

The PROPHETS of JUDAH

Isaiah – The Supremacy of God

Isaiah 52:7-10

October 10, 2026

The historical section of Isaiah - Chapters 36-39 - retells the victories and failures of Hezekiah's reign. After Hezekiah showed all his wealth to the Babylonian emissaries, the section concludes with Isaiah's prophecy concerning the future of Judah ---- and the news was not good:

Isaiah 39:6-7 - *Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,' says the LORD. 'And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.*

Chapters 40-42 contain a dispute that had been going on for a long time – Who's better..... the God of the Universe or the nations surrounding Israel and the gods they worship?

Isaiah 40:9-11 sets the tone:

"You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, Adonai Yahweh comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young."

What followed was a series of arguments that point to one undeniable truth – the God of heaven is unlike any nation or manmade god:

Isaiah 40:12-17 - *Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance? Who has understood the mind of Yahweh, or instructed him as his counselor? Whom did Yahweh consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge or showed him the path of understanding? Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales; he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust. Lebanon is not sufficient for altar fires, nor its animals enough for burnt offerings. Before him all the nations are as nothing; they are regarded by him as worthless and less than nothing.*

Isaiah 40:18-22 - *To whom, then, will you compare God? What image will you compare him to? As for an idol, a craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and fashions silver chains for it. A man too poor to present such an offering selects wood that will not rot. He looks for a skilled craftsman to set up an idol that will not topple. Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded? He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.*

Isaiah 40:23-26 - *He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff. "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.*

Isaiah 41:1-4, 7 – *"Be silent before me, you islands! Let the nations renew their strength! Let them come forward and speak; let us meet together at the place of judgment. Who has stirred up one from the east, calling him in righteousness to his service? He hands nations over to him and subdues kings before him. He turns them to dust with his sword, to windblown chaff with his bow. He pursues them and moves on unscathed, by a path his feet have not traveled before. Who has done this and carried it*

through, calling forth the generations from the beginning? I, Yahweh – with the first of them and with the last – I am he." The craftsman encourages the goldsmith, and he who smooths with the hammer spurs on him who strikes the anvil. He says of the welding, "It is good." He nails down the idol so it will not topple.

But God is fair, so he says to the other gods....

Isaiah 41:21-23, 24, 28-29 - *"Present your case," says Yahweh. "Set forth your arguments," says Jacob's King. "Bring in your idols to tell us what is going to happen. Tell us what the former things were, so that we may consider them and know their final outcome. Or declare to us the things to come, tell us what the future holds, so we may know that you are gods. Do something, whether good or bad, so that we will be dismayed and filled with fear.... But you are less than nothing and your works are utterly worthless; he who chooses you is detestable.... I look but there is no one – no one among them to give counsel, no one to give answer when I ask them. See, they are all false! Their deeds amount to nothing; their images are but wind and confusion.*

Isaiah 42:8-9 - *"I am Yahweh; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols. See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you."*

I would say God has made his case. But why go to the trouble? Because, despite all God has done throughout their history, this question, "who is better?", remains an unresolved issue for his people. Over and over God has revealed himself and over and over they chose to rely on outside sources instead of Him. They have acted like he is unaware of what they are doing or the condition of their hearts. This review is for their benefit, not his, so, while declaring his supremacy, God also declared the shortsightedness of their choices.

Isaiah 42:17-19 - *But those who trust in idols, who say to images, 'You are our gods,' will be turned back in utter shame.*

Did his evidence end the dispute? Did it have any effect? No. because he was talking to the blind and deaf. People who don't know because they do not want to know. Judgment will come. Destruction will come.... *"It enveloped them in flames, yet they did not understand; it consumed them, but they did not take it to heart."* (Isaiah 42:25b)

Let's remind ourselves that these events are years into the future. There was plenty of time for repentance to occur. It need not have happened..... But it did happen. The Babylonians came and Judah went into captivity.

Even then, God did not leave them to flounder.

Isaiah 43:10-13 - *"You are my witnesses," declares Yahweh, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me. I, even I, am Yahweh, and apart from me there is no savior. I have revealed and saved and proclaimed-- I, and not some foreign god among you. You are my witnesses," declares Yahweh, "that I am God. Yes, and from ancient days I am he. No one can deliver out of my hand. When I act, who can reverse it?"*

He promised future deliverance and restoration at the hand of a man not yet born from an empire not yet formed:

Isaiah 44:24-28 & 45:1-5 - *This is what Yahweh says-- your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am Yahweh, who has made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself, who foils the signs of false prophets and makes fools of diviners, who overthrows the learning of the wise and turns it into nonsense, who carries out the words of his servants and fulfills the predictions of his messengers, who says of Jerusalem, 'It shall be inhabited,' of the towns of Judah, 'They shall be built,' and of their ruins, 'I will restore them,' who says to the watery deep, 'Be dry, and I will dry up your streams,' who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please; he will say of Jerusalem, "Let it be rebuilt," and of the temple, "Let its foundations be laid."' This is what Yahweh says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut. I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am Yahweh, the God of Israel, who summons you by name. For the sake of Jacob my servant, of Israel my chosen, I summon you by name and bestow on you a title of honor, though you do not acknowledge me. I am Yahweh, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me....*

Here is another evidence of God's supremacy. He can work through people to accomplish his purposes who don't even know or acknowledge him as God. All that was required of Cyrus was a willing/listening/responding heart.

It is important to say at this point that this prophecy in no way negates Cyrus' free choice. God is not going to manipulate Cyrus to suit his purposes. This is a descriptive prophecy. God knows what is going to happen in future. He knows how Cyrus is going to respond. He is reporting the news not making the news.

Jeremiah 29:10 - *This is what Yahweh says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place.*

Ezra 1:1-4 - *In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of Yahweh spoken by Jeremiah, Yahweh moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and to put it in writing: "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: "'Yahweh, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Anyone of his people among you-- may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of Yahweh, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem. And the people of any place where survivors may now be living are to provide him with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem.'"*

Chapters 46-47 contain a more detailed prophecy regarding Babylon's defeat which will pave the way for God's remnant people to return home.

Turning back to Judah, Yahweh accuses them of claiming to be his people while not actually knowing anything about him. He points back to the past, reminding them of all the things he said would happen, "my mouth announced them and I made them known; then suddenly I acted, and they came to pass. For I knew how stubborn you were; the sinews of your neck were iron, your forehead was bronze. Therefore I told you these things long ago; before they happened I announced them to you so that you could not say, 'My idols did them; my wooden image and metal god ordained them.'"

So, if the things he said long ago would happen - happened, they can trust that what he says is going to happen in the future will happen.

A redeemer will come – his name is Cyrus and he will set the captives free:

Isaiah 51:11 - *The ransomed of Yahweh will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.*

Isaiah 52:6-7 - *Therefore my people will know my name; therefore, in that day they will know that it is I who foretold it. Yes, it is I." How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"*

Until Next Time.....