

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Worship the One

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Isaiah 44:23-45:25

Theme: Worship the One that all powers serve.

Introduction: There are many powers in God's world: in business, academia, science, family, and civil government. Some seem well-intended, while others seem bent on evil. And beyond these earthly powers are spiritual powers as well (Eph 6:12). Israel, for her part, was being crushed by earthly powers. They were in exile and subject to foreign rulers; but the Lord had not forgotten them.

We find 3 aspects of how the Lord deals with earthly powers:

1. All Powers (44:21-28)

In the midst of his challenge to false gods, the Lord calls Israel to remember him and his character. He is their Redeemer, and so they should fear no other power than him. The Lord rules over all powers: over nature, over mankind, and over time (past, present, and future).

Part of the Lord's rule over the future is seen in his appointment of Cyrus to release his people from exile, some 150+ years before it happens.

This reminds us all that God is specifically accomplishing his plan in all of our lives.

2. Pagan Powers (45:1-13)

The Lord makes clear that it is he who will appoint Cyrus to his office as King of Persia. He does it even though Cyrus does not know him and does not fear him.

He does it in order to accomplish his purposes in saving his people. So even the most powerful man on earth is under God's sovereign rule, even when he is not aware of it. Lest we think this is somehow unfair, the Lord makes clear that he is the potter and we are the clay. We have no right to question him or his purposes. Paul also picks up this point in Romans 9:19-24 in reference to election.

3. All Worship (45:14-24)

God is arranging all of human history, and part of his purpose is to save a people from all nations. As he demonstrates his faithfulness to Israel, many will come.

As the true Power above all powers, he alone has the right to the worship and obedience of all beings.

Our proper response is to bow and confess. We submit to him in allegiance and we testify to his goodness and grace.

Questions:

1. How does your life reflect confidence in God's sovereign goodness? How does it not?

2. What are you most worried about?

3. Is there any way that you are challenging God's sovereignty over your life?