

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Week 66

Isaiah Chapter 43:22-44:23

This section of Isaiah treats Israel's sin and redemption.
Isaiah addresses four topics under the heading of **sin dealt with by redemption**.

He begins by describing the sin of the nation. **Isaiah 43:22-24**.

Next, He describes how the Lord will meet their need. **Isaiah 43:25-44:5**.

Then he will contrast the Lord, their Redeemer, the only God with idols. **Isaiah 44:6-20**.

Finally, he will describe redemption from sin. **Isaiah 44:21-23**.

In **chapter 44:1-5**, Isaiah now returns to the far prophecy of the end times.

This is where we pick things up this evening.

The Lord tells the nation that He will pour out **His Spirit** and His blessings upon their descendants. This will occur in the end times when the Messiah redeems the remnant of Israel. Never again will they rebel against Him.

The Spirit will do for their offspring – the remnant of Israel in the last days – what the nation could never do for themselves: renew their hearts to enable them to love the LORD God and gladly do His will.

Let's compare this to what the Spirit is doing for us - the body of Christ – now! **Romans 8:1-27**.

Finally, make note of **44:2**. The Lord emphasizes that He made Israel and formed her “in the womb”.

This forms a dramatic contrast to verses 9-20. There, the idol worshipper tries to turn this upside down – a man makes and forms his own “god”.

Next, Isaiah contrasts the Lord, their Redeemer, the only God, with idols. **Isaiah 44:6-20**.

In **44:6-8**, the LORD once again proclaims that He is the one and only God. He also identifies Himself as Israel's King and Redeemer.

It's remarkable: God identifying Himself with one fallen and rebellious people. Yet He had done this before also. See **Exodus 3:6**.

He chose to display His matchless power and omniscience in His dealings with His chosen people.

In **44:9-20**, the idol-worshipper is a blind fool, and the idol-maker is nothing but a deceived and delusional man.

The Lord's words are condemning, definitely; but they are also memorable, sarcastic, and, at times, hysterical.

He describes the work of making an idol. But he does so in reverse order: the last step comes first, and the first step comes last. It is an expose, revealing the hollow core of an idol.

Verse 18 is masterful. Is he describing the idol-worshippers, or the idol?

Verse 20 says that the idolater "feeds on ashes". Ashes have no nutritional value. In the Old Testament, ashes represent affliction, slaughter, destruction, death, mourning, repentance, and the ultimate fate of the wicked. See **2 Kings 23:4; Job 42:6; Psalm 102:8-10; Ezekiel 28:18; Malachi 4:3; and 2 Peter 2:6.**

What about us?

44:9-11 speak directly to the present day, to people and to their idols: the natural or man-made things that men worship as their gods today.

When the Bible – particularly the New Testament - talks about idols, idolatry, and idolaters, it typically associates these things with unbelievers. See **1 Corinthians 5:9-11, 6:9-11; Galatians 5:16-24; Ephesians 5:5; 1 Peter 4:3; Revelation 21:7-8,**

But believers can come under the influence of idolatry. Look at **Acts 15:29**, followed by 1 **Corinthians 8:1-10, 10:14-30**. Is there a difference between worshipping an idol and eating meat sacrificed to idols?

What is an unbeliever's god? It is that which is dearest to his heart; the thing he guards most ferociously, that which is untouchable, that final line in the sand of their life that no one dare cross without violence ensuing. See **Acts 19:23-29**.

What does **Romans 1:18-32** teach us about idolatry? How about **Colossians 3:5-8**?