

Yerushalayim to Be Inhabited ~ Part 1

Yesha'yahu 44:24-28

In my last post, we explored **Worthless Idols** in **Yesha'yahu 44:6-23**. In this post, we explore **Yerushalayim to Be Inhabited ~ Part 1** in **44:24-28**.

In these verses, **Adonai's** sovereignty over His creation and the future is asserted. **Adonai** affirmed His prophets over against those prophets who deceived.

24 Here is what Adonai says, your Redeemer, He who formed you in the womb: "I am Adonai, who makes all things, who stretched out the heavens all alone, who spread out the earth all by myself.

The fact that the Bible portrays **Adonai** as having no equal means that all divine activity is carried out by Him. This contrasts with many of the traditions of the ancient Near East, where various deities were involved with different aspects of creation. **Stretching out the heavens** and **spreading the earth** demonstrates **Adonai's** control over the cosmos. He puts it up like a **Bedouin** erects a tent.

25 I frustrate false prophets and their omens, I make fools of diviners, I drive back the sages and make their wisdom look silly.

Adonai confuses and destroys those who claim to reveal the future. Such people are condemned and contrasted with true prophets who received revelation from **Adonai**. **Diviners** manipulated or observed such things as sheep livers, cloud formations, and the stars to determine the future.

26 I confirm My servants' prophecies and make My messengers' plans succeed. I say of Yerushalayim: 'She will be lived in,' of the cities of Y'hudah, 'They will be rebuilt; I will restore their ruins.'

In contrast to the false prophets are **Adonai's messengers** with the message that **Yerushalayim** will be rebuilt and re-inhabited.

27 I say to the deep sea, 'Dry up! I will make your streams run dry.'

Adonai's ability to restore **Yerushalayim** is affirmed by reference to His control of nature, specifically that He can make bodies of water go dry. Since water is often a symbol of the forces of chaos, perhaps the meaning of this verse is that **Adonai** will subdue those chaotic forces that held Judah captive.

The following prophecy concerning **Koresh** (Cyrus), which continues in all of chapter 45 is one of the most astounding in all the **Tanakh**. It predicts that a man named **Koresh** would come on the scene, saying that **Yerushalayim** would be built and the foundations of the **Temple** would be laid. At this time, **Yerushalayim** was already built, and the **Temple** was standing tall, so what relevance could this have to anything, the people must have wondered. But 200 years later, a man named **Koresh** did indeed appear on the scene as king of the **Persian** empire. And it would be this **Koresh** who would give the order for the **Jews** to rebuild the city and temple the **Bavlim** had destroyed.

28 I say of Koresh, 'He is my shepherd, he will do everything I want. He will say of Yerushalayim, "You will be rebuilt," and of the Temple, "Your foundation will be laid."'" ~ Isaiah 44:24-28 (CJB)

Koresh was born about 590 BCE in the modern **Iranian** province of **Fars**. Virtually nothing is known of him until he came to the throne of **Persia** in 559 BCE, except for a few legends concerning his childhood written

down by Herodotus, the Greek historian. ¹ **Yesha'yahu** whose ministry spanned four kings whose reigns stretched from 742 to 686 BCE, named a ruler who was not yet born.

In my next post, we learn of **Yerushalayim to Be Inhabited ~ Part 2** in **Yesha'yahu 45:1-13**.

¹ The IVP Bible Background Commentary – Old Testament.