



Sunday, October 11, 2020
Pastor Tim Van Loh

Intro to Isaiah 45:14-25

This is one of the great passages of the Old Testament. Some scholars have debated whether the Old Testament actually presents the LORD as the only God or whether that was a later development. It could not be clearer from this text that the LORD alone is God and there is no other—a phrase that is repeated several times.

This, of course, has many significant implications. First, it means that none of the idols we pursue as human beings will satisfy our souls because the LORD alone is the Creator God who made us for Himself. Second, it means that we are not God. We don't have the kind of control over the affairs of our lives that only He has. We don't have the freedom or the prerogative to act however we want without consequence. The LORD alone determines what is right and wrong (v. 19). Third, it reminds us that salvation can only come through the LORD. We live in a world of pluralism and relativism. Pluralism teaches that there are many possible ways to God (or "the gods"). Relativism says that no one way can be right—different strokes for different folks. So, the idea that Jesus alone can save and that we must relinquish whatever imaginary control we think we have in order to come to Him is not a popular one. This is why we so powerfully lament the people groups in the world who are unreached. They cannot be saved any other way.

Context

Israel was being sent into captivity in Babylon because of their disobedience. Back then, each nation had its own "gods" and battles between the nations were not merely between the armies but between the gods as well. So for Israel to be defeated meant they viewed it as a defeat for the LORD. But He tells them in advance, He has not been defeated, He is always working to bring about His plan of salvation to the ends of the earth.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Isaiah 45:14-25

“Inclusive Exclusive Salvation”

I. Inclusive Salvation (14-17)

II. Exclusive Salvation (18-21)

III. Inclusive-Exclusive Salvation (22-25)

Discuss

- 1) When you think of the “inclusivity” of the gospel (meaning salvation is available to all people), how does that impact the way we as Christians should think about people that are different than us (race, gender, political ideology, etc.)?
- 2) The “exclusivity” of the gospel (that salvation is found in Jesus alone) has been a controversial subject for many. Why do you think that is?
- 3) Pastor Tim mentioned that this is the “missions” text of the Old Testament. How do verses 22-25 impact the way you view God?
- 4) How do those verses impact the way you view the people around you to whom God has sent you?
- 5) BRAINSTORM: What could our role as a small group be in praying, sending, or even going to the nations?