

Deutero-Isaiah
Chapters 43-44
July 2023

Learning objectives

- Outline: Deutero-Isaiah 43 & 44
- Identify: Jeshurun, 'my chosen'
- Identify: Cyrus, 'my shepherd'
- Assert: Yahweh's love for Israel
- Assert: Yahweh's uniqueness

Chapter 43 Structure

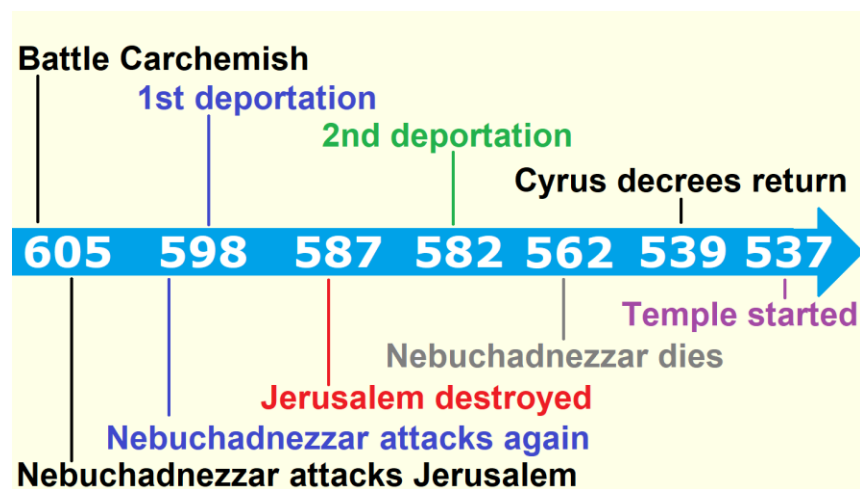
Yahweh's love for Israel

1-7 'I am your Savior'.

8-13 'I am God'.

14-21 'I do a new thing'.

22-28 'I remember your sins no more'.



Historical background

- 70 years serving Babylon are ending.
- Yahweh is fulfilling his promises.
- The Babylonian gods prove powerless.
- Babylonian diviners are proving wrong.
- Cyrus decrees that the Judeans return to Judea and rebuild Yahweh's temple.



43:1-7 'I am your Savior'.

"I AM" in 2 Isaiah

- 41:4; 48:12 'the First and the Last', 'he'
- 41:10 'with you', 'your God'
- 41:13-14 'the One who helps you'
- 42:6-8; etc. 'Yahweh'
- 43:1; 49:26 'your Savior'
- 43:12; 45:22 'God'
- 43:15 'your Holy One', 'the Creator', 'your King'

43:8-13 'I am God'.

43:10 My servant[~s]

'bdy: 'bd=servant, y=my; 'bdy=sg 'bdy=pl.
 MT, Gk, Lat, Targum: 'and my servant'.
 One Hb mss and Syr: 'and my servants'.
 1QIsaa: No vowels = ambiguous.
 Modern: 'you are my witnesses and (you are) my servant(s)'.
 Historical: 'you are my witnesses, and (so is) my servant'.

43:14-21 'I do a new thing'.

43:15 I am your King

"Many of the polities in the ancient Near East considered the god as the true king of the land; the earthly ruler was merely a viceroy to the god." IVPbbc
 Assyria: kings = regents for god Ashur
 Babylon: Marduk.
 Canaan: Ba'al.
 Sumer: Enlil. Kingship = Enlilship (Enlilutu)

43:22-28 'I remember your sins no more'.

43:28 Princes of the sanctuary

MT Heb: Ve'akhalel sariy qodesh.

Heb., Lat., & Targums: 'I profaned the princes of the holy (sanctuary)'.

Alternative: 'I profaned the holy princes.

Greek LXX, Syr : 'The rulers profaned my holy things' (temple). Different Heb?

Hypothesis: Yahweh did to the rulers in Jerusalem what they had done to him.

2 Isaiah 44 Structure

Yahweh's sovereignty over all

1-8 'Besides me there is no God'

9-20 'All who make idols are nothing'

21-23 'I have redeemed you'

24-28 'Cyrus, "He is my shepherd"'

44:1-8 'Besides me there is no God'

Jeshurun

Jeshurun is an honorific name for Jacob or Israel, used in poetic parallel.

Root: yšr = 'uprightness'

Suffix: ūn = diminutive

"There is none like God, O Jeshurun, who rides through the heavens to your help, majestic through the clouds. He subdues the ancient gods." Dt 33:26-27

44: 9-20 'All who make idols are nothing'

44:21-23 'I have redeemed you'

44:24-28 'Cyrus, "He is my shepherd"'

Soothsayers, diviners, prophets

Soothsayer: foretells future events.

Diviner: discerns hidden information.

Prophet: gets messages from a deity.

Assyrian and Babylonian diviner's prognostications had to be confirmed by omens from both heaven and earth. Yet Yahweh, as Creator of both realms, can do the unanticipated, showing pagan wise men to be farces.

44:28 who says of Cyrus, "He is my shepherd, and shall carry out all my purpose"; and who says of Jerusalem, "It shall be rebuilt," and of the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid."

Deutero-Isaiah 43-44



Cyrus II, "The Great"

590 Born to Cambyses I, king of Anshan

559 Becomes shah of Persia.

549 Becomes king of Media.

547 Becomes king of Lydia.

539 Becomes king of Babylon.

539 Decrees the release of captives.

530 Dies.

Son Cambyses II (Pharaoh, 525-522)