

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE

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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 2 (Comfort For His People)

TITLE: Program 13 – Infinite, Sovereign God

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

If you're fearful, if you're panicked, if you're thinking "I can't make it, I can't do it, I can't survive, this is more than I can bear," then Precious One, you need to rewire your brain. And that's what we're going to do today. We're going to rewire it with truth, with truths about God. Nine truths that you need to know so that you can be wired for victory.

PART ONE

Welcome Beloved, I am so glad that you have joined me today. And I am so excited at what we're going to see. Remember I asked you at the beginning of this week, what do you think about God? How do you describe God? What do you believe about Him? And is your information correct? Because if your information is correct and you start acting on that information, I mean, you may do it in fear and trembling. You may do it saying, "I hope this helps", but if you will do it, you can rewire your brain with truth; truth that will get you through any situation. Now this week we are looking at

nine things that I want you to understand about God and about your thinking about God. We named the first one yesterday. The first one is: That you are to understand that God is the Maker; He is the Creator of all things. We saw that in Isaiah 44, verse 24, **“Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer...the one who formed you from the womb, ‘I, the LORD, am the maker of all things [all things]....”** He says, **“...Stretching out the heavens by Myself and spreading out the earth all alone.” (Isaiah 44:24)** So we saw that and this is point number one. But under point number one, under the fact that He is the Maker, the Creator of all things, there are four things that I want you to see and understand. I gave you the first one in yesterday’s lesson. The first one was: That God controls the actions and the threats of mankind. In other words you don’t have to be afraid of man. You fear God. You respect God. You trust Him. You see Him as the Maker and the Creator of all things and know, “Hey! That person cannot do a thing to you without God’s permission.” He’s going to curse you. It doesn’t matter. You belong to God. God’s got him under control. You go to a diviner and the diviner says this or that, well shame on you. God’s gonna take you to the woodshed for going to the diviner, going to the palm reader, going to the tarot card reader, because that’s a sin and God has to deal with that. But He’s saying “Listen, what they say I can change, because I’m God.” The second thing that I wanted you to see under the first thing, that He’s the Maker of all things, is: That He confirms the word of His servants—His messengers. Look at what He says in verse 26, **“Confirming the word of His servant....”** His servant is the person that stands there and is serving God and saying things for God. **“...And performing the purpose of His messengers....” (Isaiah 44:26)** Now remember Isaiah is a lot of poetry. And in Hebrew poetry God says it one way, and then He says the same thing a different way. And so many times as you’re reading Isaiah just keep reading and He’ll explain what He meant on the first line, He’ll explain to you on the second line. But what I want you to see is this: You can know what God says. You can know what He says through His messengers. You can know what He says through His

servant and then you can go out and you can faithfully say, “This is what’s going to happen to Babylon. This is what’s going to happen to Iraq because Iraq and Babylon are the same thing.” You can say, “This is what’s going to happen with Russia and this is what’s going to happen with Iran,” because the Bible tells you that. You can say, “This is how long this period of tribulation is going to last,” because the Bible says it. God spoke it through His messenger. You and I learn what His messenger says. We can stand with confidence. I can stand with confidence and tell people, “I’m sorry, but that’s not what the Bible says.” “Oh yes, that is what the Bible says. Yes, that is what’s going to happen.” “Do we know when?” No or yes? We do know when and we know that this can’t happen until this happens. And you can stand there with this great confidence, and you can speak for the Lord because God stands by His message. He confirms the words of His servant—His messengers. You can say it because God is going to do it. The third thing I want you to see is that God can dry up the sea. He can dry up a river. **“It is I....”** Now God’s showing that He’s the Maker of all things, that He’s the Creator, that He’s the One that is in charge. **“It is I who says to the depths of the sea, ‘Be dried up!’ and I will make your rivers dry.”**

(Isaiah 44:27) In other words, “I can look at that sea and I can go like that and there’s no more water,” because He’s God. How big is your God? How strong? How powerful is your God? How well do you know God? What’s your information on God? Because your information on God, and then acting and living according to that information, then makes your brain cause you to walk in the right way; to think the right way. Well the fourth thing that I want you to see is this: I love it, God can name a man not yet born. God can name a man not yet born and God can tell what that man is going to do. Now in Isaiah 44, in verse 28 He’s introducing to us Cyrus. Cyrus is a Persian king. He’s from the Medo-Persian Empire. Cyrus is a king who is going to rule about 150 years after Isaiah calls him by name. Now Isaiah’s God’s messenger. God tells Isaiah what to say. Isaiah records it. And this is what he records in verse 28. **“It is I who says of Cyrus, ‘He is My**

shepherd! And he will perform all My desire.’ And he [Cyrus] declares of Jerusalem, ‘She will be built,’ and of the temple, ‘Your foundation will be laid.’” (Isaiah 44:28) Now when Isaiah is speaking this the temple’s already there. When Isaiah’s speaking this the building has been built on the foundation. And yet what God is doing is, God is showing Himself to be God. God is showing off as God, in the right sense. All right, and what He’s saying is: “I’m calling a man by the name of Cyrus, and Cyrus is going to rebuild Jerusalem, and Cyrus is going to get the foundation of the temple laid.” Cyrus, he’s going to tell us, is going to be the one who is going to conquer Babylon—who is going to rule—and God names him. Now listen, just write it down, “150 years beforehand”. By the way, I hope you are downloading your free study guide. Because as you download the free study guide I’ve asked you to mark every reference to “Cyrus”. I simply colored him orange in my Bible and then underneath it I underlined him with purple ’cause he was God’s anointed. All right now, how do you get that free study guide? You go to preceptsforlife.com; preceptsforlife.com, and you can download it. All right, now let’s go on, because what I want you to see is, He names Cyrus. He says, “**It is I...**,” verse 28, “**...who says of Cyrus, ‘He is My shepherd!’**” (Isaiah 44:28) Do you know that God has done this before? Do you know that God chose us? “**I...am the maker [the Creator] of all things....**” (Isaiah 44:24) “And I want you to know that I am so individual; I am so individual that I can name a man before He is ever, ever born and I can tell you what that man is going to do.” Now this isn’t the first time. I want to show you what God does. I want to take you to 1 Kings, 1 Kings chapter 13. And you might want to write this down ’cause this is neat information. In chapter 13, the kingdom has just divided. The northern kingdom is being ruled by a servant, by Jeroboam and he was the servant of Solomon. The southern kingdom is being ruled by Rehoboam, Solomon’s son. The kingdom has been divided because Solomon did not listen to God, because Solomon, listen, rewired his brain. Here was the wisest man that ever lived on the face of this earth and he rewired his brain through all the

wives that he married and through worshiping their gods. And God had it up to here and God tore the kingdom from him. Now, in the process, God shows up through a messenger, through a servant to deliver a message to Jeroboam. And this is what he does, Jeroboam has put up a wrong altar. He's burning incense to a false god. And **"He..."** the prophet—the messenger, **"...cried against the altar by the word of the LORD, and said, 'O altar, altar, thus says the LORD, 'Behold, a son will be born to the house of David, Josiah by name; and on you he [will] sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and human bones will be burned on you.'"** (1 Kings 13:2) This is very interesting because this is not going to happen until 291 years later. You read about it in 2 Kings chapter 22 and chapter 23. Isn't that awesome? So what you see is God is showing Himself to be God. He's showing him, "I'm the Maker of all things. I'm the Creator of all things. I create them. I can name them and I can tell you what they're going to do hundreds of years before it happens." But then He also does this very interestingly with another person and so many times we miss it. And when you see it, O Precious One, what you're seeing is you're seeing the grace of God. You're seeing the compassion of God. You're seeing the forgiveness of God, even as God is showing it to the people in Isaiah's day in Isaiah 40 through 66. We'll look at it in just a minute.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Beloved, as we look at Isaiah 44, from the last part of that chapter where He names Cyrus, and move in through 45 and 46. What we're looking at is, we're looking at nine truths from this passage, from these chapters, about God that will affect your brain. The way you think about God and the way you consequently behave in accordance to, or against that knowledge. So the first thing we've seen, we're making great progress. I mean, we're on number one, but the first thing we saw is, that the Lord is the Maker. He is the Creator of all things. (See Isaiah 44:24) And He's showing

us this in naming Cyrus, who is a king, who is going to come to power 150 years later, and who is going to allow Israel to go back—to leave captivity in Babylon and go back to the land and rebuild a destroyed temple. Now He’s saying all this before the temple has ever been destroyed. But now I want to take you back. I showed you that God named Josiah two hundred and some years before Josiah ever shows up. As a matter of fact, Isaiah’s day, Josiah hasn’t even been born yet. But I want to take you back to 1 Chronicles chapter 22. In 1 Chronicles chapter 22 David is speaking to his son Solomon. Now remember Solomon is born from Bathsheba. Bathsheba is the woman David takes from her husband Uriah, the Hittite. This is when David commits adultery. They have a son. God kills the son because of David’s sin. And then what we have is we have a second son that’s born—Solomon. All right now, before this ever happens David is sitting down, talking to his son Solomon; Solomon who is going to build this temple which is going to be destroyed and going to be rebuilt under the command of Cyrus the Persian. All right now, watch what he says in verse 7, and **“David said to Solomon, ‘My son, I had intended to build a house to the name of the LORD my God. But the word of the LORD came to me, saying ‘You have shed much blood and [you] have waged great wars; [and] you shall not build a house to My name, because you have shed so much blood on the earth before Me. Behold....’”** Now watch the tense of the verb. **“...A son will be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all [of] his enemies on every side; for his name shall be Solomon...,”** which means peaceful, **“...and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days.” (1 Chronicles 22:7-9)** This is God. This is God. This is the Maker and the Creator of all things. This is the One who tells David before he ever sins with Bathsheba, “You’re going to have son. His name is going to be Solomon. He’s going to build the temple.” It’s been on David’s heart. Do you see God? Do you believe that? Is this your God? Is this your God who can do anything? Is this your God who knows the future and understands the future and maps it out? So that you and I can say, “All

things are going to work together for good.” (See Romans 8:28) So that you and I can rest in who He is. So that you and I, in the circumstances of life or the difficulties of life, don’t panic, don’t throw up our hands, don’t do something stupid, like some people are gonna kill themselves. Could it be that God has had me say that for you? You’re about to commit suicide because you think all is lost. It’s not lost because God is God. Rewire your brain and know this, to take your life is to miss seeing God in action. When you go to the end of Chronicles, and if you will go to the end of Chronicles, when you go to the end of this book what you see is you see the mention of Cyrus. In 2 Chronicles, it says, **“Now, in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia—in order to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah—the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus [the] king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout his kingdom, and also put it into writing saying, ‘Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, “The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among...of all [the] people, may the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up!”” (2 Chronicles 36:22-23)** And you can read basically the same thing in the beginning of the book of Ezra, when they return to rebuild the temple. Now God is saying all this before the temple is ever destroyed, because God wants us to see and to know and understand, Precious One, that He is the Maker of all things. Now, go back to Isaiah 45, Isaiah chapter 45, because I want to give you the second point. Isaiah 45, verse 1, **“Thus says the LORD to Cyrus His anointed, whom I have taken by the right hand, to subdue nations before him....”** He’s going to make him conquer nations. **“...And to loose the loins of kings; to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut: ‘I will go before you and make the rough places smooth; I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their iron bars. I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden wealth of the secret places, so that you may know [you, Cyrus may know] that it is I [God], the LORD, the God of Israel,**

who calls you by your name.” (Isaiah 45:1-3) “For the sake of Jacob My servant, and Israel My chosen one, I have also called you by your name....” (Isaiah 45:4) I’m telling you and I’m calling you before you’re ever born because I want Israel to see and to understand that I am God. I am God and there no other, so watch what He says. This is point number two: There is no other God. There is no other God. I mean the Persians may worship this and others may worship Baal and Marduk and Dagon and all of that, but they don’t exist. And so He says, **“...I have given you a title of honor though you have not known Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides Me there is no God....” (Isaiah 45:4-5)** This is what He wants him to understand. Now do you believe that? Do you really believe that God is God? That He is the Maker of all things? That He is the Creator and that there is no other God? Then listen. You’ve got to shut your mouth. You can’t say, “Well, everyone can worship their own god. We all have a right.” Yeah, you can worship whatever you want, but it’s not God, because there is no other God. Now we have to be gentle, and we have to be kind, and we have to be gracious, but we cannot lie. There is no other God. Do you know that? And are you worshiping Him or have you made your own self your God? I mean have you exalted yourself as God? O Beloved, O Beloved, these two things you’re to remember today: He is the Lord. He is the Maker. He is the Creator. That’s number one. Number two: There is no other God. So whatever people are worshiping, they have believed a lie. They are in darkness, and you and I have a responsibility to so live before others that they see the reality of our faith and they get a true image of God and they want to know Him, or they reject Him. But they make a choice, and we’ll see what happens when they make that choice.