

# Deutero-Isaiah

## Chapters 45-46

July 2023

### Learning objectives

- Outline: Deutero-Isaiah 45 & 46
- Introduce: The Epic of Erra and Ishum
- Identify: 'my anointed (messiah)'
- Identify: 'the ends of the earth'
- Assert: Yahweh as Creator
- Assert: Yahweh's unicity
- Assert: Yahweh's desire for nations

### 2 Isaiah 45 Structure

**45** Yahweh's sovereignty

1-8 His political power.

9-17 His everlasting salvation.

18-19 His deity.

20-25 His otherness.

### The Epic of Erra and Ishum

Mesopotamian mythological legend, dated from the first third of the 1st millennium BC. Written by a priest of Esagila, in the temple of Marduk in Babylon, named Kabti-ilâni-Marduk. A visionary dream, made up of five tablets, with a total of about 700 verses. Explaining Babylon's many turbulent overthrows. 36 known copies found in five different cities.

#### Speaking to Marduk:

O king of all inhabited lands, creator of the world,  
Holder of the sublime scepter ..., shepherd of mankind...  
Erra, warrior of the gods, was restless in his dwelling,  
His heart urged him to do battle! Says he to his weapons.  
"Smear yourselves with deadly venom!"

#### Tablet IV

- 1 O warrior Erra, you are the one who feared not noble Marduk's name!
- 2 You have undone Dimkurkurra, the bond of the world (Babylon).
- 3 You changed your divine nature and made yourself a mortal.
- 4 You girded on your weaponry and entered Babylon.

### The LORD's Messiah, Cyrus (45:1-2)

### Did they show this prediction to Cyrus? (3-5)

In Cyrus' own words

"I returned the (images of) the gods to the sacred centers [on the other side of] the Tigris whose sanctuaries had been abandoned for a long time, and I let them dwell in eternal abodes. I gathered all their inhabitants and returned (to them) their dwellings." *Cyrus Cylinder*

☰ THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

8 March 2018, 8:42 pm

"Who is King Cyrus, and why did Netanyahu compare him to Trump?"



Near future salvation (13-16)

13 I have aroused Cyrus in righteousness,  
and I will make all his paths straight;  
he shall build my city  
and set my exiles free,  
not for price or reward,  
says the LORD of hosts.

Far-future salvation (17)

But Israel would be shamed again by:

- The Seleucid Greeks
- The Roman empire
- Europeans and Moslems repeatedly
- Antichrist under invading armies

Yahweh creates habitations (18)

Yahweh saves (22, Gentiles, too)

"The ends of the earth." MT כְּלִי-אֶפְסֵי-אֲרֶץ LXX οι άπ' έσχάτου τής γής AC 1:8 έως έσχάτου τής γής.

**Query:** Whole world? Or only Jews returning from the then-known end of the world?

**LXX:** hoi ap'eschatou tes ges, "those from end of-the earth/land" Is 45:22

**NT:** heos eschatou tes ges, "unto end of-the earth/land" Ac 1:8



## 2 Isaiah 46 Structure

**46** Yahweh's goodness.

**1-7** His sustaining mercy.

**8-13** His desire to save.

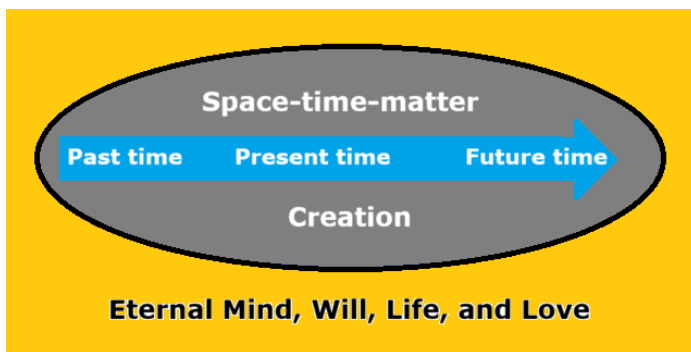
## Yahweh and the gods of Babylon (1)

"When Cyrus marched against Babylon, Nabonidus took into safe custody at Babylon the statues of the gods from the cities on the eastern flank of Mesopotamia... They did not save the city from invasion."

Stephanie Dalley, *The City of Babylon*, Cambridge, 2021, page 261.

## No age discrimination (4)

## Yahweh will accomplish his plans (9-10)



## Yahweh saves (9-10)