

B. God is a Powerful Redeemer (44:21-23)

C. Salvation or Shame (45:16-17)

i. Yahweh is the Deliverer 45:23-24

ii. Phil 2:9-11

LIVE THE STORY

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.

- Can you think of reasons why the *invisibility of God* is not a reasonable objection to His existence?
- Why must the rejection of God as Creator be an active suppression of the truth?
- How do these two chapters speak of the exclusivity of God? How does this contrast to the ideas of pluralism?
- How does 45:23-34 speak of the exclusive nature of YHWH as God? How does Philippians 2:9-11 therefore speak of the Deity of Christ?
- What qualifies God to make the exclusive claims of Godhood that He does?
- What makes YHWH clearly set apart from the idols of the nations?
- Isaiah speaks of an idolatry that assigns person-hood and power to created inanimate things. Is this form of idolatry relevant in our day? How might we see it?
- In addition to creation, how does God offer His proof-of-life in Isaiah 44-45? And how in the later chapters of Isaiah (like Isaiah 53, for example) does He offer similar proof?

God's Question

Jerry Cisar — 6/12/2011

Text: Isaiah 44:9—45:25

Introduction: Proof of Life

A. In Isaiah 44-45 God is mocking the worship of idols and offering proof-of-life for Himself.

B. Creation is spouting proof-of-life for God, but idol worshipers reject it!

i. Psalm 19:1-4

ii. Romans 1:18-23

a) Suppression of the truth is motivated by wickedness.

b) The *invisibility of God* is really not a reasonable objection to His existence.

C. ***Who then is like me? Is there a god besides me?***

I. The Exclusive Claims of YHWH (44:6-8)

A. God's Claims are Clear:

- i. 44:6, 8,
- ii. 45:5-6, 18, 21-22
- iii. What qualifies God to make these claims? 44:24

B. God lays out His challenge from the outset (44:7).

II. The Delusion of Idol-Worship (44:9-20)

A. The self-evident absurdity of idol-making

- i. What is idolatry?
 - a) Treasuring and trusting in created things and attributing person-hood and power to them.
 - b) Assigning life and power to material or inanimate things.
- ii. Isaiah speaks in caricature to show the utter absurdity of the process.

➤ Job 39:26-27

B. The Blinding Effect of Idols (44:18, 20)

- i. 2 Corinthians 4:2-4

J. Gresham Machen: *"False ideas are the greatest obstacles to the reception of the gospel."*

C. The powerlessness of idols

III. God's Proof-of-life

A. God Speaks and Fulfills (44:24-28)

- i. God predicts the deliverer by name: Cyrus

➤ Jeremiah

➤ Daniel

➤ 2 Chronicles 36:20-22

- ii. God is saying to the idols, "Try this..."