

## Study 85: Isaiah, Part 41

### Isaiah 45

<sup>24</sup>They will say of me, ‘In the Lord alone are deliverance and strength.’”

All who have raged against him  
will come to him and be put to shame.

<sup>25</sup>But all the **descendants of Israel**  
will find deliverance in the Lord  
and will make their boast in him.

#### [Who are the “descendants of Israel”?

Most people will go to Genesis to find the answer to this question, but the old saying of St. Augustine is true: “The New is in the Old concealed; the Old is in the New revealed.” We must not neglect the statements of the New Testament when we interpret the Old Testament. E.g.:

**Gal. 3:7-9:** Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. 8 Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.”[**Gen. 12:3; 18:18; 22:18**] 9 So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.]

### Isaiah 46

Bel bows down, Nebo stoops low;  
their idols are borne by beasts of burden.  
The images that are carried about are burdensome,  
a burden for the weary.

<sup>2</sup>They stoop and bow down together;  
unable to rescue the burden,  
they themselves go off into captivity.

<sup>3</sup>“**Listen to me**, you descendants of Jacob,  
all the remnant of the people of Israel,  
you whom **I have upheld since your birth**,  
and have carried since you were born.

<sup>4</sup>**Even to your old age and gray hairs**  
I am he, **I am he who will sustain you**.  
I have made you and I will carry you;  
I will sustain you and I will rescue you.

[The God who carries His people is compared to idols which their worshippers have to carry.]

<sup>5</sup>“With whom will you compare me or count me equal?  
To whom will you liken me that we may be compared?

<sup>6</sup>Some pour out gold from their bags  
and weigh out silver on the scales;  
they hire a goldsmith to make it into a god,  
and they bow down and worship it.

<sup>7</sup>They lift it to their shoulders and carry it;  
they set it up in its place, and there it stands.  
From that spot it **cannot move**.

Even though someone cries out to it, it **cannot answer**;  
it **cannot save** them from their troubles.

<sup>8</sup>“Remember this, keep it in mind,  
take it to heart, you rebels.

<sup>9</sup>Remember the former things, those of long ago;  
I am God, and there is no other;  
I am God, and there is none like me.

<sup>10</sup>**I make known the end from the beginning,**

**from ancient times, what is still to come.**

I say, 'My purpose will stand,  
and I will do all that I please.'

<sup>11</sup> From the east I summon a **bird of prey**;  
from a far-off land, **a man** to fulfill my purpose [Cyrus].

What I have said, that I will bring about;  
what I have planned, that I will do.

<sup>12</sup> **Listen to me**, you stubborn-hearted,  
you who are now far from my righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> I am bringing my righteousness near,  
it is not far away;  
and my salvation will not be delayed.

I will grant salvation to Zion,  
my splendor to Israel.