

Today's passage tells us who God is, mankind's great problem, God's invitation to save us, and the final conclusion of all things. It is the Gospel of Jesus. Paul quotes part of this passage in his letter to the Philippians. While presidential contenders tell us their solutions for the nation, God is telling us the ultimate solution for the world.

*<sup>14</sup> Thus says the LORD: "The wealth of Egypt and the merchandise of Cush, and the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over to you and be yours; they shall follow you; they shall come over in chains and bow down to you. They will plead with you, saying: 'Surely God is in you, and there is no other, no god besides him.'"* Isaiah 45:14 As God crushed Egypt before, so He would again crush those who held the people of Judah back from returning to the Promised Land (Isaiah 43:3). The enemies of the Jews would recognize their gods had failed them and that Israel's God is the only God.

This may also predict a future time in which North Africa is conquered by Israel (Isaiah 19:23-24). Even now there are conversions from underground missions and direct revelations from God through dreams and visions. The more sharia law is applied, the more the people realize it is not the answer. This is what is happening in Iran today.

They will say, "God is in you!" That can be read as God in the nation, but also as God making His home in each individual. This is what Jesus predicted would take place after His ascension. *<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."* John 14:23 Perhaps Isaiah was seeing into the millennium after the Jewish people have accepted Jesus as their Messiah.

*<sup>15</sup> Truly, you are a God who hides himself, O God of Israel, the Savior.* Isaiah 45:15 The concept of hiding Himself is one of not answering prayer or not helping in a time of need. God is always present, but in the Jewish way of thinking, He can turn His face away and let us deal with the consequences of our sins. It is the opposite of the Aaronic blessing that includes God turning His face toward us (Numbers 6:24-26). To hide Himself is to withdraw His protection and favor so as to discipline us. God's face is toward us in revelation, protection, and direction, or He conceals Himself as we face the consequences of our sin which may be catastrophic.

The God of Israel is the God of the Jews, but what of the Jewish people who reject Him as their God and turn to idols? God will not forget His covenant with Abraham. He will keep His promises. The day will come when all Israel will be saved (Romans 11:26). Before that day comes, not all Jews will choose to place their faith in God. It is evident today in Israel and here in the USA. There are secular Jews like there are secular Christians. They follow traditions but those traditions have little to do with how they

**Commented [PW1]: Isaiah 43:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

**Commented [PW2]: Isaiah 19:23-25 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria will come into Egypt, and Egypt into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians.

<sup>24</sup> In that day Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, <sup>25</sup> whom the LORD of hosts has blessed, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance."

**Commented [PW3]: Numbers 6:24-26 (ESV)**

<sup>24</sup> The LORD bless you and keep you; <sup>25</sup> the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup> the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

**Commented [PW4]: Romans 11:26 (ESV)**

<sup>26</sup> And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob";

think or act the rest of the time. The Apostle Paul declared, <sup>28</sup> *For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical.* <sup>29</sup> *But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.* Romans 2:28-29

Verse 15 calls the God of Israel "the Savior." The New Testament refers to Jesus as the Savior. Those cults that call Jesus the Savior but think He is separate from God will have trouble with this verse. **Titus refers to both God and Jesus as the Savior (Titus 1:2-4).** **In Luke 1:46-47 Mary says God is her Savior and a few verses later (2:11) an angel declares the Savior is born!** Numerous other passages in the New Testament declare that Jesus is the Savior (1John 4:14; 2Peter 1:11; Philippians 3:20; Ephesians 5:23; Acts 5:31; John 4:42).

<sup>16</sup> *All of them are put to shame and confounded; the makers of idols go in confusion together.* Isaiah 45:16 This is true in every age. Before we think of idols as little carved or metal images, let me share the way Kyle Idleman describes idols. "One of our problems in identifying the gods is that their identities not only lack the usual trappings of religion, but they are things that often aren't even wrong. Is God against pleasure? Sex? Money? Power?

These things are not immoral, but amoral; that is, they are morally neutral until they are not. You could be serving something that is in itself very commendable. It could be family or career. It could be a worthy cause. You could even be feeding the hungry and healing the sick. All of those things are good things.

The problem is that in the instant something takes the place of God, the moment it becomes an end in itself, rather than something to lay at God's throne, it becomes an idol (Matthew 7:22-23). When someone or something replaces the Lord God in the position of glory in our lives, then whoever or whatever that is has by definition become our god." (from God's at War p. 21-22)

Verse 16 tells us that those "do it yourself" gods will always lead to shame and confound their worshipers. That is true during a life span, but also an eternal condition for those who will not turn away from their idolatry to the one true God. When we speak out against sin, it isn't because we want to condemn the sinner, but save them from the consequences of sin. We want to share the freedom we have found in Christ.

<sup>17</sup> *But Israel is saved by the LORD with everlasting salvation; you shall not be put to shame or confounded to all eternity.* Isaiah 45:17 This is the Israel the Apostle Paul described. They are those whose hearts have been transformed from Jacob the deceiver to Israel, one who prevails with God. They have put to death their old nature with their Savior's death and risen with Him to resurrected life (Romans 6:4)! Our salvation is not just a victory in our present circumstance, but everlasting salvation. This promise declares that we will not be put to shame or confounded to all eternity.

**Commented [PW5]: Titus 1:2-4 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began

<sup>3</sup> and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior;

<sup>4</sup> To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

**Commented [PW6]: Luke 1:46-47 (ESV)**

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

**Commented [PW7]: Luke 2:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

**Commented [PW8]: 1 John 4:14 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

**Commented [PW9]: 2 Peter 1:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**Commented [PW10]: Philippians 3:20 (ESV)**

<sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

**Commented [PW11]: Ephesians 5:23 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

**Commented [PW12]: Acts 5:31 (ESV)**

<sup>31</sup> God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

**Commented [PW13]: John 4:42 (ESV)**

<sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."

**Commented [PW14]: Matthew 7:22-23 (ESV)**

<sup>22</sup> On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'

<sup>23</sup> And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

**Commented [PW15]: Romans 6:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

The Apostle Paul quotes the same thought from Isaiah 28:16 LXX. <sup>11</sup> *For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame."* Romans 10:11 Imagine standing before the glorious Lord of eternity and telling Him how you spent the life He gave you chasing things that no longer existed. How shameful would it be to explain why you ignored His many interventions in your life? And once you realized how many times He pleaded with you to come to Him, and yet you rejected His loving pleas, how confounded would you be? The only way to avoid that is by faith to accept His grace, to repent and surrender your life to Him.

<sup>18</sup> *For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): "I am the LORD, and there is no other.* Isaiah 45:18 God is declaring Himself alone to be the Creator and only god. Genesis 1:1 is quite profound. Heavens is not the stars and planets. Those were created later (Genesis 1:16). Heavens are space and dimensions. It is difficult for the mind to conceive, but it is quite logical. God as a spirit does not need space or dimensions. For physical things to exist there was the necessity to create space, dimensions, and matter. That is what the first verse of the Bible declares. In modern terminology we would say that the first acts of the eternal God's creation were space, dimensions, and matter.

The earth was uniquely formed to be inhabited.<sup>13</sup> Scientists marvel at the precise tuning of fundamental physical constants that fall into a very narrow range to make life possible. If one of the many factors were slightly off, life would not exist. But God declares He formed it to be inhabited. Now we know a bit more of what that entailed and the details put us in awe. There is certainly more to be discovered. There is no other god. God who created all things can tell us with certainty that no other god exists.

<sup>19</sup> *I did not speak in secret, in a land of darkness; I did not say to the offspring of Jacob, 'Seek me in vain.' I the LORD speak the truth; I declare what is right.* Isaiah 45:19 While God is said to hide Himself, He certainly does not hide the revelation of who He is or make it difficult for us to know what is true. He set Israel at the crossroads of the world so that all nations could hear the truth. He has had the Bible translated into most of the world's languages. There are missionaries in every nation on earth. The Gospel has gone into all the world because God loves the world (John 3:16).

God is very specific about being the only God, speaking the truth, and declaring what is right. We frequently hear the cultures mantra of every path that is sincere leading to God. How can that be when they each claim to be the exclusive way? How can they all be right when they contradict one another? How can they all be truth when they describe attributes of god that don't match with the god of another religion? If they describe a different way to heaven and claim it is the only way, how can they both be true? It is illogical to believe all roads lead to God. If other roads can lead to God, why

**Commented [PW16]: Genesis 1:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

**Commented [PW17]: Genesis 1:16 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.

**Commented [P18]:** The premise of the fine-tuned Universe assertion is that a small change in several of the [dimensionless fundamental physical constants](#) would make the Universe radically different. As [Stephen Hawking](#) has noted, "The laws of science, as we know them at present, contain many fundamental numbers, like the size of the electric charge of the electron and the ratio of the masses of the proton and the electron. ... The remarkable fact is that the values of these numbers seem to have been very finely adjusted to make possible the development of life."<sup>19</sup>

**Commented [PW19]: John 3:16 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

did God not answer Jesus' prayer, "If there is some other way, let this cup pass from me?" (Matthew 26:39).

*<sup>20</sup> "Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, you survivors of the nations! They have no knowledge who carry about their wooden idols, and keep on praying to a god that cannot save. <sup>21</sup> Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me.* Isaiah 45:20-21 God is declaring idolaters to be clueless. When their gods do not save them, why do they keep trusting them? Some that have come out of the New Age have shared with me that they turned to Jesus when their philosophies failed them. They were willing to be honest with the failure of their faith. Who predicts the future but the one true God? Those who seek Him will find Him (Matthew 7:7; Proverbs 8:17).

In verse 21 God describes Himself as the righteous God and Savior. He is saying that what He does is just. He does not let evil go unpunished. He will not excuse the guilty, nor will He neglect to reward those who deserve reward (Jeremiah 17:10). He is right in all that He does. Only when we are in Him, when we accept the righteousness of Jesus can we be righteous. The only human to ever live a righteous life offers to take our sin and give us His righteousness. There is no other righteous God and Savior but Him. So when the New Testament declares Jesus is the Savior, we see the oneness of the Father and Son (John 10:30).

*<sup>22</sup> "Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.* Isaiah 45:22 This is the Gospel message. To turn means to repent. We change the direction of our life from selfishness to God centered living. We forsake our idols and put our hope in our righteous Creator and Savior. This is not for the Jews or any particular race. It is a call to the ends of the earth (Acts 10:34-35). Everyone on this planet, regardless of race or nationality or time in which they live, is invited to turn to God and be saved through Jesus. There is no other way (Acts 4:12). God is able to make Himself known to them (Acts 17:26-27).

Has God sent this message out in vain because there are those who haven't heard the details? That kind of thinking underestimates His love and His power. If the invitation is to all, where there is not yet a missionary, the Spirit of God will do the work (Acts 10:34-35). We are hearing of this more and more as world communication has advanced. Dreams, visions, radio, the internet, and the Spirit of God moving on individual hearts, all are God at work drawing those who will turn and be saved.

*<sup>23</sup> By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: 'To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.'* Isaiah 45:23 The power of God's Word creates and transforms. It is the Word delivered in those various means mentioned that saves or condemns every individual that ever lived (John 12:48). There is no such thing as an innocent native who died without being

**Commented [PW20]: Matthew 26:39 (ESV)**

<sup>39</sup> And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

**Commented [PW21]: Matthew 7:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

**Commented [P22]: Proverbs 8:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.

**Commented [PW23]: Jeremiah 17:10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> "I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

**Commented [PW24]: John 10:30 (ESV)**

<sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one."

**Commented [PW25]: Acts 10:34-35 (ESV)**

<sup>34</sup> So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality,

<sup>35</sup> but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

**Commented [PW26]: Acts 4:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

**Commented [P27]: Proverbs 8:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.

**Commented [P28]: Acts 10:34-35 (ESV)**

<sup>34</sup> So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality,

<sup>35</sup> but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

**Commented [PW29]: John 12:48 (ESV)**

<sup>48</sup> The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

confronted by the Holy Spirit. There are only human beings made in the image of God who accept or reject God's invitation to them. There are idolaters and there are believers. There are none in-between.

While not every soul will be saved, every knee will bow (Romans 14:11-12). Once again we have a passage directly speaking of the Creator YHWH that is applied to Jesus in the New Testament (Philippians 2:8-11).

*<sup>24</sup> "Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength; to him shall come and be ashamed all who were incensed against him. Isaiah 45:24 All righteousness and strength are in the LORD. There is no other. Our righteousness is like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). Every soul that ranted and raved against Jesus and against His demand to repent and turn, and we see many doing so in blatant manner today, will come and be ashamed. Brothers and sisters we are mocked and scorned today because we proclaim that all are sinners in need of God's grace (Romans 3:23). That is ok. I'd rather be scorned here than to be ashamed in eternity. If you take the heat now, you won't face it then.*

We see ISIS and secular society incensed against Christians. We just love our neighbors and try to live quiet lives (1 Timothy 2:2), but we will not compromise our message. We are hated because Christ is in us. We are hated by those who hate Jesus. They hate Jesus because they hate His Father (John 15:18-23). That is not my thought. It is what Jesus said would happen.

*<sup>25</sup> In the LORD all the offspring of Israel shall be justified and shall glory." Isaiah 45:25 In YHWH, whom we have already seen is one with the Son, shall the spiritual offspring of Israel be justified. Spiritual Israel are those who prevail with God through Jesus' atoning death. Justified is to be just as if we'd never sinned. We shall glory. We praise God. We glorify God for His saving work for us. We turn from idols to the true and living God. We forsake our life so that we can truly find life (Matthew 10:39). In Him is life and His life is the light of men (John 1:4). Turn to Him and be saved, all the ends of the earth, for He is God and there is no other! We are ambassadors of Christ pleading with the world to experience the joy and peace we have found in Christ. For doing so, we are hated and despised, imprisoned and killed just as Jesus predicted (John 16:2). And our response to persecution should always be love.*

#### Questions

- 1 What do the converts of verse 14 say?
- 2 What does "hide Himself" mean?
- 3 Who is considered "Israel"?
- 4 Who is the Savior?
- 5 What happens to idolaters?
- 6 What is the promise to us?
- 7 Discuss verse 18.
- 8 How has God made Himself known?

#### Commented [PW30]: Romans 14:11-12 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup> for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."  
<sup>12</sup> So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

#### Commented [PW31]: Philippians 2:8-11 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.  
<sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

#### Commented [PW32]: Isaiah 64:6 (ESV)

<sup>6</sup> We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

#### Commented [PW33]: Romans 3:23 (ESV)

<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

#### Commented [P34]: 1 Timothy 2:2 (ESV)

<sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

#### Commented [PW35]: John 15:18-23 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.  
<sup>19</sup> If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.  
<sup>20</sup> Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.  
<sup>21</sup> But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.  
<sup>22</sup> If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.  
<sup>23</sup> Whoever hates me hates my Father also.

#### Commented [PW36]: Matthew 10:39 (ESV)

<sup>39</sup> Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

#### Commented [PW37]: John 1:4 (ESV)

<sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

#### Commented [P38]: John 16:2 (ESV)

<sup>2</sup> They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God.

9 Who is invited in verse 22? How does that happen?

10 What verse is quoted in the New Testament? What is the significance?