

The background of the slide is a full-page image of a mountainous landscape. In the foreground, two rugged, brownish mountains rise from a deep valley. The sky above is filled with soft, white clouds, and a bright sun is positioned just above the horizon, creating a lens flare effect with rays of light spreading across the sky. The colors of the sky transition from a deep blue on the left to a warm orange and yellow on the right, where the sun is located. The overall mood is serene and majestic.

# SALVATION IS OF THE LORD

*A Study of Isaiah - #18*



SUPERIORITY OF  
JEHOVAH OVER  
NATIONS' IDOLS

Isaiah 40-48

# High-Level Outline

## I. Sovereign Judgment of All (1-39)

## II. God's Salvation of Zion (40-66)

### A. Superiority of Jehovah over Idols (40-48)

1. Announcing the Coming of the Lord (40:1-11)
2. The Incomparable God (40:12-41:29)
3. The Chosen Servant of Delight (42:1-17)
4. The Deaf, Blind Servant Redeemed (42:18-44:5)
5. Impotence of Idols versus Power of Jehovah (44:6-28)
6. Cyrus, Shepherd of God's People (45:1-13)
7. Turning of Gentiles from Idols to Jehovah (45:14-25)
8. God's Triumph over Babylon (46:1-47:15)

### B. "Things That Make for Peace" (49-57)

### C. Establishment of Zion (58-66)



THE DEAF, BLIND  
SERVANT REDEEMED

Isaiah 42:18-44:5

# Exodus 2.0

20) To what previous national redemption did God compare Israel's future redemption from Babylonian captivity (**43:14-21**)?

*Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, The Holy One of Israel: "For your sake I will send to Babylon, And bring them all down as fugitives – The Chaldeans, who rejoice in their ships. I am the LORD, your Holy One, The Creator of Israel, your King." Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea And a path through the mighty waters, Who brings forth the chariot and horse, The army and the power (They shall lie down together, they shall not rise; They are extinguished, they are quenched like a wick): (**43:14-17**)*

• Like exodus from Egyptian captivity (**Exo. 14-15**). Buried the Pharaoh's army in the Red Sea (**Psa. 135; Neh. 9:10-11**).

# Wandering in Wilderness, Take 2

20) To what previous national redemption did God compare Israel's future redemption from Babylonian captivity (**43:14-21**)?

***“Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert. The beast of the field will honor Me, The jackals and the ostriches, Because I give waters in the wilderness And rivers in the desert, To give drink to My people, My chosen. This people I have formed for Myself; They shall declare My praise.***  
**(43:18-21)**

- Tremendous privilege to know in advance (**Gen. 18:17**).
- Unlike first wandering in wilderness, these people will praise God. Walk highway, not wander (**11:16; 19:23; 35:8; 40:3**).

# Wandering in Wilderness, Take 2

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**(43:18-21)**

When God's people are blessed, often others around them share in the physical blessing (**Gen. 30:27-43; 39:1-5, 20-23** also **Is.35:1-7; 44:23; 55:12-13; Hos.4:3; Zeph.1:3**).

# “How have we wearied Him?”

21) Had Israel literally failed to offer sacrifices, or does the language figuratively represent a failure in quality or substance of sacrifice (**43:22-24**)? Please explain.

***But you have not called upon Me, O Jacob; And you have been weary of Me, O Israel. You have not brought Me the sheep for your burnt offerings, Nor have you honored Me with your sacrifices. I have not caused you to serve with grain offerings, Nor wearied you with incense. You have bought Me no sweet cane with money, Nor have you satisfied Me with the fat of your sacrifices; But you have burdened Me with your sins, You have wearied Me with your iniquities. (43:22-24)***

- If they brought sacrifices, was “burden, weariness” (**1:11-16**).
- God commanded sacrifice but for their good (**Deu. 6:24-25; 30:10-20**). They made it a weariness (**Mal.1:7-14**)!

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- What they did offer in **abundance** was disgusting sin!
- “**Uncheerful giving**” is a danger for us today (**2 Cor. 9; Mat. 6:1-18; 1 Cor. 11:23-31**). See again in **Isaiah 58** ...

# “He who rebukes God”

22) Why would God deliver Israel to the “*curse*” and “*reproaches*”, if He was the one who “*blots out your transgressions*” (43:25-28)?

**“I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins. Put Me in remembrance; Let us contend together; State your case, that you may be acquitted. Your first father sinned, And your mediators have transgressed against Me. Therefore I will profane the princes of the sanctuary; I will give Jacob to the curse, And Israel to reproaches.”** (43:25-28)

- Nationally, God had forgiven Israel multiple times, turning back national destruction and doom. ... Foster thankfulness.
- Confronts like Job (**Job 38-42**). ... What has been response?
- Ongoing sin from the beginning justifies doom (**Deu. 28-30**).

# “Jeshurun grew fat and kicked”

23) What peculiar future events were foretold in **Isaiah 44:1-5**?

*Yet hear now, **O Jacob My servant**, And **Israel** whom I have chosen. Thus says **the LORD** who made you And formed you from the womb, who will **help** you: ‘Fear not, O **Jacob My servant**; And you, **Jeshurun**, whom I have chosen. For I will **pour water on him who is thirsty**, And floods on the dry ground; I will **pour My Spirit on your descendants**, And **My blessing on your offspring**; **They** will **spring up** among the grass Like willows by the watercourses.’ **One** will say, ‘**I am the LORD’S**’; **Another** will **call himself by the name of Jacob**; **Another** will write with his hand, ‘**The LORD’S**,’ And **name himself by the name of Israel**. (**44:1-5**)*

- Jeshurun (“*upright one*”) associated with national blessing, followed by rebellion in prosperity (**Deu. 32:1-21; 33:1-29**).

# “On him who is thirsty”

23) What peculiar future events were foretold in **Isaiah 44:1-5**?

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- Transitions to individual blessing and spiritual blessing of descendants who claim God (**32:15**; **Joel 2:28-32**; **Acts 2**).

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- Recognition of thirst precedes blessing (**35:7; 41:17; Mat 5:2-6; John 4:13-15; 6:35; 7:37-39**).

# “Not all Israel of Israel”

23) What peculiar future events were foretold in **Isaiah 44:1-5**? Yet hear now, **O Jacob My servant**, And **Israel whom I have chosen**. Thus says **the LORD** who made you And **formed** you from the womb, who will **help** you: ‘**Fear not**, O **Jacob My servant**; And you, **Jeshurun**, whom I have chosen. For I will **pour water on him who is thirsty**, And floods on the dry ground; I will **pour My Spirit on your descendants**, And **My blessing on your offspring**; **They will spring up** among the grass Like willows by the watercourses.’ One will say, ‘**I am the LORD’S**’; Another will **call himself by the name of Jacob**; Another will write with his hand, ‘The LORD’S,’ And **name himself by the name of Israel**. (44:1-5)

• Christians are the Lord’s, spiritual Israel, citizens of heavenly Jerusalem. (**Gal. 4:21-31; Rom. 9:1-8; Heb. 12:17-24**).



# IMPOTENCE OF IDOLS VERSUS POWER OF JEHOVAH

Isaiah 44:6-28

# “Who can proclaim as I do?”

24) How did each of God's self-designations relate to the issues being discussed (**44:6-8**)?

*“Thus says <sup>1</sup>the LORD, <sup>2</sup>the King of Israel, And <sup>3</sup>his Redeemer, <sup>4</sup>the LORD of hosts: <sup>5</sup>I am the First and <sup>6</sup>I am the Last; <sup>7</sup>Besides Me there is no God. And <sup>8</sup>who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them. Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.”* (44:6-8)

He alone possesses eternity, sovereignty, love, armies, position, knowledge and stability – no god, idol possesses.

# “Do not fear, nor be afraid”

24) How did each of God's self-designations relate to the issues being discussed (**44:6-8**)?

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• Points to his “*ancient*” prophecies (and people foretold) as proof to his deity and plan to redeem (**Deu. 28-30**).

• Private repentance, purity as well as hope, courage.

# “Their Own Witnesses”

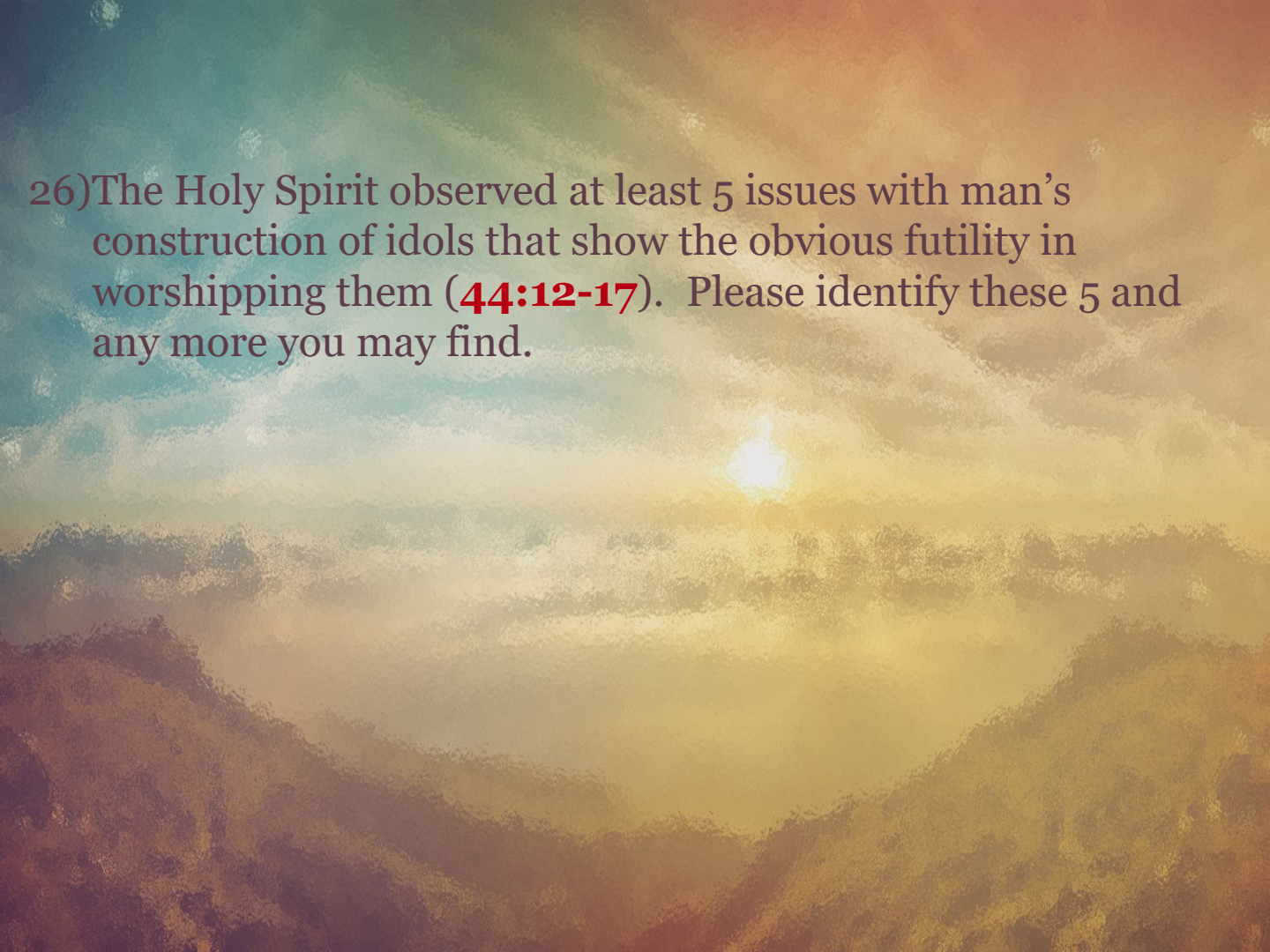
25) What witness was available to testify for the idols and the idol makers (**44:9-11**)?

*Those who make an image, **all of them are useless**, And their precious things shall **not profit**; **They are their own witnesses**; **They neither see nor know**, that they may be **ashamed**. **Who would form** a god or mold an image That **profits him nothing**? Surely all his companions would be **ashamed**; And the workmen, they are **mere men**. Let them all **be gathered together**, Let them **stand up**; Yet **they shall fear**, **They shall be ashamed together**. (**44:9-11**)*

- Unlike Israel, idol makers & worshippers have cause to **fear** (**42:12-18; 46:1-2; Jer. 50:1-3; 51:1-44; Acts 19:10-28**)!
- In contest, court case between idols, their makers and God, the idols have no witness **but** their makers!
- Cannot point to great works or prophecies, ancient or future.

# God's Case Thus Far

- Fulfilled prophecies attest to God's existence, deity.
- His name & claims leave room for no other (see above).
- His 3 servants testify to His prophetic, providential power:
  1. National Israel (Immediately Applicable):
    - Law, prophets & history of repeated, miraculous redemption.
    - Their usefulness despite "hostility" enhances His visible power.
  2. Cyrus, defeating Babylon & freeing Israel (in 150 years)
  3. Jesus Christ, establishing Messianic kingdom (in 700 years)
- Without such evidences, idols & their makers have no proof of existence beside the idol ***makers*** and ***itself***!
- This ***limited*** source of evidence makes next verses withering.



26) The Holy Spirit observed at least 5 issues with man's construction of idols that show the obvious futility in worshipping them (**44:12-17**). Please identify these 5 and any more you may find.

# Who Made Who?

*The <sup>1</sup>blacksmith with the tongs <sup>2</sup>works one in the <sup>3</sup>coals, Fashions it with <sup>3</sup>hammers, And works it with the <sup>1</sup>strength of his arms. Even so, he is <sup>1</sup>hungry, and his <sup>1</sup>strength fails; He drinks no water and is <sup>1</sup>faint. The craftsman stretches out his rule, He marks one out with chalk; He fashions it with a plane, He marks it out with the compass, And makes it <sup>4</sup>like the figure of a man, According to the <sup>5</sup>beauty of a man, that it may remain in the house. He <sup>6</sup>cuts down cedars for himself, And takes the cypress and the oak; He <sup>7</sup>secures it for himself among the trees of the forest. He <sup>8</sup>plants a pine, and the <sup>9</sup>rain nourishes it. Then it shall be <sup>10</sup>for a man to burn, For he will <sup>11</sup>take some of it and warm himself; Yes, he <sup>12</sup>kindles it and bakes bread; Indeed he makes a god and worships it; He makes it a carved image, and falls down to it. (44:12-15)*

# Who Made Who?

*He burns half of it in the fire; With this half he eats meat; He roasts a roast, and is satisfied. He even warms himself and says, <sup>13</sup>“Ah! I am warm, I have seen the fire.” And the rest of it he makes into a god, His carved image. He falls down before it and worships it, Prays to it and says, “Deliver me, for <sup>14</sup>you are my god!” (44:16-17)*

- Because it has no life, work, or evidence beyond the image itself, the image’s “deity” is demolished by:
  - Instead of a creator or god, it is itself created.
  - Created by one who is limited, weak and therefore even less itself.
  - Grandeur limited to man’s imagination, judgment, own beauty.
  - Made from weak materials processes (coal, hammers, wood, rain).
  - Unable to save itself from cutting, burning.
  - No more holy than ***fuel*** for light, heat, and food.
  - Underlying “god” represented by image. ***“It”*** is only an idol.

# Judicial Hardening

27) Why did the pagans and those seduced from Israel continue in such obvious error, foolishness and futility (**44:18-20**)?

*They do not know nor understand; For He has shut their eyes, so that they cannot see, And their hearts, so that they cannot understand. And no one considers in his heart, Nor is there **knowledge nor understanding** to say, “I have burned half of it in the fire, Yes, I have also baked bread on its coals; I have roasted meat and eaten it; And **shall I make the rest of it an abomination?** Shall I fall down before a block of wood?” He **feeds on ashes**; A deceived heart has turned him aside; And he cannot deliver his soul, Nor say, “Is there not a lie in my right hand?”*  
(**44:18-20**)

- Their eyes, heart was blinded, hardened by the Lord.
- Which came first?... Man rejected God, who then rejected him.

For the wrath of God **is revealed** from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for **God has shown it to them**. For since the creation of the world His **invisible attributes are clearly seen**, being understood by the things that are **made**, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although **they knew God**, they did not glorify Him as God, **nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts**, and their **foolish hearts were darkened**. **Professing to be wise, they became fools**, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into **an image made like corruptible man** – and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who **exchanged the truth of God for the lie**, and worshiped and **served the creature rather than the Creator**, who is blessed forever. Amen.

**Rom. 1:18-25** see also, **2 Thess. 2:9-12; Isaiah 66:3-4**)

# Largely Unrequited Love

28) Why should Israel have broken into song and rejoicing (**44:21-23**)? How did this relate to the immediate context? Why was the creation directed to join in the praise?

*“Remember these, O Jacob, And Israel, for **you are My servant; I have formed you, you are My servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me! I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions, And like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you.” Sing, O heavens, for the LORD has done it! Shout, you lower parts of the earth; Break forth into singing, you mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, And glorified Himself in Israel.”***  
(**44:21-23**)

- God’s preservation of national Israel despite their sins, should have prompted the deepest adoration, praise for its people.

# “Drives Diviners Mad”

29) What new comparisons were introduced here, which emphasized the power of God over that of idols (**44:24-27**)?

*Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, And He who formed you from the womb: “I am the LORD, who makes all things, Who stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself; Who frustrates the signs of the babblers, And drives diviners mad; Who turns wise men backward, And makes their knowledge foolishness; Who confirms the word of His servant, And performs the counsel of His messengers; Who says to Jerusalem, ‘You shall be inhabited,’ To the cities of Judah, ‘You shall be built,’ And I will raise up her waste places; Who says to the deep, ‘Be dry! And I will dry up your rivers”* (**44:24-27**)

- Not passively foretelling the future, but actively disrupting wisdom of human foretellers, while ensuring His own words.

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- Ensures that the “prophet’s test” is valid (**Deu. 18:20-22**).
- Exceptions may exist (**Deu. 13:1-5**, also **1 Kgs. 22; Jer. 28**).



# CYRUS, SHEPHERD OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Isaiah 45:1-13