

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 262 – Now Hear Through The Foundation Laid (Isaiah 44:1-28)

1. Did God want His people Israel to identify themselves as His people?

Yes: *“Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen: Thus saith the Lord that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen. For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring: And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses. One shall say, I am the Lord's; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the Lord, and surname himself by the name of Israel” (Isaiah 44:1-5).*

- Jacob is Israel (**Genesis 32:28, Genesis 46:2, II Kings 17:34, and Isaiah 41:8**).
- Jacob, the chosen (**I Chronicles 16:13, Psalms 105:6, and Psalms 135:4**). Jerusalem WAS the chosen city (**II Chronicles 6:6**).
- The language of “formed thee from the womb” (**Genesis 25:20-24 and Isaiah 46:3-4**).
- Fear not, Jacob (**Isaiah 54:4-8 and Jeremiah 30:10-11**).
- “Jesurun” or “Jeshurun” [Strong’s # 3484] appears in a few other verses (**Deuteronomy 32:15, Deuteronomy 33:5, and Deuteronomy 33:26**).
- They were thirsty because of erring (**Isaiah 5:13**), but God would grant water to the thirsty (**Isaiah 55:1-3**).
- His Spirit upon thy seed (**Joel 2:25-32; cf. Acts 2:1-22**).
- Imagery of springing up (**Psalms 92:12-15**).
- Restoration to His name (**Zechariah 13:9**).

2. What manner of reasoning did God use to calm the fears of His people?

The fact that He is the only god and they, as His people, had no reason to fear based upon that fact: *“Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. And who, as I, shall call, and shall 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 shew unto them. Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any” (Isaiah 44:6-8).*

- He was their dreaded king (**Malachi 1:14**).
- Their redeemer (**Jeremiah 50:33-34**).
- He is the first and last (**Revelation 1:8-11**), thus listen (**Isaiah 48:12**).
- No other God (**Deuteronomy 4:35-39 and Isaiah 45:21-22**).
- None like Him (**Exodus 9:13-14 and Psalms 86:8**).
- They were witnesses of these facts (**I Chronicles 17:20**).

3. What did God say about those who created their own gods?

That they would be ashamed in that those gods could not deliver, hear, etc.:

“They that make a graven image are all of them vanity; and their delectable things shall not profit; and they are their own witnesses; they see not, nor know; that they may be ashamed. Who hath formed a god, or molten a graven image that is profitable for nothing? Behold, all his fellows shall be ashamed: and the workmen, they are of men: let them all be gathered together, let them stand up; yet they shall fear, and they shall be ashamed together. The smith with the tongs both worketh in the coals, and fashioneth it with hammers, and worketh it with the strength of his arms: yea, he is hungry, and his strength faileth: he drinketh no water, and is faint. The carpenter stretcheth out his rule; he marketh it out with a line; he fitteth it with planes, and he marketh it out with the compass, and maketh it after the figure of a man, according to the beauty of a man; that it may remain in the house. He heweth him down cedars, and taketh the cypress and the oak, which he strengtheneth for himself among the trees of the forest: he planteth an ash, and the rain doth nourish it. Then shall it be for a man to burn: for he will take thereof, and warm himself; yea, he kindleth it, and baketh bread; yea, he maketh a god, and worshippeth it; he maketh it a graven image, and falleth down thereto. He burneth part thereof in the fire; with part thereof he eateth flesh; he roasteth roast, and is satisfied: yea, he warmeth himself, and saith, Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire: And the residue thereof he maketh a god, even his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou art my god. They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand. And none considereth in his heart, neither is there knowledge nor understanding to say, I have burned part of it in the fire; yea, also I have baked bread upon the coals thereof; I have roasted flesh, and eaten it: and shall I make the residue thereof an abomination? shall I fall down to the stock of a tree? He feedeth on ashes: a deceived heart hath turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, Is there not a lie in my right hand” (Isaiah 44:9-20)?

- Those that make idols (**Deuteronomy 27:15** and **Habakkuk 2:18-19**).
- They are witnesses that their gods say and do nothing (**Judges 10:13-16**, **I Kings 18:21-40**, **Psalms 115:3-8**, **Jeremiah 11:1-14**, and **I Corinthians 12:2**).
- Yet, NONE considered in his heart (**Psalms 92:6**, **Jeremiah 2:27-29**, **Jeremiah 5:21**, and **Hosea 7:1-2**).

4. What did God want Israel to remember?

That He formed them and that He redeemed them: *“Remember these, O Jacob and Israel; for thou art my servant: I have formed thee; thou art my servant: O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me. I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee” (Isaiah 44:21-22).*

- Remember infers that things have been or can be forgotten (**Deuteronomy 4:9, Deuteronomy 4:23, Deuteronomy 32:18, Psalms 106:21, and Jeremiah 3:21**).
- God forming refers to creation (**Genesis 2:7-8** and **Isaiah 45:18**), life in general (**Jeremiah 1:5**), and/or of the spiritual birth of a person or people (**Isaiah 49:5** and **Galatians 4:19**).
- Being mindful of our Creator (**Ecclesiastes 12:1**) and for what purpose (**Revelation 4:11**) is a motivator in our service.
- He wanted them to return (**Jeremiah 3:1-15**) to Him for what He had done with their sins (**Psalms 103:11-13**).

5. What did God want the earth to sing about?

What He had done: *“Sing, O ye heavens; for the Lord hath done it: shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein: for the Lord hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel. Thus saith the Lord, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the Lord that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself; That frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and maketh diviners mad; that turneth wise men backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish; That confirmeth the word of his servant, and performeth the counsel of his messengers; that saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof: That saith to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers” (Isaiah 44:23-27).*

- **Exodus 15:1-21, Psalms 69:29-34, Psalms 98:1-9, and Psalms 148:1-14.**

6. What did God declare about Cyrus?

That Cyrus was a shepherd that would be doing God’s pleasure, even to Jerusalem: *“That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid” (Isaiah 44:28).*

- Cyrus, of the Persians (**Daniel 10:1**), was to be God’s shepherd that would perform His will (**II Chronicles 36:21-23, Ezra 1:1-2:1, and Isaiah 45:1-4; cf. Isaiah 48:14-15**).
- Such language indicates Cyrus would take a role of leading God’s people out of bondage (**Isaiah 63:11-12**).