

## The Theology of Isaiah #2: God as Creator and Maker

If you don't like "theology", it could be titled "**Discovering the True God in the Book of Isaiah**". The book of Isaiah is one of the most comprehensive books of the Bible in revealing who God is, who we are, what he expects of us, his relationship with the nations, how he works in redeeming a people to himself, and even what shall take place in the distant future. In fact, if the only book we had was Isaiah, our knowledge of God could be quite remarkable.

Last time we studied the names of God that occur in the book of Isaiah, primarily El and Elohim (God), Adonai (Lord), Yahveh (LORD), and its shorter form Yah. Isaiah constantly uses them in various combinations as "The God of Jacob" (or Israel), "the LORD God", "The LORD our God", "The LORD of hosts", "The Lord God of hosts", "The LORD God of Israel", etc. These compound names show him as the God who exists, who created all, the only God, his might and power, his sovereignty over the nations and all creation, and his relationship with his chosen people Israel.

Besides using these names, Isaiah also uses titles and descriptive language to show us what kind of God he is. These show who he is as the one true God, his relationship to his people, his relationship to mankind in general, and they reveal his divine attributes. There are also very many Messianic predictions and descriptions.

### Descriptions of God as The Almighty Creator

#### He is the Creator of the Universe

Isaiah gives no place to heathen explanations of the earth and universe – not to the false gods, or to the current "scientific" explanations of atheistic evolutionists. God repeatedly says that he is the great Creator of heavens and earth, and all life.

42:5 – "Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:" *It is interesting to me that "God the LORD" is really "hael Yahveh", or "the God Yahveh").*

45:18 – "For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else."

48:13 – "Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens; when I call unto them, they stand up together."

In all the descriptions of the creation, it shows design and purpose, not just throwing out a bunch of galactic material and letting it coagulate into stars and planets, and a "primordial ooze" as a beginning of life. He created the earth in such a way that it would support life.

The glories of his creation are not meant merely to inspire awe at their beauty or their power or even terribleness, rather to give honor, praise, and worship to the Almighty God. He is immense (his hand spans, or "spreads out", the heavens), and yet he is involved with the least of creation (not one sparrow falls without his knowledge). In fact his glory is to be seen in the inner workings of single cells, and in the orderliness and design of all the elements.

In spite of this, man in his ignorance and corruption sees the creation and imagines false gods, or imaginary theories of the origin of the universe. Or he uses creation for divination. 47:13 – "Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee ...". God condemns all forms of occult, including divination.

#### He is Our Maker

In calling himself our Maker, he refers to human beings, especially his people Israel.

17:7 - "At that day shall a man look to his Maker, and his eyes shall have respect to the Holy One of Israel."

45:6,9 – "That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else. ... Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, what makest thou? Or thy work, He hath no hands?"

*He is the potter, we are the clay. Will we say that God made a mistake in making us male or female?*

54:5 – "For thy Maker is thy husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called."

*What a wonder, that the great Creator-God, and the LORD of all the heavenly hosts is also one who relates to a specific people, calling himself their husband and redeemer! He is not the unconcerned god of Deism. His relations to his people will be covered in much greater detail later.*

In other places, references to him as Maker include not just mankind, but also the physical heavens and earth.

44:24 – “Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself.”

*Babies in the womb are not just “fetuses”, or “clumps of cells”, they are human beings that God forms in the womb. We still do not know the wonders of how that works. It is one of the greatest wonders of creation.*

*Eccl. 11:5 – “As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child; even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all.”*

*But the God who forms individuals in the womb is also the one who stretched out the heavens in all its light-years’ expanse, and all the wonders of the earth – the land and sea, its position in the solar system, its geology, chemistry, physics, and biology, reproduction of life, the wonders of tides and thunderstorms, of snow and ice and hail, of gravity and volcanoes and earthquakes. This is our great God!*

45:11-12 – “Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me. I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded.”

*God commands the host of heaven! Not just the angelic hosts, but also the countless trillions of stars and galaxies. He controls it all, from the farthest stars to the movement of the electrons.*

51:12-13 – “I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass; And forgettest the LORD thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth ...”

### **On the Unity and Solitariness of God**

This is to combat the almost universal ideas of other religions that there are multiple gods, who have their own “specialities”. There are demon-gods of rain and fertility, of sun and moon, of individual cities or nations, of war, love, death, sexuality, etc. Some religions have so many gods they cannot even be counted or identified. In Athens they acknowledged this with their just-in-case-altar “TO THE UNKNOWN GOD” (Acts 17:23).

To all of these God declares emphatically that he is the ONLY God. This seems to be the theme of chapters 42-46.

43:10-11 – “... that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.” *He declares that he is the only God, so that we would know him, believe him, and understand him. He wants to reveal himself to his people!*

44:6, 8 – “Thus saith the LORD, the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.”

45:5-6 – “I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else.”

45:18 – “... I am the LORD; and there is none else.” 45:21 – “... there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.” 46:9 – “Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me.”

He even heaps scorn and ridicule on the false gods and those who worship them.

46:1-4 – The heathen have to carry their gods on carts, but God says he made us, and he will carry us!

### **He is the Glorious One and the ONLY one worthy of glory**

42:8 – “I am the LORD; that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.”

48:11 – “... for how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory to another.”

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