

Yahweh Responds to Israel's Accusations

Isaiah 40—48

The Great Trial	
Israel's Accusation:	
The Exile = [#1] Divine Neglect [#2] Divine Weakness	
Yahweh's Response:	
There is no one like me!	I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior. (43:11)
	Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any. (44:8)
	⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, ⁶ that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. (45:5-6)
	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.’ “ (45:14)
	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.” (45:18)

	²¹ 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. ²² “Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. (45:21-22)
<i>The idols of the nations are nothing</i>	for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me (46:9b) The craftsman strengthens the goldsmith, and he who smooths with the hammer him who strikes the anvil, saying of the soldering, “It is good”; and they strengthen it with nails so that it cannot be moved. (41:7) Behold, you are nothing, and your work is less than nothing; an abomination is he who chooses you. (41:24) Behold, they are all a delusion; their works are nothing; their metal images are empty wind. (41:29) They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, “You are our gods.” (42:17) ⁹ All who fashion idols are nothing, and the things they delight in do not profit... (44:9-20) 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. (45:20)

	Bel bows down; Nebo stoops; their idols are on beasts and livestock; these things you carry are borne as burdens on weary beasts. (46:1-2)
	⁶ Those who lavish gold from the purse, and weigh out silver in the scales, hire a goldsmith, and he makes it into a god; then they fall down and worship! ⁷ They lift it to their shoulders, they carry it, they set it in its place, and it stands there; it cannot move from its place. If one cries to it, it does not answer or save him from his trouble. (46:6-7)
Only I know the end from the beginning	Who has performed and done this, calling the generations from the beginning? I, the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he. (41:4)
	²¹ Set forth your case, says the LORD; bring your proofs, says the King of Jacob. ²² Let them bring them, and tell us what is to happen. Tell us the former things, what they are, that we may consider them, that we may know their outcome; or declare to us the things to come. (41:22-23)
	Who declared it from the beginning, that we might know, and beforehand, that we might say, “He is right”? There was none who declared it, none who proclaimed, none who heard your words. (41:26)
	All the nations gather together, and the peoples assemble. Who among them can declare this, and show us the former things? Let them bring their witnesses to prove them right, and let them hear and say, It is true. (43:9)
	Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. (44:7)

	Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? (45:21a)
	declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose’ (46:10)
	I declared them to you from of old, before they came to pass I announced them to you, lest you should say, ‘My idol did them, my carved image and my metal image commanded them.’ (48:5)
<i>And I call forth Cyrus 150 years before his birth!</i>	Who stirred up one from the east whom victory meets at every step? He gives up nations before him, so that he tramples kings underfoot (41:2a)
	I stirred up one from the north, and he has come, from the rising of the sun, and he shall call upon my name; he shall trample on rulers as on mortar, as the potter treads clay. (41:25)
	who says of Cyrus, ‘He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose’; saying of Jerusalem, ‘She shall be built,’ and of the temple, ‘Your foundation shall be laid.’ (44:28)
	Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed (45:1)
	I have stirred him up in righteousness, and I will make all his ways level; he shall build my city and set my exiles free, not for price or reward,” says the LORD of hosts. (45:13)
	calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it. (46:11)

	I, even I, have spoken and called him; I have brought him, and he will prosper in his way. (48:15)
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