

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Week 73

Isaiah Chapter 44:24-45:13

This section consists of three paragraphs. Each paragraph is marked with the phrase “Thus says the Lord”. 44:24; 45:1; 45:11.

They have several things in common. In each paragraph, the LORD gives hope to Isaiah’s audience by announcing new things He will accomplish for them in the future. **44:26; 45:4; 45:11,13.**

Each portrays God as the Creator, the One who has created all things. **44:24; 45:7; 45:11,12.**

Each emphasizes that the LORD, the one and only God, redeems His people. **44:24; 45:4; 45:13.**

And each describes how the LORD shall use Cyrus as His shepherd and anointed one to rescue His people and let the whole world know that there is no one like the LORD. **44:28; 45:1-7; 45:13.**

Here is an outline of this section. Note that there is an interlude between the second and third paragraphs. It uses imagery to reinforce the message of these paragraphs.

Paragraph 1	Isaiah 44:24-28	The LORD will restore Jerusalem
Paragraph 2	Isaiah 45:1-7	The LORD will direct the activities of Cyrus
Interlude	Isaiah 45:8-10	Righteousness will pour down from heaven like rain. Will clay question the potter?
Paragraph 3	Isaiah 45:11-13	The LORD made the heavens and the earth and created man. He can certainly raise up a Cyrus to bring His exiled people back home.

Let's read the entire passage: **Isaiah 44:24-45:13**.

Now we will continue where we left off last week. Let's read **Isaiah 44:24-28** again.

In verse 28, the LORD, through His servant Isaiah, announces the name of His chosen agent: **Cyrus**.

Isaiah's prophetic ministry ended around 690 BC. Cyrus, King of Persia, will conquer Babylon in 539 BC. A year later, he will issue the edict to permit the people of Judah to return to Jerusalem.

In other words, the LORD predicted an event that would not occur for another 150 years. The LORD is the only One who can predict the future. In so doing, He makes fools out of the pagan soothsayers.

Time for another history lesson.

In Isaiah 44:28, the LORD proclaims three things that He will bring about in the future:

1. He will call **Cyrus** to be His shepherd who will perform all His desire in **rescuing His people**.
2. He will cause **the city of Jerusalem** to be built.
3. He will cause **the foundation of the temple** to be laid.

We will now turn to three of the historical books of the Old Testament to learn how, after 70 years of captivity in Babylon, the LORD fulfilled His promise to restore Israel, the city of Jerusalem, and the temple.

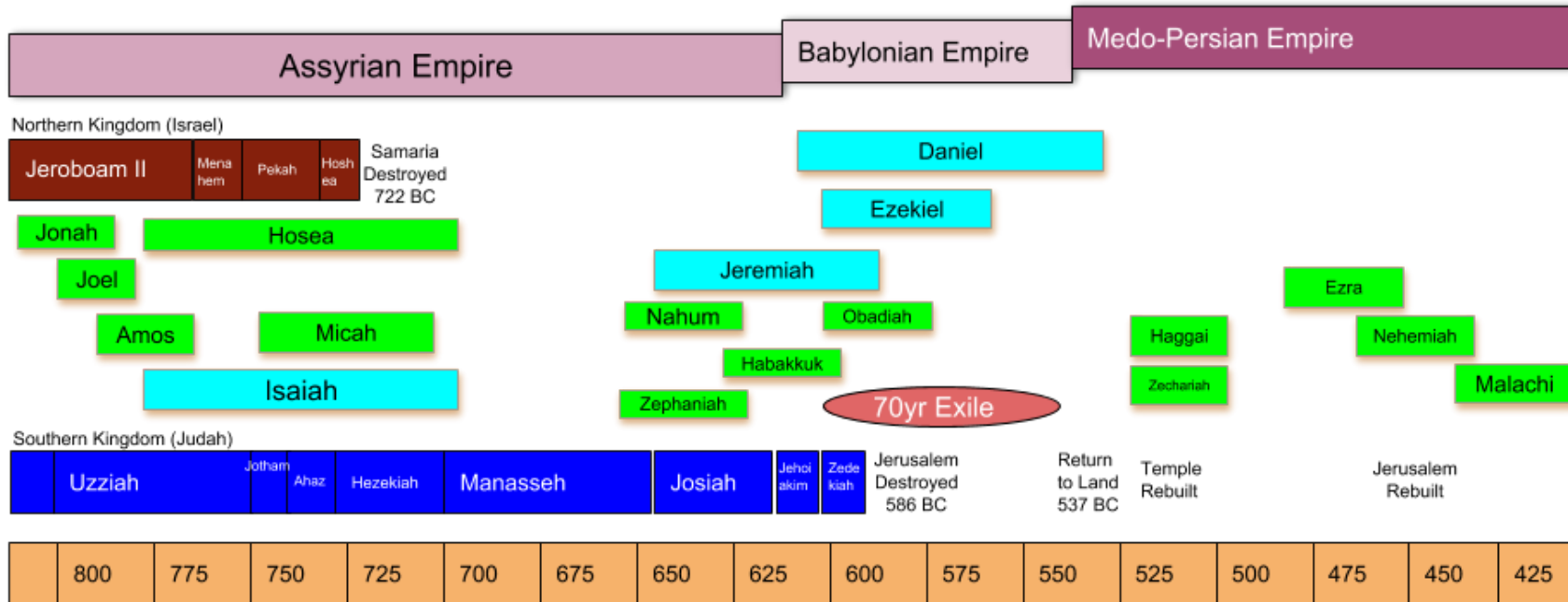
The LORD would use three Persian kings to accomplish His tremendous plan.

The LORD declared	Persian King(s)	The scriptural record	Notes
His shepherd would release His people from Babylon	Cyrus	2 Chronicles 36:17-23 Ezra 1:1-3; 2:1-2	
The foundation of the Temple will be laid	Cyrus and Darius	Ezra 3:8-13; 5:16; 6:1-15	During the reign of Cyrus, the work of rebuilding the Temple did not progress beyond laying the foundations.
Jerusalem will be rebuilt	Artaxerxes	Nehemiah 2:1-8; 6:15-16	

The walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt by Nehemiah in 445 BC: 245 years after Isaiah predicted it!

Next up: **Isaiah 45:1-7**.

Timeline of the Prophets



RETURN FROM BABYLON

Chronology of the return	World events during the return
605-536 B.C. General period of captivity	ca. 563-ca.483 Buddha (in India)
605, 597, Leading Judean citizens deported,	551-478 B.C. Confucius (in China)
586 B.C. including Daniel and Ezekiel	549 B.C. Cyrus united Persia and Media
538 B.C. Edict of Cyrus permitting the return	546 B.C. Cyrus conquered Lydia
536 B.C. Return of 49,897 from Babylon to Jerusalem	539 B.C. Cyrus conquered Babylon
536 B.C. Altar rebuilt, sacrifice offered in seventh month	530 B.C. Cyrus died
535 B.C. Temple rebuilding begun, but stopped	539-331 B.C. Persian Empire
535-520 B.C. Economic and political struggle	530-522 B.C. Cambyses
520 B.C. Ministry of Haggai	522-486 B.C. Darius I
520-515 B.C. Ministry of Zechariah	490 B.C. Darius defeated at Marathon
515 B.C. Temple completed	486-465 B.C. Xerxes I (Ahasuerus)
458 B.C. Return of Ezra	485-425 B.C. Herodotus
445 B.C. Nehemiah rebuilt the walls	480 B.C. Persians defeated at Thermopylae and Salamis
	470-399 B.C. Socrates
	460-429 B.C. Golden age of Pericles
	428-322 B.C. Plato and Aristotle