

Isaiah 44:6-28

"No Other Rock"

Ladies and Gentlemen: Let's get right to God's Word.

Vs 6-8

I'm just going to trust that the book of Isaiah has brought both *blessing*, & times of *refreshing* to your spirit. – *God's word is always right on time. It has this way (proverbially speaking) of lifting us up by our lapels, slapping us around a little bit, (or splashing some [proverbial] cold water right in our faces) & snapping us back into reality. *Reminding us of where our priorities need to be! It has this way of grabbing hold of our hearts & saying, "Hey! What are you doing wandering around over there? Get back over here where you belong! Don't entertain those things, don't set your mind on those things & make sure your motives are where they need to be..."*

In the book of Hebrews, we read that like this, *"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."*¹ *

& W/that I'm going to segue right back into our very 1st verse here this morning (which is Vs 6 in the Ch). There's only 1 to whom we *must* give account. Look at Vs 6 again.

Vs 6

It's the friendly (but frequent) reminder given throughout the book of Isaiah. It's not a preaching point that's real popular, but it's truth, nonetheless. There is only *1 God* & He's the *only God* w/whom the world has to do. He goes by several titles, but don't let that confuse you. There's only 1 God. "The Lord", "The King of Israel" "his Redeemer", "the LORD of hosts". He says, "I am the 1st & I am the Last; besides Me there is no God."

We've come across this title, "First & the Last" previously back in Ch 41. It was found w/in the same context of proclaiming His glory, His authenticity against the false gods (the idolatry) that Israel had foolishly given themselves over to.

& In taking this title, it really points to the eternal nature of God. He's the 1st, & He's the Last. An idol can never be 1st, it needs someone to form/fashion it. It can never be last because it'll eventually wear out, breakdown & disintegrate w/time. But if God is the First, that means He's self-existing. There was no one or no thing before Him.

¹ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). [Heb 4:12-13](#). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

He doesn't derive His being, His existence from any one or anything. "In the Beginning... God". – As the "Last" it means that when heaven & earth pass away, when human history winds down & wraps up, He'll be there, remaining supreme, reigning in authority over it all... He's completely unique & besides Him there is no God...

& I think we'd be remiss if we didn't point out (again) that Jesus takes this same title on a couple of occasions in the book of Revelation. I'll give you one, Rev 22:13. Jesus says there, *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."*² So we're left to affirm once again... If the LORD (Yahweh) is the 1st & the Last according to Isa 44:6, & Jesus is the 1st & the Last according to Rev 22:13 (& there can't be 2- 1^{sts} & 2 lasts) Jesus must be the LORD God... (As well as the Father & the Holy Spirit, 1 God, 3 Persons. There's no gradient of greater to lesser, in the Godhead)

& *Because God isn't bound by the laws of time & space (meaning He lives outside the time/space domain) He can proclaim like none other. He calls those things (Rom 4:17) which do not exist as though they did. He sets things in order & appoints those things that are coming and shall come... An attribute unique unto Himself. It's one of the ways He verifies & ratifies the truth of who He is to humanity... but why?

Why does God proclaim the way He does? Why does He speak of the future as though it's the past. Why does He speak of things yet to come & set them in order? Why reveal these things to us & display this attribute unique unto Him alone? Is it so that we can be really impressed w/Him (as though He needs our affirmation regarding how great He truly is)? No. Is it so we can gain insightful information that will serve us in Bible trivia? No ☺. Then why? Couple of reasons.

#1 We just mentioned. It's one of the ways that God verifies *to* us (authenticates & substantiates *for* us) that He is the true God & there are none like Him. If you serve another "god" then let them prove they're a god by speaking of something before it comes to pass. By setting something in order & seeing it through... Let them give proof of their omniscience & omnipotence in this way.

The 2nd reason is to alleviate & eliminate our fears, knowing that we can trust His word. (Vs 8) "Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time & declared it?" God wants you to be assured of the fact that you can take confidence in His Word. *

He says, "You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me?"

² [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Re 22:13). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

*God says, “You tell Me. Have you run across another God besides Me? One who can create everything out of nothing by a word? Who can speak of the future as though it’s history & see it come to pass? Who can deliver, Redeem, save & set free? You tell Me.”

“Indeed there *is* no other Rock; I know not one.” That’s pretty definitive, wouldn’t you say? If God knows everything, but He *doesn’t know* any other God... I’m going to go ahead & place my confidence not in what anyone else tries to persuade me of, or *thinks they know*. (Be it the polytheism of Hinduism, or Mormonism espousing & proclaiming that they can become gods or goddesses if they achieve exaltation when they die, or those who believe that they’re god, you’re god, we’re all god... on & on the illustrations could go) I’m going to trust in what the One who has *proven* He’s God has said... “There is no other Rock, I know not one.” He is the *only* 1 who can save, & the *only* Redeemer of mankind.*

& When we hear God refer to Himself as the Rock, speaking of the only firm foundation upon which to build our lives. It takes our minds to the words of Jesus when He said, “*Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”*”³ Build your house (your life) upon the Rock, the firm foundation of J.C. On Christ the Solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand... “Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.”

Vs 9-10

I can answer that. *Millions* of people would. Oh, they may not form/fashion a little trinket (or statue) to a literal pagan deity as did ancient Israel. But in their hearts, they make all kinds of worthless/useless things their god. & They worship those things. The only difference between what the world does & what ancient Israel was doing is the *representative of their gods*. Today, someone might worship partying. They’ll have a shirt, “born to party” & they make it known, “This is what I live for.” Ok, you haven’t created an idol to represent that, but in ancient Israel they would form the little idol Bacchus (the god of wine, festivities & entertainment), which effectively said, “I’m born to party.” Or they’d carve a likeness to Ashtoreth that said, “I’m all about sex.” Or an idol that represented money & power that was saying, “I’m all about wealth, riches & power.”

³ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Mt 7:24–27). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

We like to think we're quantum leaps ahead of the ancient world being so much more sophisticated. The truth is, we're not much different. We just have different toys that occupy our time & make our lives a little easier. But God is pointing out the fallacy, the lunacy of placing our priority on things that do not profit. That serve no eternal purpose but only serve to lead us in a direction that takes us away from Him.

Vs 11-14

God is continuing to develop this thought for us... He's telling us, "Think this through, follow it out to it's necessary end." He takes us back to the origin of these "gods", they're "mere men". He says, "You've got this blacksmith, he heats up the metal in the coals. He begins to form/fashion it w/hammers. He begins to get hungry, tired & weak... **Or the craftsman goes out expends all this energy to find the perfect tree. He cuts it down, fashions it w/a plane, makes it like the figure of a man, according to the beauty of a man.**" The idea being that the "gods" themselves have no life, they're metal, they're wood. The craftsman or blacksmith expends all this time, effort & labor working w/materials that the true God (ironically enough) has made... (Who created the tree that you're using)? & After all the work he puts into it, he finally has a beautiful little... nothing. It has eyes, it can't see. Ears & a mouth, it can't hear or speak... & You're going fall down before this thing that you've made w/your own hands & ask it to save you, to defend you, to provide for you...

The question in view is a simple one. How can a mere man (who gets tired, weak, thirsty etc) make a god? You've got it all wrong. You don't make a god; God has made you!

Vs 15-17

You see? God is trying to help them realize how counterintuitive this is. You'll cut down a tree, use part of it to bake bread, warm yourself, cook dinner... & The other part you'll make into a god. You'll worship it before it, pray to it, ask it to deliver you. The same substance you throw away, you bow before & pray! (& The truth is that you get more out of the scraps than you do the substance. At least the scraps warm you, cook your food & all. The idol itself does absolutely *nothing*).

Listen, when tragedy strikes, you can *ask* your car to "deliver you", but it can't! You can ask your money to "save you", it won't. Why do we give ourselves over to things that don't help us, don't give us peace, or joy, that serve to take us *away* from God. *The deliverance, the salvation we need, our other priorities are unable to provide... This is why sharing your testimony can be so powerful. Jesus actually helped you, saved you, delivered you. He's done something for you!*

The things they're trying/pursuing or trying to find peace in, aren't working out, aren't doing anything for them... That's because idols *can't* deliver you or save you. But they *can* demoralize, dehumanize & deceive you...

Vs 18-20

Wait. Did this say what I think it said? Look back at Vs 18. "They do not know nor understand; for He has shut their eyes, so that they cannot see, & their hearts, so that they cannot understand."

How is it that these idol *makers*, idol *worshippers* fail to see what's so obvious about the "stupidity", the "lunacy" of idolatry? Because *God* has shut their *eyes* (so they can't see it) & their hearts (so they can't understand it)... Wow. – Isn't that unjust of God? Isn't He condemning them for something that He is ultimately responsible for? No, not at all. ***It's a principle that we see in play all throughout the word of God & that is this, God will give a person over to the desire of their own heart. If you love darkness rather than light, then God will honor that. But don't blame God when He gives you over to what you really wanted in the 1st place. ***

We see this in play when God "hardened" the heart of the Pharaoh when He was telling Him to let His people go. The word "hardened" would probably be better understood as "honored". God wasn't working against the Pharaoh's will. It wasn't like the Pharaoh was sitting there thinking, "Gee, I really want to let the Israelites go. I really want to bless them, release them & send them out w/treasures for their years of faithful service." & God was saying, "No, I'm going to harden your heart against them!" God was giving Pharaoh over to the inclinations of his own heart. Giving him over to his sin. Solidifying his already persuaded position.

We see it in Rom Ch 1. Let's look at it together. **Romans 1:18-32**

***Look around in the world today. In our country, in our culture. It seems like insanity. Otherwise seemingly intelligent people parading around, flagrantly, proudly in twisted, perverted, unnatural ways. Men dressing up & pretending to be women in some of the highest offices in our land. Occupying positions in the White House, Ivy League Universities. We're seeing violence, wickedness, maliciousness, deceit, evil-mindedness in wain staggering displays. Inventors of evil things, undiscerning, unloving, placing light for dark & dark for light, calling good evil & evil good... How can this be? God gives people up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts. Professing to be wise, they become fools.**

& Since they don't want to retain God in their knowledge, God gives them over to a "debased mind" to do those things which are not fitting... If you don't want the truth, you'll be given over to the lie. – Lies lead to blindness. *

It'll happen in a way unparalleled in human history when the A.C. is revealed after the rapture of the church. Look over at **2 Thess 2:7-12**

If you don't want to believe the truth... God will help you believe the lie. * When it comes to truth, some people just don't want to hear it. They just don't want to hear it... So God will give them over to the lie... What alternative is there?

Receive the love of the truth. We don't form & fashion God, God forms/fashions us. Some people like to mold God after their own likeness. They don't like the idea of God allowing people to go to hell, so their God doesn't do that. Are you shaping God or is God shaping you? How about instead, you receive the love of the truth & allow it to fuel your urgency in getting out the gospel that people might be saved?

Some people don't believe God would allow sickness or suffering. Are you shaping God or is God shaping you? We don't have the liberty to pick & choose the things we're going to believe & not believe about God. That's called crafting your own God. *

Real quick, on the other hand, look again at Vs 18... We read that God will shut their eyes so they can't see & their hearts, so they can't understand... Having chosen to reject the Lord, a deceived heart turns him aside & he lacks the discernment to say, "Is there not a lie in my right hand?" (Vs 20)

When I read this it took my mind to Luke 24. It's the passage just prior to the Lord's ascension. & There He is, expounding & explaining to His disciples how that all that had happened to Him had fulfilled what was written the law & the prophets & the psalms concerning Him (the Messiah). Vs 45 says this, "And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures."⁴ Here's my question. Do you want to be in the camp of which the Lord *shuts* their hearts, so that they *cannot* understand? Or do you want to be in the number of which the Lord *opens* our understanding, that we might comprehend His word? Don't turn aside to lies, follow J.C.

Vs 21-23

Redemption provides a *reason* to give God praise! "Sing... for the Lord has *done* it! Shout! For the Lord has *redeemed* Jacob & glorified Himself in Israel!"

⁴ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Lk 24:45). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

God says, "I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions, & like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you."

Couple things to see here before we wrap up & wind down... #1 I want you to notice the past tense of the words here. God says, "I *have* blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions... I *have* redeemed you." He doesn't say, "I *will* blot out..." He says, "I *have* blotted out..." Past tense. The work is done.

Ladies and Gentlemen, when Jesus uttered those three words from the cross "It is finished!" What He meant was that the work of atonement was complete. "Done". All manner of sin was forgiven man. God has settled the sin dilemma. But there's a caveat, a catch (if you will). In order to *receive* said atonement... In order to have the blotting out of your sins *recognized* by God (this is #2), you must *return* to God. **Or to understand that another way, "Redemption requires repentance." Acts 20:21, Repentance toward God (returning to God) & faith toward J.C. He's done the work, return to Him. He's paid the price, He wants you back. You don't have to somehow earn it, or somehow merit it, you can humbly receive it, rejoice *in* it & give God praise *for* it.**

Vs 24-28

Notice all the remarkable claims that God makes in this final section of scripture. He says, "I'm your Creator, Your Redeemer." Not only has He created all things generally, He forms & fashions each person individually in the womb. He claims absolute sovereignty in that He "frustrates the signs of the babblers, & drives diviners mad..." **He's wiser than any human could hope to be, "Who turns wise men backward & makes their knowledge foolishness". (We spoke last week about the foolishness of evolution). Yet He confirms the words of His servant, & performs the counsel of His messengers... He establishes cities, "Who says to Jerusalem, you shall be inhabited..."** Don't forget, God is telling them they'll be taken into captivity in a little over 100 yrs from this point by the Babylonians. But He says He'll bring them back... & He even names the King "Cyrus" (who was a Persian, not a Babylonian) approximately 2 centuries before he was born, who would release them once he overthrew the Babylonians. They would be in captivity for 70 yrs (He told Jeremiah that). Then they'd be rounded up (like lost sheep), released & returned home to rebuilt & reinhabit Jerusalem.

This circles us all the way back to what we mentioned in brief last week regarding God's... "Foreknowledge". He knows the end from the beginning. If you can get passed Gen 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heavens & the earth" everything else is easy...

God has proven His authenticity, His reliability & validity through His word. Build your life on the sure foundation of J.C. "Indeed, there is no other Rock... I know not one."

Prayer Points:

Father forgive us when we falter. You have shown Yourself true, trustworthy & faithful. Yet our hearts are prone to wander. Open our understanding that we might comprehend Your word. Teach us to build our lives upon You & the sure foundation of Your word. Thank You for blotting out our transgressions, our sins. May we be a people of repentance, of righteousness for the glory of Your name.

God has paid the purchase price of our redemption through the shedding of the blood of J.C. But the righteousness of Christ is only accredited to our account through repentance toward God, faith toward Christ. Open your heart, believe on the Lord J.C. & be saved.