

Isaiah Chapter 45 — The Sovereignty of God and the Calling of Cyrus

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Isaiah Chapter 45 is one of the strongest declarations of:

The sovereignty of God.

The uniqueness of God.

The authority of God over rulers.

The certainty of prophecy.

The folly of idolatry.

The universal call to salvation.

The chapter begins with a remarkable statement:

“This is what the Lord says to His anointed, to Cyrus.”

Cyrus is a foreign king.

He is not:

An Israelite.

A Davidic king.

The Messiah.

Yet God calls him:

His anointed instrument.

The Hebrew idea behind “anointed” refers to one:

Set apart.

Appointed.

Commissioned.

For a specific task.

Cyrus is used by God to:

Subdue nations.

Open gates.

Release exiles.

Allow Jerusalem to be rebuilt.

Permit the temple foundations to be restored.

This demonstrates one of the chapter's major truths:

God can use someone who does not fully know Him to accomplish:

His sovereign purpose.

God says explicitly:

“Though you do not acknowledge Me.”

And again:

“Though you have not known Me.”

Cyrus may not fully understand:

The God using him.

But God fully understands:

Cyrus.

God knows:

His name.

His future.

His victories.

His purpose.

His place in history.

Isaiah 45 repeatedly declares:

“There is no other.”

The Lord is not:

One god among many.

He is:

The only God.

He governs:

Light.

Darkness.

Peace.

Calamity.

Creation.

History.

Kings.

Nations.

Prophecy.

Salvation.

Isaiah therefore gives no room for:

Cosmic dualism.

There is not a good god controlling one side of reality and an equal evil god controlling another.

God alone is:

Sovereign.

Verse 7 must be handled carefully.

When God says:

“I bring peace and create calamity,”

the contrast concerns:

Well-being and disaster.

Peace and judgment.

It does not mean God creates:

Moral evil.

Scripture consistently presents God as:

Holy.

Righteous.

Just.

But historical disaster and judgment do not exist outside:

His sovereignty.

The chapter then confronts those who would:

Quarrel with their Maker.

The image is:

Clay arguing with Potter.

The clay says:

What are you doing?

The answer is not that human questions are always sinful.

Scripture contains many faithful questions.

The problem is:

Creaturely arrogance.

Trying to put:

The Creator.

On trial.

The Lord then reminds Israel:

I created the earth.

I created humanity.

I stretched out the heavens.

I command the stars.

I raised Cyrus.

That puts the issue in perspective.

Then the chapter broadens from:

Israel.

Cyrus.

Babylon.

To:

All nations.

God says:

“Turn to Me and be saved, all you ends of the earth.”

That is one of the clearest universal invitations in Isaiah.

Salvation reaches:

Beyond Israel.

Beyond one nation.

Beyond one geography.

The reason is simple:

“For I am God, and there is no other.”

If there is only:

One God.

Then there is only:

One ultimate Savior.

Then comes another majestic declaration:

“Before Me every knee will bow; by Me every tongue will swear.”

The New Testament takes this language and applies it in powerful ways to:

Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2 declares that every knee will bow at the name of Jesus and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

The final verse returns to:

Israel.

“In the Lord all the descendants of Israel will be justified and will glory.”

Not:

In Cyrus.

Not:

In national strength.

Not:

In human righteousness.

But:

In the Lord.

The central truth of Isaiah 45 is:

The Lord alone is God and sovereignly directs rulers, nations, creation, history, judgment, prophecy, and salvation; He raises Cyrus as an appointed instrument to release His people,

confronts every challenge to His authority, calls all the ends of the earth to turn to Him for salvation, and declares that every knee will ultimately bow before His unrivaled lordship.

I. CYRUS IS GOD’S ANOINTED INSTRUMENT

Isaiah 45:1 — God Takes Cyrus by the Right Hand

“This is what the Lord says to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have taken hold of, to subdue nations before him, to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut:”

This is extraordinary.

A foreign ruler is called:

God’s anointed.

The title describes:

Appointment.

Commission.

Purpose.

It does not identify Cyrus as:

The Messiah.

God takes:

His right hand.

God opens:

Nations.

Kings.

Doors.

Gates.

Cross References

2 Chronicles 36:22

The Lord moved Cyrus, king of Persia, to issue a proclamation allowing the restoration work connected with Jerusalem to begin.

Ezra 1:1

God stirred Cyrus's spirit so he issued the decree permitting the rebuilding of the Lord's house in Jerusalem.

Proverbs 21:1

The heart of a king is under the Lord's sovereign direction, like water channels turned wherever He wills.

Spiritual Principle

Kings may possess:

Authority.

But God possesses authority over:

Kings.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can place His hand on a ruler who does not yet recognize the hand guiding him.

II. GOD GOES BEFORE CYRUS

Isaiah 45:2 — Mountains Leveled, Gates Broken

"I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron."

Cyrus's success is not presented as:

Self-created.

God says:

I will go before you.

I will level.

I will break.

I will cut.

Cross References

Psalms 107:16

God breaks gates of bronze and cuts through bars of iron when He delivers the imprisoned.

Deuteronomy 31:8

The Lord goes ahead of His people and promises not to leave or forsake them.

Isaiah 40:4

Mountains are made low and rough places leveled in preparation for the Lord's work.

Spiritual Principle

God can remove:

What human beings call impenetrable.

III. HIDDEN TREASURES GIVEN TO CYRUS

Isaiah 45:3 — “I Call You by Name”

“I will give you treasures hidden in darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who calls you by name.”

God knows:

Cyrus.

Before Cyrus knows:

God.

He calls:

His name.

He directs:

His victories.

He gives:

Treasures.

Cross References

Colossians 2:3

In Christ are found all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Proverbs 2:4

Wisdom is to be sought like hidden treasure.

Exodus 33:12

Moses is assured that God knows him by name, reflecting personal divine knowledge.

Spiritual Principle

God's knowledge of people precedes:

Their knowledge of Him.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God knew Cyrus's name before Cyrus understood God's purpose.

IV. CYRUS IS RAISED FOR ISRAEL'S SAKE

Isaiah 45:4 — “Though You Do Not Acknowledge Me”

“For the sake of Jacob My servant, of Israel My chosen one, I summon you by name and give you a title of honor, though you do not acknowledge Me.”

Why is Cyrus raised?

Partly:

For Israel's sake.

God uses:

An outside ruler.

For:

His covenant people.

Cross References

Romans 9:11

God's purposes stand according to His calling and not merely according to human achievement.

Isaiah 45:5

God repeats that He strengthens Cyrus even though Cyrus has not known Him.

John 1:10

Christ was in the world He made, yet the world did not recognize Him, illustrating the tragedy of receiving divine activity without true recognition.

Spiritual Principle

God's purposes are not dependent upon:

Human awareness.

V. “THERE IS NO OTHER”

Isaiah 45:5 — The Only God Strengthens Cyrus

“I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from Me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not known Me,”

This is one of the chapter’s major refrains:

No other.

Cyrus may worship:

Other gods.

But no other god actually exists as:

God.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 4:35

Israel was shown God’s mighty works so they would know that the Lord alone is God.

1 Kings 8:60

Solomon prays that all peoples may know the Lord is God and there is no other.

Philippians 4:13

Paul testifies that Christ supplies strength for what God calls him to endure and accomplish.

Spiritual Principle

God can empower an instrument without that instrument fully understanding:

The source.

VI. THE WHOLE EARTH MUST KNOW

Isaiah 45:6 — From Sunrise to Sunset

“So that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting people may know there is none besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other.”

The goal is:

Global recognition.

East.

West.

Everywhere.

Cross References

Malachi 1:11

God's name is destined to be honored among the nations from sunrise to sunset.

Psalms 113:3

The Lord's name is worthy of praise from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Isaiah 59:19

People from east and west will ultimately fear the name and glory of the Lord.

Spiritual Principle

God's glory is:

Global.

VII. GOD RULES OVER PEACE AND CALAMITY

Isaiah 45:7 — Light, Darkness, Peace, and Disaster

“I form the light and create darkness, I bring peace and create calamity; I, the Lord, do all these things.”

This verse declares:

Sovereignty.

God rules:

Day.

Night.

Well-being.

Historical disaster.

Judgment.

“Calamity” here should not be confused with:

Moral evil.

God does not become the author of:

Sin.

He does remain sovereign over:

Judgment.

National disaster.

Historical reversal.

Cross References

Amos 3:6

When calamity overtakes a city under divine judgment, the prophet reminds the people that such events are not beyond the Lord's sovereignty.

Lamentations 3:38

Both adversity and prosperity remain under the authority of the Most High.

Job 2:10

Job acknowledges that human beings must receive both good circumstances and painful providence without charging God with wrongdoing.

Spiritual Principle

Nothing in history exists:

Outside God's rule.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God is never forced to watch history helplessly from the sidelines.

VIII. LET RIGHTEOUSNESS RAIN DOWN

Isaiah 45:8 — Salvation Springs from the Earth

“Shower down, O heavens, from above, and let the skies pour out righteousness. Let the earth open wide, let salvation spring up, and righteousness flourish with it; I, the Lord, have created it.”

Beautiful imagery.

Heavens:

Rain righteousness.

Earth:

Produces salvation.

God:

Creates it.

Cross References

Psalm 85:11

Faithfulness springs from the earth while righteousness looks down from heaven.

Hosea 10:12

God's people are called to seek the Lord until He comes and showers righteousness upon them.

Isaiah 61:11

As earth brings forth plants, God causes righteousness and praise to spring up before the nations.

Spiritual Principle

Salvation is:

God-produced fruit.

IX. WOE TO THE CLAY THAT QUARRELS WITH THE POTTER

Isaiah 45:9 — Creature Versus Creator

“Woe to those who quarrel with their Maker, those who are nothing but potsherds among the potsherds on the ground. Does the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you making?’ Does your work say, ‘The potter has no hands’?”

The problem is not:

Honest questioning.

The problem is:

Arrogant accusation.

Clay acting as though:

It knows more than the Potter.

Cross References

Romans 9:20

Paul uses the potter-clay imagery to remind humanity that creatures are not in a position to put God's sovereign purpose on trial.

Jeremiah 18:6

Israel is compared to clay in the potter's hand, subject to God's authority and shaping.

Job 40:2

God asks whether the one contending with the Almighty will instruct Him.

Spiritual Principle

Questions can be faithful.

Arrogant accusations against the Creator are:

Different.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

It is one thing to ask God what He is doing.

It is another to tell Him He has no right to do it.

X. THE CHILD DOES NOT COMMAND THE PARENT

Isaiah 45:10 — Creator Authority Illustrated

“Woe to the one who says to a father, ‘What are you begetting?’ or to a mother, ‘What are you bringing forth?’”

The imagery emphasizes:

Absurd reversal.

The created result attempts to control:

The source.

Cross References

Job 38:4

God asks Job where he was when the earth's foundations were established.

Romans 9:20

Humanity is reminded that the creature cannot claim authority over the Creator.

Isaiah 29:16

Isaiah earlier rebuked the idea that clay could act as though the Potter did not understand His own work.

Spiritual Principle

God's authority is rooted in:

His identity as Creator.

XI. DO NOT COMMAND THE MAKER

Isaiah 45:11 — God Controls the Future

“This is what the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, and its Maker, says: ‘Concerning things to come, do you question Me about My children, or give Me orders about the work of My hands?’”

Israel may be confused by:

Cyrus.

A pagan ruler.

Used by God.

But God says:

Do not presume you can command:

My plan.

Cross References

Job 38:2

God rebukes counsel that darkens truth through words without sufficient knowledge.

Romans 11:34

No one has fully known the Lord's mind or served as His counselor.

Isaiah 55:8

God's thoughts and ways exceed human thoughts and ways.

Spiritual Principle

God's methods do not require:

Our prior approval.

XII. CREATOR OF EARTH AND HUMANITY

Isaiah 45:12 — The Stars Obey Him

“It is I who made the earth and created mankind on it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshaled their starry host.”

The answer to:

Who controls Cyrus?

Is:

The same One who controls:

Stars.

Cross References

Genesis 1:1

God created the heavens and the earth.

Psalms 33:6

The heavens and their hosts exist by the Lord’s Word.

Isaiah 40:26

God brings out the stars and calls them each by name.

Spiritual Principle

The One who commands the stars can:

Direct a king.

XIII. CYRUS WILL SET THE EXILES FREE

Isaiah 45:13 — Raised Up in Righteousness

“I will raise up Cyrus in righteousness: I will make all his ways straight. He will rebuild My city and set My exiles free, but not for a price or reward,” says the Lord Almighty.”

Cyrus has:

A specific assignment.

Rebuild.

Release.

Restore.

Not because Israel:

Bribes him.

But because:

God directs history.

Cross References

Ezra 1:1

Cyrus issues the decree allowing the rebuilding of the Lord's house.

2 Chronicles 36:23

Cyrus announces that he has been commissioned to permit the rebuilding at Jerusalem.

Isaiah 44:28

God had already named Cyrus as His shepherd who would fulfill His purpose.

Spiritual Principle

God can create:

Political conditions.

For redemptive purposes.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God may open prison doors through instruments the prisoners never expected.

XIV. THE NATIONS WILL RECOGNIZE GOD'S PRESENCE

Isaiah 45:14 — “Surely God Is With You”

“This is what the Lord says: ‘The products of Egypt and the merchandise of Cush, and those tall Sabeans—they will come over to you and be yours; they will walk behind you, coming over in chains. They will bow down before you and plead with you, saying, “Surely God is with you, and there is no other; there is no other God.”’”

The central confession is:

God is with you.

There is:

No other.

Cross References

Psalm 68:29

Kings bring gifts in recognition of the Lord's glorious rule centered in Zion.

Isaiah 60:5

Nations and their wealth are pictured coming toward restored Zion under God's blessing.

Zechariah 8:23

People from the nations seek God's people because they recognize that God is with them.

Spiritual Principle

God's work among His people can become:

Testimony to outsiders.

XV. "TRULY YOU ARE A GOD WHO HIDES HIMSELF"

Isaiah 45:15 — Hidden Yet Saving

"Truly You are a God who hides Himself, O God of Israel, the Savior."

God's ways are not always:

Visible.

Immediate.

Predictable.

But hiddenness does not mean:

Absence.

He remains:

Savior.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 29:29

Some things remain hidden with God while what He reveals belongs to His people for obedience.

Job 23:8

Job searches for God and cannot perceive Him, despite continuing to wrestle with faith.

Psalm 44:24

The psalmist cries out from the experience of God seeming hidden during suffering.

Spiritual Principle

God may hide:

His method.

Without hiding:

His faithfulness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

An unseen God can still be actively working.

XVI. IDOL MAKERS WILL BE SHAMED

Isaiah 45:16 — False Worship Ends in Disgrace

“All the makers of idols will be put to shame and disgraced; they will go off into disgrace together.”

Isaiah 44 explained:

Why.

Isaiah 45 announces:

The outcome.

Cross References

Isaiah 44:11

Idol makers are destined for shame because what they create cannot save.

Jeremiah 10:14

Those who trust crafted images become foolish because the images contain no life.

Psalms 97:7

Those who worship idols are put to shame when God reveals His supremacy.

Spiritual Principle

Whatever replaces God eventually:

Fails.

XVII. EVERLASTING SALVATION

Isaiah 45:17 — Saved by the Lord

“But Israel will be saved by the Lord with an everlasting salvation; you will never be put to shame or disgraced, to ages everlasting.”

Idolaters:

Shame.

God’s redeemed:

Salvation.

And not temporary salvation:

Everlasting.

Cross References

Romans 10:11

Those who trust in the Lord will not ultimately be put to shame.

Isaiah 51:6

God’s salvation will endure even when creation itself passes away.

Hebrews 5:9

Christ is described as the source of eternal salvation to those who obey Him.

Spiritual Principle

God’s salvation outlasts:

Human kingdoms.

XVIII. GOD DID NOT CREATE THE EARTH TO BE EMPTY

Isaiah 45:18 — The Creator Has Purpose

“For this is what the Lord says—He who created the heavens, He is God; He who fashioned and made the earth, He founded it; He did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited—He says: ‘I am the Lord, and there is no other.’”

Creation has:

Order.

Purpose.

Design.

God made the earth:

Intentionally.

Cross References

Genesis 1:1

God is the Creator of heaven and earth.

Genesis 1:28

Humanity is commissioned to fill and steward the earth.

Isaiah 40:22

God spreads out the heavens and reigns above the earth He made.

Spiritual Principle

Creation is not:

Meaningless accident.

XIX. GOD HAS SPOKEN OPENLY

Isaiah 45:19 — “Seek Me” Is Not Vain

“I have not spoken in secret, from somewhere in a land of darkness; I have not said to Jacob’s descendants, ‘Seek Me in vain.’ I, the Lord, speak the truth; I declare what is right.”

God’s revelation is:

Truthful.

Meaningful.

Accessible.

Seeking Him is not:

Pointless.

Cross References

John 18:20

Jesus states that He taught publicly and did not hide His message in secrecy.

Deuteronomy 30:14

God's Word is described as near enough to hear, know, and obey.

Isaiah 48:16

God declares that He has spoken openly from the beginning rather than acting through hidden deceit.

Spiritual Principle

God does not invite people to seek:

Nothing.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Seeking God is never wasted effort when God Himself has invited the search.

XX. THE NATIONS ARE SUMMONED

Isaiah 45:20 — Idols Cannot Save

“Gather together and come; assemble, you fugitives from the nations. Ignorant are those who carry about idols of wood, who pray to gods that cannot save.”

Idols must be:

Carried.

God carries:

His people.

Idols cannot:

Save.

God:

Can.

Cross References

Psalms 115:4

The gods of the nations are merely objects of silver and gold made by human hands.

Jeremiah 2:28

God challenges people to call upon their idols and see whether they can save in trouble.

Isaiah 46:7

People carry an idol, set it in place, and pray to it, yet it cannot answer or rescue.

Spiritual Principle

A god that must be carried cannot:

Carry your salvation.

XXI. THERE IS NO GOD BESIDES THE RIGHTEOUS SAVIOR

Isaiah 45:21 — Prophecy and Salvation

“Declare what is to be, present it—let them take counsel together. Who foretold this long ago, who declared it from the distant past? Was it not I, the Lord? And there is no God apart from Me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but Me.”

God connects:

Prophecy.

Righteousness.

Salvation.

He knows:

The future.

He acts:

Righteously.

He saves.

Cross References

Isaiah 46:10

God declares the end from the beginning and accomplishes His purpose.

Titus 2:13

The New Testament speaks of the great God and Savior in connection with Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 43:11

The Lord had already declared that there is no Savior apart from Him.

Spiritual Principle

The God who predicts rightly also:

Saves rightly.

XXII. “TURN TO ME AND BE SAVED”

Isaiah 45:22 — Salvation for the Ends of the Earth

“Turn to Me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other.”

One of the great invitations of Scripture.

Who is invited?

“All you ends of the earth.”

What must they do?

Turn:

To God.

Why?

There is:

No other.

Cross References

John 3:16

God’s saving love extends to the world, offering eternal life through faith in His Son.

Acts 4:12

Salvation is found in no other name than Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:13

Everyone who calls upon the Lord’s name will be saved.

Spiritual Principle

The uniqueness of God creates:

The universality of the invitation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Because there is only one Savior, every person is invited to turn to Him.

XXIII. EVERY KNEE WILL BOW

Isaiah 45:23 — God Swears by Himself

“By Myself I have sworn, My mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before Me every knee will bow; by Me every tongue will swear.”

No greater name exists by which:

God could swear.

Therefore:

He swears by Himself.

And the promise:

Every knee.

Every tongue.

Cross References

Romans 14:11

Paul quotes this passage to emphasize that everyone will give account before God.

Philippians 2:10

Paul applies the imagery to Jesus Christ, declaring that every knee will bow at His name.

Hebrews 6:13

Because no one greater existed, God swore by Himself when confirming His promise.

Spiritual Principle

Universal acknowledgment of God's lordship is:

Certain.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Every knee will bow.

The great question is whether we bow now in faith or later under unavoidable recognition of His lordship.

XXIV. DELIVERANCE AND STRENGTH ARE IN THE LORD

Isaiah 45:24 — The Source of Righteousness

**“They will say of Me, ‘In the Lord alone are deliverance and strength.’ All who have
raged against Him will come to Him and be put to shame.”**

Deliverance:

In the Lord.

Strength:

In the Lord.

Not:

Self.

Nation.

Idol.

Cyrus.

Cross References

Philippians 4:13

Paul speaks of strength supplied through Christ for the circumstances God calls him to endure.

Psalms 2:12

The rebellious are warned to submit to the Son and find refuge rather than persist in defiance.

Psalms 2:1

The nations rage against the Lord and His Anointed, yet their opposition cannot overthrow God’s rule.

Spiritual Principle

Everything needed for true salvation is:

In the Lord.

XXV. JUSTIFIED AND GLORYING IN THE LORD

Isaiah 45:25 — Israel's Hope

“But in the Lord all the descendants of Israel will be justified and will glory.”

The chapter ends:

Not with Cyrus.

With:

The Lord.

Justification:

In the Lord.

Glory:

In the Lord.

Cross References

Jeremiah 9:24

Those who boast are told to boast in knowing the Lord, who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness.

1 Corinthians 1:31

Paul teaches that the one who boasts should boast in the Lord.

Romans 11:26

Paul speaks of God's saving purpose for Israel within the unfolding plan of redemption.

Spiritual Principle

The redeemed have:

No reason for self-glory.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The person justified by God has every reason to glory in God and none to glory in himself.

XXVI. TWELVE GREAT LESSONS FROM ISAIAH 45

1. God Rules Rulers

Principle:

Kings possess authority only beneath the sovereignty of the King of heaven.

2. God Can Use People Who Do Not Fully Know Him

Principle:

Cyrus served God's purpose before fully understanding the God directing him.

3. God Goes Before His Instruments

Principle:

Closed gates are not closed to the God who controls history.

4. There Is No Other God

Principle:

The Lord possesses no divine rival.

5. God Rules Over Historical Calamity

Principle:

Judgment and national disaster are not outside divine sovereignty.

6. The Creature Must Not Put the Creator on Trial

Principle:

Humility recognizes the difference between asking God and arrogantly ordering God.

7. God Knows the Future

Principle:

The One who created history can declare history before it unfolds.

8. God's Salvation Is Everlasting

Principle:

Political deliverance points toward a salvation that outlives every earthly kingdom.

9. Idols Cannot Save

Principle:

Anything that must be carried cannot carry the burden of redemption.

10. Salvation Is Offered to All Nations

Principle:

The ends of the earth are invited to turn to the one true God.

11. Every Knee Will Bow

Principle:

God's universal lordship will ultimately be acknowledged.

12. Justification Is in the Lord

Principle:

The final hope of God's people rests not in achievement but in Him.

XXVII. WHAT ISAIAH 45 TEACHES ABOUT SOVEREIGNTY

God:

Raises Cyrus.

Goes before Cyrus.

Opens gates.

Strengthens him.

Directs nations.

Releases exiles.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Providence is God's sovereignty entering the details of history.

XXVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 45 TEACHES ABOUT CYRUS

Cyrus is:

Anointed.

Shepherd.

Instrument.

But not:

The Messiah.

Spiritual Principle

Titles must be interpreted according to:

Context.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can anoint someone for a historical task without making that person the ultimate Anointed One.

XXIX. WHAT ISAIAH 45 TEACHES ABOUT GOD'S UNIQUENESS

Again.

Again.

Again:

"There is no other."

Spiritual Principle

God's uniqueness is the theological backbone of:

The chapter.

XXX. WHAT ISAIAH 45 TEACHES ABOUT CALAMITY

God says:

"I create calamity."

This means:

Historical disaster.

Judgment.

Adversity.

Not:

Moral wickedness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never protect God's holiness by weakening His sovereignty, and never defend His sovereignty by accusing Him of moral evil.

XXXI. WHAT ISAIAH 45 TEACHES ABOUT HUMAN QUESTIONS

Job asked:

Questions.

David asked:

Questions.

Prophets asked:

Questions.

The problem in verse 9 is not:

Inquiry.

It is:

Arrogance.

Spiritual Principle

Faith may ask:

“Why?”

Humility does not say:

“You had no right.”

XXXII. WHAT ISAIAH 45 TEACHES ABOUT CREATION

Earth.

Humanity.

Heaven.

Stars.

All:

Made.

Ordered.

By God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Creator’s authority does not begin when we agree with it.

XXXIII. WHAT ISAIAH 45 TEACHES ABOUT PROPHECY

Cyrus is:

Named.

His work:

Described.

The future:

Declared.

Spiritual Principle

God's prophetic Word reveals that history is never:

Unknown territory to Him.

XXXIV. WHAT ISAIAH 45 TEACHES ABOUT IDOLATRY

Idols must be:

Carried.

They cannot:

Save.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never pray for ultimate rescue to something that would fall over if you stopped carrying it.

XXXV. WHAT ISAIAH 45 TEACHES ABOUT SALVATION

God is:

Righteous.

And:

Savior.

These are not:

Opposites.

Spiritual Principle

God saves without becoming:

Unjust.

XXXVI. WHAT ISAIAH 45 TEACHES ABOUT THE NATIONS

Egypt.

Cush.

Sabeans.

Ends of earth.

Every knee.

Every tongue.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Isaiah's vision of salvation is larger than one national border.

XXXVII. WHAT ISAIAH 45 TEACHES ABOUT CHRIST

The New Testament applies Isaiah 45:23's universal bowing and confession to:

Jesus Christ.

Spiritual Principle

The apostolic use of Isaiah places Jesus within the divine lordship confessed in this chapter.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When Paul applies language belonging to the Lord in Isaiah to Jesus in Philippians 2, he presents Christ's lordship in the strongest possible theological terms.

XXXVIII. GOD TAKES CYRUS BY THE HAND

Cyrus may think:

I conquered.

God says:

I held your hand.

Spiritual Principle

Providence can operate beneath:

Human perception.

XXXIX. GOD GOES BEFORE

Before Cyrus:

Arrives.

God:

Prepares.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's preparation often begins before we become aware that a door is opening.

XL. BRONZE GATES

Humanly:

Strong.

Divinely:

Breakable.

Spiritual Principle

Security structures are never:

God-proof.

XLI. SECRET TREASURES

Cyrus receives:

Spoils.

But even those are under:

God's control.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

What people call fortunate discovery may still exist inside divine providence.

XLII. CALLED BY NAME

Before Cyrus recognizes God:

God recognizes Cyrus.

Spiritual Principle

Divine knowledge precedes:

Human response.

XLIII. “FOR JACOB’S SAKE”

God moves:

International history.

For:

Covenant purpose.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A global event can serve a purpose centered in God’s redemptive plan.

XLIV. “THOUGH YOU HAVE NOT KNOWN ME”

This is repeated because it matters.

Spiritual Principle

God is not dependent upon a ruler’s theology before He can govern that ruler’s role in history.

XLV. FROM SUNRISE TO SUNSET

God wants:

Universal recognition.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The goal of providence is not merely changed circumstances but revealed glory.

XLVI. LIGHT AND DARKNESS

Both remain:

Created realities.

Spiritual Principle

There is no independent cosmic power equal to God.

XLVII. PEACE AND CALAMITY

Prosperity does not prove:

God approves everything.

Calamity does not prove:

God disappeared.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Circumstances change.

God's throne does not.

XLVIII. RIGHTEOUSNESS RAINING

Isaiah imagines:

Salvation.

Growing.

Spiritual Principle

God can make righteousness flourish where spiritual ground has been barren.

XLIX. CLAY ARGUES WITH POTTER

The picture is intentionally:

Absurd.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A creature can disagree emotionally with providence without ever becoming wiser than the Creator.

L. “WHAT ARE YOU MAKING?”

Sometimes we ask:

Exactly that.

Spiritual Principle

The faithful version of the question is:

“Lord, help me trust what You are making.”

LI. GOD’S CHILDREN ARE HIS WORK

Israel belongs:

To God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

We do not get to command the Craftsman regarding work that ultimately belongs to Him.

LII. STAR COMMANDER

God marshals:

The stars.

Spiritual Principle

The universe is not:

Leaderless.

LIII. CYRUS RAISED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

The phrase concerns:

God’s righteous purpose.

Not a declaration that every aspect of Cyrus’s personal life was:

Righteous.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God’s righteous use of a ruler does not require declaring the ruler righteous in every respect.

LIV. EXILES SET FREE

Political action becomes:

Instrument of restoration.

Spiritual Principle

God can use ordinary governmental decrees within extraordinary providence.

LV. “NOT FOR PRICE”

The return cannot be reduced to:

Commercial negotiation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When God determines release, He is not dependent upon the captive's purchasing power.

LVI. “GOD IS WITH YOU”

That becomes:

The nations' confession.

Spiritual Principle

The greatest evidence in God's people should be:

God's presence.

LVII. THE GOD WHO HIDES

God sometimes works:

Behind scenes.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Hidden providence is still providence.

LVIII. IDOLATERS ASHAMED

False trust creates:

False confidence.

Spiritual Principle

What cannot save eventually exposes those who trusted it.

LIX. EVERLASTING SALVATION

Cyrus provides:

Historical release.

God provides:

Everlasting salvation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never confuse the instrument of temporary deliverance with the Source of eternal salvation.

LX. CREATED TO BE INHABITED

God creates with:

Purpose.

Spiritual Principle

God's works are not:

Aimless.

LXI. SEEK ME, NOT IN VAIN

God invites:

Seeking.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not call hungry souls to an empty table.

LXII. IDOLS MUST BE CARRIED

The absurdity continues from:

Isaiah 44.

Spiritual Principle

False gods burden worshipers.

The true God saves them.

LXIII. A RIGHTEOUS GOD AND SAVIOR

Justice and salvation:

Meet.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God never saves by ceasing to be righteous.

LXIV. “TURN TO ME”

The call is:

Personal.

Direct.

Universal.

Spiritual Principle

Salvation requires:

Turning.

LXV. ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

No people excluded by:

Geography.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The invitation is as wide as humanity because the Savior is the only God.

LXVI. EVERY KNEE

Rich.

Poor.

King.

Servant.

Believer.

Rebel.

Every:

Knee.

Spiritual Principle

No human status exempts anyone from:

God's lordship.

LXVII. EVERY TONGUE

Human speech ultimately:

Acknowledges.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The mouth that denies God today does not change God's identity.

LXVIII. PHILIPPIANS 2 AND ISAIAH 45

Paul echoes:

Isaiah 45:23.

Then declares:

Every knee bows.

Every tongue confesses:

Jesus Christ is Lord.

Spiritual Principle

The New Testament presents Jesus not as:

A rival to the Lord of Isaiah.

But within:

The divine identity and lordship.

LXIX. STRENGTH IN THE LORD

Not merely:

From.

But:

In.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Spiritual strength is safest when its source remains visible.

LXX. RAGING AGAINST GOD

Opposition ends in:

Shame.

Spiritual Principle

Defiance cannot overthrow:

The One against whom it rages.

LXXI. JUSTIFIED IN THE LORD

Not:

Self-justified.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The courtroom hope of sinners is not that they successfully defend themselves but that righteousness is found in the Lord.

LXXII. GLORY IN THE LORD

The chapter ends:

God-centered.

Spiritual Principle

Salvation begins with God.

Ends with:

God's glory.

LXXIII. ISAIAH 44 AND ISAIAH 45

Isaiah 44

Cyrus is named:

God's shepherd.

Isaiah 45

Cyrus is called:

God's anointed instrument.

Key Truth

The titles describe Cyrus's appointed historical task, while the chapter carefully insists that the Lord alone remains God, Redeemer, Savior, and source of everlasting salvation.

LXXIV. CYRUS AND CHRIST

Cyrus:

Releases physical exiles.

Christ:

Brings deeper redemption.

Cyrus:

Rebuilds Jerusalem.

Christ:

Brings salvation to the nations.

Cyrus:

Serves temporarily.

Christ:

Receives universal bowing and confession in the New Testament application of Isaiah 45.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Temporary deliverers can foreshadow aspects of salvation without becoming equal to the final Savior.

LXXV. ISAIAH 40–45

Isaiah 40

Behold your God.

Isaiah 41

Fear not, I will help you.

Isaiah 42

Behold My Servant.

Isaiah 43

You are Mine.

Isaiah 44

There is no other Rock.

Isaiah 45

Turn to Me and be saved.

Key Truth

These chapters steadily expand the message from comfort for Israel toward the universal declaration that the one true God alone creates, rules, redeems, and saves.

LXXVI. TWELVE GREAT CONTRASTS IN ISAIAH 45

- 1. Cyrus the Ruler → God the Sovereign**
- 2. Closed Gates → God-Opened Doors**
- 3. Unknown God → God Who Knows Cyrus by Name**
- 4. Many Supposed Gods → One True God**
- 5. Human Calamity → Divine Sovereignty**
- 6. Clay → Potter**
- 7. Human Questions → Divine Wisdom**
- 8. Exile → Release**
- 9. Idols → Everlasting Salvation**
- 10. Hidden Providence → Certain Salvation**
- 11. Gods That Cannot Save → The Righteous Savior**
- 12. Human Rebellion → Every Knee Bowing**

Key Truth

Everything in Isaiah 45 moves toward the confession that the Lord alone is God, history belongs to Him, salvation comes from Him, and every creature ultimately stands beneath His authority.

LXXVII. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Who is named at the beginning of Isaiah 45?

Cyrus.

Question 2

What title is given to Cyrus?

God calls him His anointed instrument.

Question 3

Does that make Cyrus the Messiah?

No. The title describes his divine appointment for a particular historical task.

Question 4

What does God promise to do before Cyrus?

Go before him, level obstacles, break gates, and open the way.

Question 5

Why does God call Cyrus by name?

To demonstrate divine knowledge and sovereign purpose.

Question 6

Did Cyrus fully acknowledge God when God called him?

No.

God says Cyrus did not yet acknowledge or know Him.

Question 7

Why did God raise Cyrus?

Among other purposes, for Jacob and Israel, His chosen people.

Question 8

How many true gods does Isaiah recognize?

One.

Question 9

What does verse 7 teach?

God is sovereign over both prosperity and historical calamity.

Question 10

Does verse 7 mean God creates moral evil?

No. The context concerns calamity, adversity, peace, and historical judgment, not God becoming the author of sin.

Question 11

What picture is used for those arguing arrogantly with God?

Clay arguing with the potter.

Question 12

What does God remind Israel He created?

Earth, humanity, heavens, and the starry host.

Question 13

What will Cyrus do?

Rebuild Jerusalem and release God's exiles.

Question 14

Will the exiles have to purchase their freedom from Cyrus?

No.

Question 15

What confession will the nations eventually make?

That God is with His people and there is no other God.

Question 16

What does "God who hides Himself" mean?

God's methods may not always be visible or understandable, though He remains active and faithful.

Question 17

What happens to idol makers?

They are put to shame.

Question 18

What kind of salvation does God promise Israel?

Everlasting salvation.

Question 19

Why did God form the earth?

Not to remain empty but to be inhabited according to His purpose.

Question 20

Has God asked His people to seek Him in vain?

No.

Question 21

Why are idols foolish?

They must be carried and cannot save.

Question 22

Who foretells history?

The Lord.

Question 23

How does God identify Himself in verse 21?

As the only God, the righteous God, and Savior.

Question 24

Who is invited to salvation?

All the ends of the earth.

Question 25

What must they do?

Turn to God.

Question 26

What will every knee eventually do?

Bow.

Question 27

What will every tongue do?

Acknowledge God's lordship.

Question 28

How does the New Testament use this passage?

Philippians 2 applies its universal bowing and confession language to Jesus Christ.

Question 29

Where are deliverance and strength found?

In the Lord alone.

Question 30

Where are God's people justified?

In the Lord.

LXXVIII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 45 asks several searching questions.

Do I Really Believe God Is Sovereign?

Not merely over:

Church.

Prayer.

Bible study.

But:

Governments?

Rulers?

History?

Nations?

Am I afraid of a closed gate?

Do I believe God can:

Break bronze?

Cut iron?

Am I confused because God is using someone I would not have chosen?

Can I trust God's plan when the instrument seems:

Unexpected?

Do I recognize that there is:

No other God?

Or am I practically trusting:

Money?

Politics?

Government?

Reputation?

Human power?

Am I blaming God for moral evil while failing to distinguish His sovereignty over calamity from sinful human motives?

Am I questioning God humbly?

Or quarreling with:

My Maker?

Have I tried to tell the Potter:

What He is allowed to make?

Am I trusting God with:

Things to come?

Is my life witnessing that:

God is with me?

Am I carrying an idol that cannot carry me?

Do I believe salvation is found:

Only in God?

Have I answered the invitation:

“Turn to Me and be saved”?

Am I bowing willingly now?

Do I glory in:

Myself?

Or:

The Lord?

LXXIX. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“The God Who Opens Gates Does Not Need Permission from the Gatekeeper”

Cyrus will face:

Kings.

Walls.

Bronze gates.

Iron bars.

God says:

“I will go before you.”

Principle:

What looks closed from the human side may already be under orders from the sovereign God.

LXXX. CYRUS’S RIGHT HAND

God takes:

The hand.

Spiritual Principle

Human power is always:

Secondary.

LXXXI. STRIPPED KINGS

Royal power can disappear:

Quickly.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A crown does not make a king independent of God.

LXXXII. OPEN DOORS

Some doors open through:

Providence.

Spiritual Principle

God can create access where no access existed.

LXXXIII. MOUNTAINS LEVELED

The obstacle is:

Large.

God's promise:

Larger.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never measure divine ability by the height of the mountain.

LXXXIV. BRONZE AND IRON

Human defenses are:

Strong.

Not:

Absolute.

Spiritual Principle

Nothing made by humans becomes impenetrable to:
God.

LXXXV. HIDDEN RICHES

Cyrus will discover:

Treasures.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can place provision inside places His servants have not yet reached.

LXXXVI. GOD CALLS PEOPLE BEFORE THEY KNOW HIM

Cyrus illustrates:

Providence.

Spiritual Principle

God can be at work in a person's life before that person understands His hand.

LXXXVII. NO OTHER GOD

Repeated because humanity repeatedly:

Forgets.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Idolatry begins when "there is no other" becomes "perhaps something else can save me."

LXXXVIII. GOD STRENGTHENS THE UNKNOWING KING

Cyrus's strength is not:

Self-originating.

Spiritual Principle

People may benefit from divine providence without recognizing:

Its source.

LXXXIX. UNIVERSAL RECOGNITION

From:

East.

To:

West.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's ultimate purpose cannot be confined to one corner of the earth.

XC. LIGHT AND DARKNESS

God rules both:

Day.

Night.

Spiritual Principle

There is no region of reality beyond His sovereignty.

XCI. CALAMITY IS NOT MORAL EVIL

This distinction matters.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God may send judgment without becoming sinful, because righteous judgment and moral wickedness are not the same thing.

XCII. RIGHTEOUSNESS FROM HEAVEN

Salvation is:

God-originated.

Spiritual Principle

Humanity does not manufacture:

Divine righteousness.

XCIII. THE POTTER

The Potter sees:

Shape.

Purpose.

Finished vessel.

The clay sees:

Pressure.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

What feels like pressure to the clay may be design in the Potter's hand.

XCIV. THE CREATOR DOES NOT TAKE ORDERS FROM THE CREATURE

Humility requires:

Perspective.

Spiritual Principle

God welcomes faith.

Not:

Divine management from humans.

XCV. THE STARRY HOST

Billions of stars.

All marshaled.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God who organizes stars is capable of organizing history.

XCVI. CYRUS AND RESTORATION

The king acts.

God receives:

The glory.

Spiritual Principle

The instrument never replaces:

The Hand.

XCVII. GOD WITH YOU

The nations recognize:

Presence.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The strongest testimony is not merely that God gives things to His people but that God is with His people.

XCVIII. THE HIDDEN GOD

We cannot always:

Trace.

Spiritual Principle

Faith trusts God even when providence operates behind:

Curtains.

XCIX. EVERLASTING SALVATION

Everything Cyrus accomplishes is:

Temporary.

God's salvation:

Everlasting.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never settle for temporary rescue when God offers eternal salvation.

C. GOD CREATES WITH PURPOSE

Earth was:

Formed.

Inhabited.

Ordered.

Spiritual Principle

Divine creation is intentional.

CI. GOD SPEAKS TRUTH

Not riddles designed to:

Mislead.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God may reveal mystery without becoming deceptive.

CII. SEEKING GOD IS NOT VAIN

God invites:

Seek.

Spiritual Principle

The seeker is not pursuing:

An empty God.

CIII. CARRYING IDOLS

Imagine carrying:

Your savior.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

If your savior becomes a burden you must constantly hold together, you need another Savior.

CIV. RIGHTEOUS GOD AND SAVIOR

Justice.

Mercy.

Together.

Spiritual Principle

The gospel does not ask God to stop being righteous in order to save.

CV. TURN TO ME

Not:

Turn to religion.

Turn to:

Me.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Salvation is ultimately a movement of the heart toward God Himself.

CVI. THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

No one can say:

The invitation did not reach this far.

Spiritual Principle

God's saving call is global.

CVII. EVERY KNEE WILL BOW

Universal.

Certain.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's lordship is not created by our acknowledgment; our acknowledgment merely recognizes what has always been true.

CVIII. EVERY TONGUE

Speech becomes:

Confession.

Spiritual Principle

The universe will not eternally remain confused about:

Who is Lord.

CIX. DELIVERANCE AND STRENGTH

Both in:

God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The One who saves is also the One who sustains after salvation.

CX. RAGE ENDS IN SHAME

Rebellion has:

A destination.

Spiritual Principle

No creature can successfully outlast the Creator in opposition.

CXI. JUSTIFIED

The final answer to:

Guilt.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The believer's glory is not:

“I proved myself righteous.”

It is:

“God justified me.”

CXII. GLORY IN THE LORD

Everything returns:

To Him.

Spiritual Principle

Grace destroys:

Boasting in self.

CXIII. TEN GREAT MOVEMENTS IN ISAIAH 45

1. God Calls Cyrus

A foreign king becomes an appointed instrument.

2. God Goes Before Him

Mountains fall and gates open.

3. God Declares His Uniqueness

There is no other God.

4. God Affirms Sovereignty Over History

Light, darkness, peace, and calamity remain under His authority.

5. God Rebukes the Quarreling Clay

The Creator’s wisdom exceeds creaturely understanding.

6. God Commissions Cyrus to Restore

Jerusalem is rebuilt and exiles released.

7. The Nations Recognize God

They confess that there is no other God.

8. Idolatry Is Exposed

False gods cannot save.

9. The Whole Earth Is Invited to Salvation

“Turn to Me and be saved.”

10. Universal Lordship Is Declared

Every knee bows, every tongue confesses, and justification is found in the Lord.

Key Truth

Isaiah 45 moves from one named ruler to all the ends of the earth, showing that the God who governs Cyrus is the same God who rules creation, judges idols, calls nations, saves sinners, and will ultimately receive universal acknowledgment.

CXIV. FINAL APPLICATION

Isaiah Chapter 45 begins with:

A man who does not fully know God.

Yet God says:

I know:

Him.

His name:

Cyrus.

His future:

Known.

His path:

Prepared.

His doors:

Opened.

His enemies:

Subdued.

His assignment:

Defined.

That should remind us:

God can be working through people and circumstances we would never have:

Chosen.

Then God says:

“I will go before you.”

That is one of the great truths of providence.

Before Cyrus reaches:

The gate.

God is already:

There.

Before Cyrus sees:

The mountain.

God has already decided:

It will be leveled.

Before Cyrus finds:

The treasure.

God already knows:

Where it is.

Then the Lord repeatedly says:

“There is no other.”

That truth must settle:

The heart.

There is not:

One God of Israel.

Another god of Persia.

Another god of Babylon.

Another god of history.

There is:

One Lord.

Then comes the difficult statement:

“I bring peace and create calamity.”

We should neither:

Soften it away.

Nor:

Misuse it.

God does not create:

Sin.

But no earthquake of history shakes:

His throne.

No national collapse makes:

Him helpless.

No disaster places Him:

Outside control.

He remains:

Sovereign.

Then comes:

The clay.

Perhaps you have looked at your life and asked:

Lord—

What are You making?

Why:

This road?

This loss?

This delay?

This person?

This method?

The question itself can be:

Honest.

But Isaiah warns us:

Do not let the question become:

Arrogance.

The clay does not see:

The finished vessel.

The Potter:

Does.

Then God says:

I created:

Earth.

Humanity.

Heavens.

Stars.

And:

I raised Cyrus.

In other words:

Do not think Cyrus is harder for Me to direct than:

A star.

Then the chapter reaches:

The nations.

Idols cannot:

Save.

They must be:

Carried.

What a picture.

People carry:

Their gods.

Then beg their gods:

Carry us.

But God says:

Turn to:

Me.

“Turn to Me and be saved, all you ends of the earth.”

That invitation could hardly be:

Larger.

All:

The earth.

Why?

“For I am God, and there is no other.”

Only one Savior.

Therefore:

Everyone needs Him.

Then God swears:

Every knee will:

Bow.

Every tongue:

Confess.

Paul later takes this language and places it around:

Jesus Christ.

Jesus is not presented as one more:

Religious option.

Every knee:

Bows.

Every tongue:

Confesses.

So the question is not ultimately:

Will God be Lord?

He is.

The question is:

Will we acknowledge Him:

Now?

Will we turn:

Now?

Will we trust:

Now?

Will we bow:

Now?

The chapter ends exactly where it should:

“In the Lord.”

Deliverance:

In the Lord.

Strength:

In the Lord.

Justification:

In the Lord.

Glory:

In the Lord.

Not:

In Cyrus.

Not:

In government.

Not:

In ourselves.

So when God uses an unexpected person:

Trust Him.

When a mountain stands ahead:

Remember He goes before.

When the gate appears locked:

Remember bronze can break.

When providence confuses you:

Remember you are clay, not Potter.

When God seems hidden:

Remember hidden is not absent.

When idols promise salvation:

Remember they cannot save.

When guilt asks where justification can be found:

Answer:

In the Lord.

And when the whole world seems divided over who truly rules:

Remember:

“I am the Lord, and there is no other.”

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

You alone are:

God.

There is:

No other.

You are:

Creator.

King.

Redeemer.

Savior.

Sovereign Lord over:

History.

Nations.

Kings.

Generations.

Father, help us trust You when Your methods are:

Unexpected.

When You use people we would not have chosen.

When You open doors through circumstances we did not expect.

Teach us to remember:

You go before.

Break:

Bronze gates.

Cut:

Iron bars.

Level:

Mountains.

Father, forgive us when we act like:

Clay arguing with the Potter.

Give us humble hearts.

Let us ask:

Questions.

Without accusing:

Your character.

Help us trust that Your wisdom exceeds:

Our understanding.

Father, remind us that no ruler stands:

Above You.

No nation exists:

Outside Your authority.

No crisis places You:

Outside control.

Thank You that even when You seem:

Hidden.

You remain:

Savior.

Father, expose every:

Idol.

Anything we carry that we expect to:

Carry us.

Anything we trust to:

Save us.

Anything we honor more than:

You.

Turn our hearts toward:

You alone.

Thank You for the invitation:

“Turn to Me and be saved.”

Draw:

People from every nation.

Every background.

Every place.

To:

Your salvation.

Father, thank You that salvation is found:

In You.

Deliverance:

In You.

Strength:

In You.

Righteousness:

In You.

Justification:

In You.

Glory:

In You.

Teach us to bow:

Willingly.

Joyfully.

Faithfully.

Before You.

And thank You for Jesus Christ.

The One before whom every knee will bow.

The One every tongue will confess as:

Lord.

May our lives acknowledge His lordship:

Now.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Key Verse

“Turn to Me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other.” — Isaiah 45:22

Central Truth

The Lord alone is God and sovereign over creation, kings, nations, history, judgment, prophecy, and salvation; He appoints Cyrus as His instrument to release Israel, rebukes creaturely arrogance, exposes powerless idols, summons every nation to turn to Him for salvation, and declares that every knee will ultimately bow before His unrivaled authority and that righteousness, strength, justification, and glory are found in Him alone.

Isaiah 45 in One Sentence

Isaiah declares that the one true God sovereignly calls and directs Cyrus to subdue nations, open gates, release exiles, and rebuild Jerusalem, while revealing Himself as Creator and ruler over light, darkness, peace, and calamity, rebuking the clay that quarrels with its Maker, exposing idols that cannot save, inviting all the ends of the earth to turn to Him for salvation, and promising that every knee will bow, every tongue acknowledge His lordship, and His people will be justified and glory in Him alone.