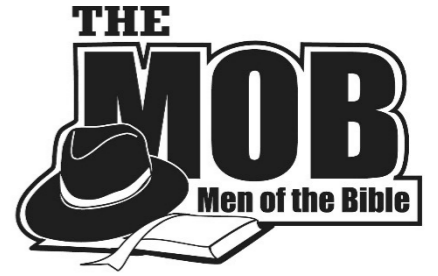
**For I am God, and there is no other (45:22)**

**Who is the audience for this message?**



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# God Addresses Israel



**Don't argue with Me (can the clay argue with its potter?) (45:9-10)**

**As creator of heaven and earth, I will use Cyrus for your benefit (45:12-13)**

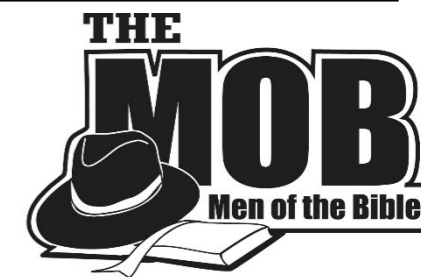


**Israel has been saved by the Lord ... to all eternity (45:17)**



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# God Addresses the Nations

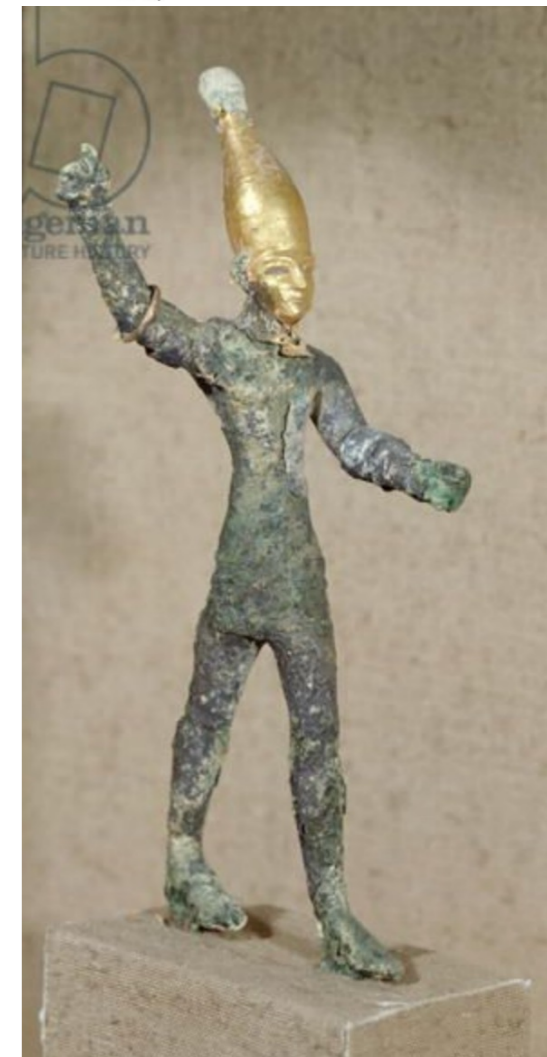


## Regarding Idols (45:20-21)

- Bring your idols – come present your case for them
- There is no God besides Me

## The proper response (45:22-23)

- Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other.
- to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear *allegiance*

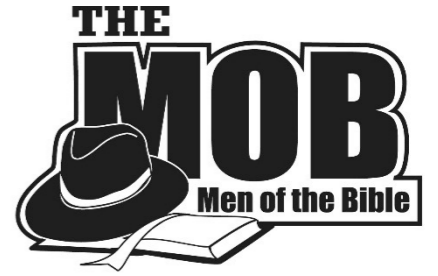


Baal god



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# Discussion Questions

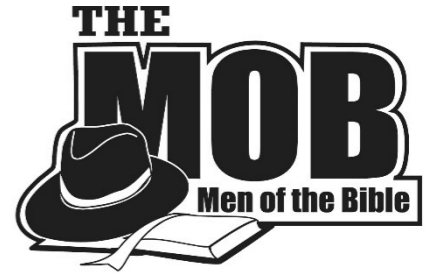


1. Why would God appoint a Gentile king, Cyrus, who admittedly did not know Him, to be the liberator of the exiles? Why would God announce Cyrus by name 150 years in advance?
2. After 45:1-7, Cyrus knows a lot about YHWH, directly from YHWH's mouth. What specifically has Cyrus been told about YHWH? What else do we learn about YHWH in this chapter?
3. Apparently, many Israelites were quite angry with God for calling a Gentile, Cyrus, His "shepherd" and His "anointed"? Why would they be upset? Considering Israel's position at the time, did they have any right to be upset?



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## Discussion Questions p.2

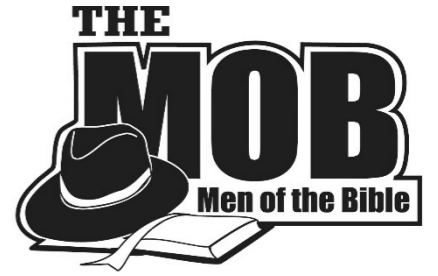


4. **What was the timeframe of this prophecy? Of its fulfillment? How would the Israelites of Isaiah's day react to this prophecy? How about the Israelites of Cyrus' time?**
5. **Israel had to learn the lesson of not questioning the potter (45:9-10). What lessons does the potter episode have for us today?**
6. **In this chapter God repeatedly says, "I am the LORD, and there is no other." What else did He say in support of that statement? What applies to Christians today from these statements?**



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## Discussion Questions p.3

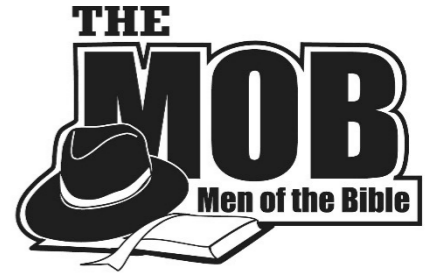


7. **Since the idol-worshippers in verses 20-21 have no spiritual understanding, what should they do to get spiritual understanding?**
8. **“Every knee will bow and every tongue confess.” Where have you heard that before? How does that apply to Christians today?**



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# Our Study of Isaiah



## ■ This Meeting:

- Isaiah 45, Cyrus God's Instrument & The LORD, the Only Savior
- Memory Verse: Isaiah 45:8
- *Dr. Constable's Notes, 2023 Ed.*, pp. 310-319; *Motyer*, pp. 356-367
- Refreshment Host: Group A

## ■ Next Meeting:

- Isaiah 46, YHWH, the Only God, Gives Salvation
- Memory Verse: Isaiah 46:9-10
- *Dr. Constable's Notes, 2023 Ed.*, pp. 319-322; *Motyer*, pp. 367-371
- Refreshment Host: Group B