

"STRIVING WITH SOVEREIGNTY"

we form a mental picture & when we think it is different we complain

TEXT: Isa. 45:1-13

INTRO: Man has recurring tendency to ANTICIPATE GOD -- preconceived idea as to how God should save, deliver, etc. Often those who are longing for God, praying, expecting, miss God altogether when He comes in unexpected ways. We look for a dramatic sign in the sky and He works through the steady course of events; for the fire or earthquake and He speaks in the still small voice. For A KING ON A THRONE and He comes as a Baby in a stable.

The text: Cyprus

WE WANT TO BE DELIVERED -- OUR WAY... Some had rather stay in bondage than accept God's way of release. The method of ~~salvation~~ deliverance becomes more important than the deliverance itself.

WE STRIVE WITH THE LORD -- complain, contend, quarrel, find fault, stubborn rebellion.

We pray for revival, then God shows us the way, and we reject it; finances; harmony; marriage saved. *if we knew what Revival would mean, we'd stop praying for it*

OUR PROBLEM: We're seeing God from the wrong angle. From where we're standing we can't see Him clearly, the vision is blurred, can't quite make Him out.

OUR NEED: To stand in the proper place for the right vision of God. WHAT IS THAT PLACE? As a potsherd, a piece of clay

POTSHERD: Just one of the millions of fragments of broken earthenware. A vivid expression of human insignificance.

ARE YOU THERE? THEN YOU'RE READY TO SEE GOD AS HE IS. WE SEE FROM THIS POSITION THAT HE IS...

Because we don't know & we fail to understand how He works -

He always works in harmony w/ His nature - He never works contrary to what He is -

- here is & as He is & so we conclude Him to be

- we worship & as we conclude Him to be

worship = follow; walk; (obey)

Some rather remain in Friday
than delivered Our way

Cramford - take
my name of J. will -
for I don't believe
any more.

I - Submit to the Divine Potter -

1. The Lord who Does all Things
2. The Lord who has Right to Do all Things
3. The Lord who Does all Things Right -
(1 our good
(2 His glory

II - Submit to the Divine Purpose

1. an unknown purpose - I don't know, But there is one
 2. a unique purpose = Different from anyone else
 3. a fulfilled purpose = I always working
 4. a useful purpose = Express Potter
- wisest thing clay ever did was to yield to Potter
- Infinite potential = But nothing in clay to realize purpose

III - Submit to the Divine Pressure

That which makes us unique is where the pressure applied

IV - Submit to the Divine Patience

1. Moulded in Potter's hand
2. Mould again
3. As seemed good to Potter

Ching ill. = my first trumpet - cheap -
Don't meet a new one - The master
could take it & make beautiful
again

Pressure is from one known
I is moulding us = lump of
clay = how do you know the
Potter is working? - I feel
The pressure of his hand =
No pressure - no working,
no moulding.

180
I. THE LORD WHO DOES ALL THINGS. vv. 7,8,12.

Here are the list of ordinary things He does.
ALL IN A DAY'S WORK! Make the earth; create
man upon it; stretch the heavens with His hands;
appoint all the hosts their proper place and
~~xxxxxx~~ sphere...WHO WOULD ~~xxx~~ EVEN DREAM OF
ADVISING ONE WHO IS CAPABLE OF HANDLING ISSUES OF
SUCH DIMENSIONS? ANSWER: We would!!

A statment of ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGNTY -- the prophet
doesn't shrink from it -- even though it is
incomprehensible...didn't worry about God's
reputation...STAGGERING CONCLUSIONS.

1. He Is ALONE in His Sovereignty With
great and repeated emphasis..."I Am God...no one
else." *Some has assigned to Satan some power = who did it? & the Devil = both!*

No one else to look to, pray to, BLAME AND CRITICIZE
HE IS THE SOURCE, THE CAUSE, THE ORIGIN, THE
BEGINNING, THE SOLUTION TO EVERY MYSTERY, THE
ANSWER TO EVERY QUESTION.

2. He Is ABSOLUTE in His Sovereignty.vs. 5ff
Good and Evil, light and darkness...men want
the light but not the darkness.

EVEN PAGAN CYRUS IS HIS ANOINTED, an evil man

ILL- of JOSEPH and His brethrem. "It was not
YOU but God..."

ISA 53: "It pleased the Lord to bruise Him. HE
hath put Him to grief..."

II. THE LORD WHO HAS THE RIGHT TO DO ALL THINGS.

VS. 9 *Is not just a big bully!*

1. This DEMANDS OUR SILENCE...v. 9,10,11.

Who are we to argue, to find fault..."You're
all thumbs..." We both advise and criticize.

Like a child argues w/ parent

Hab. 2--"I will stand in my watch and see what
He will say to me..."

10,11 - Like an outside interfering w/ Parent's discipline

2. This DEMANDS OUR SUBMISSION vs. 11b

"And ye shall commit to Me the work of My hands
NAS.

Brought out by the image of the Potter and the Clay.

(1) We must submit to the Potter's
PURPOSE::: He has one. Eph. 2:10

(2) ^{Pleasure} We must submit to the Potter's
PLAN...His way of accomplishing that
purpose. The shape of the vessel,
how fast the wheel spins.

Jer. 18..."...He made it again another
vessel AS SEEMED GOOD TO THE POTTER TO MAKE
IT."

(3) We must submit to the Potter's
PRESSURE. No ~~any~~ other way to shape
the clay, to Accomplish His purpose &
plan.

III. THE LORD WHO DOES ALL THINGS RIGHT.v. 13

Regardless of the route He takes, He always
reaches His destination...the promise fulfilled.
ABRAHAM AND ISSAC; GIDEON; etc.

1. He Does it for Our GOOD . v. 13... ^{Idem 11/16}
Ultimate, spiritual good.

2. He Does it for His GLORY...and there's
never any conflict of interests between our good
and His glory. VV. 3,4,5,6 -- THE ONE GRAND THEME
IS "I AM GOD...NONE ELSE." Other Gods are NO GODS

To this present hour th^AT is what God is wanting
to demonstrate to ~~mankind~~ mankind...He gets glory
by making His enemies His servants. WILL ALWAYS
TAKE THE ROUTE THAT BRINGS HIM GREATEST GLORY.
Why we strive? We're more interested in good than
GLORY and we don't even know what is GOOD!!!