

International Bible Lessons

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Isaiah 45:18-24

Sunday, January 9, 2011

“Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other” (Isaiah 45:22—NRSV).

“Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other” (Isaiah 45:22—NASB-U).

“Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else” (Isaiah 45:22—KJV).

Our Creator made us in His image; therefore, He considers every person precious. Because God is not prejudiced against anyone, He invites everyone to turn from false gods and sin to Him, so He can save them from perishing. God calls everyone to turn to Him for salvation, because there is no one else who can help them, saying, “There is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is no one besides me” (Isaiah 45:21). Because God makes only righteous decisions and judgments, He will keep His word and save those who turn to Him. He invites everyone to come to Him for salvation, because He does not desire “any to perish, but all to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). To avoid perishing, a person must repent and turn to God.

In spite of God’s loving, just, and merciful invitation to all, some say they do not believe in God, or they do not want to do what God commands in the Bible, or they doubt the truth because they do not truly understand the Bible. Therefore, believers keep praying and telling everyone how wonderful God is in all He says and does.

Eventually, everyone will acknowledge the truth about God, for God promised, “To me every knee shall bow” (Isaiah 45:23). The Apostle Paul confirmed, “For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, ‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.’ So then, each of us will be accountable to God” (Romans 14:10-12). — © Copyright 2011 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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Thinking Further

1. How does God describe himself through Isaiah? What impresses you most about this description?
2. How can people find and come to know (and know about) the true God? How would you advise someone who said they did not have enough evidence to believe in the existence of God?
3. What attributes characterize idols? Think of the idols you have read about or heard about from the Bible and outside of the Bible? Does anything about these idols impress you? What do the priests of these idols normally lead people to do?
4. If people do not have wooden idols today or idols made with silver and gold, what idols do people have in our contemporary society? How do these idols influence the way people live day by day? In what ways might you show that the true God is better than these idols?
5. Why does God need both righteousness and strength? What might God be like if He did not have both of these attributes? What attributes of God in addition to these are most important to you? Why?

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