

NC Synod Isaiah Bible Study

Week 6, March 18, 2021

Isaiah chapters 44-55:

- Cyrus of Persia as God's anointed
- the foolishness of idols
- More "Servant Songs"

CH. 45 Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed:

2 I will go before you and level the mountains,

I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron,

3 I will give you the treasures of darkness

and riches hidden in secret places,

so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,

the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

4 For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen,

I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me.

5 I am the Lord, and there is no other;

besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me,

6 so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west,

that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other.

7 I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe;

I the Lord do all these things.

CH 46: 5 To whom will you liken me and make
me equal,

and compare me, as though we were alike?

6 Those who lavish gold from the purse,

and weigh out silver in the scales—
they hire a goldsmith, who makes it into a god;

then they fall down and worship!

7 They lift it to their shoulders, they carry it,

they set it in its place, and it stands there;

it cannot move from its place.

If one cries out to it, it does not answer
or save anyone from trouble.

CH 47:5 Sit in silence, and go into darkness, daughter Chaldea!

For you shall no more be called the mistress of kingdoms.

6 I was angry with my people, I profaned my heritage;

I gave them into your hand, you showed them no mercy;
on the aged you made your yoke exceedingly heavy.

7 You said, "I shall be mistress forever," so that you did not
lay these things to heart or remember their end.

8 Now therefore hear this, you lover of pleasures, who sit securely,
who say in your heart,

"I am, and there is no one besides me;
I shall not sit as a widow or know the loss of children"—

9 both these things shall come upon you

in a moment, in one day: the loss of children and widowhood
shall come upon you in full measure,
in spite of your many sorceries
and the great power of your enchantments.

Servant Songs



CH 49: Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far away!

The Lord called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a
polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.

3 And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

4 But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my
strength
for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the
Lord, and my reward with my God."

49: 5 And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him,

for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,
and my God has become my strength—

6 he says, “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob

and to restore the survivors of Israel;

I will give you as a light to the nations,

that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

7 Thus says the Lord,

the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,

the slave of rulers, “Kings shall see and stand up,
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,

because of the Lord, who is faithful,

the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.

CH 50: 4 The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

5 The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

6 I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

CH 50: 7 The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,

and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

8 he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

9 It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

10 Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the voice of his servant,
who walks in darkness and has no light,
yet trusts in the name of the Lord and relies upon his God?

11 But all of you are kindlers of fire, lighters of firebrands.
Walk in the flame of your fire,

and among the brands that you have kindled!

This is what you shall have from my hand:
you shall lie down in torment.

CH 53: 4 Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us
whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

CH 53: 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

8 By a perversion of justice he was taken away.

Who could have imagined his future?

For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.

9 They made his grave with the wicked

and his tomb with the rich,

although he had done no violence,

and there was no deceit in his mouth.