

**Study 80: Isaiah, Part 36**

**Isaiah 44 (Cont.)**

6 “This is what the Lord says—

Israel’s King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty:

**I am the first and I am the last;**

apart from me there is no God. [cp. Rev 1:17; 22:13]

7 Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it.

Let him declare and lay out before me

what has happened since I established my ancient people,

and what is yet to come—

yes, **let them foretell what will come.** [Accurate prophecy is proof of God’s inspiration, since He is the origin of it.]

8 Do not tremble, do not be afraid.

Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago?

You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me?

No, there is no other **Rock**; I know not one.”

[cp. When Jacob was blessing his sons, in his prophecy about Joseph, he calls God “the Mighty One of Jacob,” “the Shepherd,” and “the Rock of Israel” (**Gen 49:24**).

When the people were wandering in the desert, Moses was told to “strike the rock” and water would pour forth. Later, Moses was told to simply “speak to the rock” and water would come out (**Num 20:8**). “Living water” was used as a symbol for the Lord in **Jer 17:13**, and the Holy Spirit in **Zech 14:8**, **John 7:38** and **Rev 7:17**.

In **Deut 32:15** (a prophecy of Israel’s last days), God is called “the Rock their Savior.” Throughout the Old Testament, God is referred to as a Rock, and in the New Testament, Jesus referred to Himself as the Rock: **Matt 7:24** (the house built on the rock), **Matt 16:18** (“upon this rock I will build My church”). In **Rom 9:33**, Paul (quoting from Isa 8:14) calls Jesus a rock that made people stumble (see also **1 Pet 2:8**), and in **1 Cor 10:4**, he says that the rock the people of Israel drank from in the desert was Christ (“the spiritual rock that accompanied them”).]

9 All who make idols are nothing,

and the things they treasure are worthless.

Those who would speak up for them are blind;

they are ignorant, to their own shame.

10 Who shapes a god and casts an idol,

which can profit nothing?

11 People who do that will be put to shame;

such craftsmen are only human beings.

Let them all come together and take their stand;

they will be brought down to terror and shame.

[**Ps 115:8** and **135:18** say that those who make idols “will be like them” (blind, deaf, mute, stupid & worthless).]