

ISAIAH 44

All Poetry

Verse 1 (Yet, now) Hear, O Jacob, my servant,
(and) Hear, O Israel, whom I have chosen.

Verse 2 **Thus saith the Lord that *made thee*, (your Maker) and that
formed thee from the womb and helped thee: (succored thee)**

*Fear not, O Jacob, my servant,
Fear not, Thou Jes^(h)urun, whom I have chosen.*

(Jeshurun - a poetical name for the people of Israel, used in token of affection, meaning,
"The Dear Upright People" Deuteronomy 32:15; Deuteronomy 33:5 Deuteronomy 33:26)

Verse 3 (For) I will pour water upon (the soil) that is thirsty,
(and) I will bring floods (showers) upon the dry ground.

(and) I will pour my spirit upon thy seed,
(and) I will pour my blessing upon thine offspring.

Verse 4 (And) They shall spring up as among the grass,
They shall spring up as willows by the water courses.

Verse 5 A One shall say, "I am the Lord's",
(and) B Another shall call himself by the name of Jacob.
(and) A One shall subscribe (inscribe on) his hand (arm), "(Un) To the Lord",
(and) B Another shall surname himself (adopt) the name of Israel.

(*See below: Inscribing the name of the Lord upon oneself)

Verse 6 **Thus saith the Lord, the King of Israel, and (their) Redeemer,
the Lord of Hosts:**

(and) I am the first and I am the last,
(and) Besides me, there is no God.

Verse 7 (And) Who, as I, shall call and declare it? (predict what happens)
(and) Who shall set it in order for me? (is the equal of me)

(since) Appoint^(ing) the ancient people (as types),
(and) (Fortelling) things that are coming and that shall come.

Verse 8 *Fear ye not,
Neither be ye afraid.*

Have not I told thee from that time?
Have not I declared it; ye are even my witnesses?

Is there a God beside me?
Yea, there is no God (Rock); I know not any.

Verse 9
(and) They that make a graven image are all of them vanity.
Their delectable things (things they cherish) shall not profit.

(and) **They are their own witnesses:**

Verse 10
They see not, they know not; that they may be ashamed.
Who (would form) a God or who (would melt) a graven image that is
(not) profitable? (cannot benefit them)

Verse 11 (Behold) **A** All (their) fellows (Their whole society) shall be ashamed; (their)
workmen, they are of men, (are mere mortals)
B Let them all be gathered together,
B Let them stand up (together), (before me)
(yet) **A** They shall fear and they shall be ashamed together.

Verse 12
**The Smith with the tongs, worketh in the coals and he
fashioneth (iron) with hammers and worketh (his god)
with the strength of his arms:**

(yea) (When) he is hungry,
(and) His strength faileth.

(and) (When) he drinketh no water,
(and) He is faint.

Verse 13
**The Carpenter stretcheth out his rule (draws a diagram), he
marketh (his idol) out with a line, he fitteth it with
planes, and he marketh it out with the compass:**

He marketh it after the figure of a man,
According to the beauty of a man; that it may (be fit to) remain in
(a) house.

Verse 14
(and) He (The Carpenter) (is required to) hew down Cedar(s); he (must select)
the Cypress (Holms) and the Oak(s),
He (must) strengthen (care for them) among the trees of the forest.

He planteth an Ash, (which) rain doth nourish:

- Verse 15 (For) (yea) (Which serves) for man to burn (as fuel),
(Which man) taketh thereof and he warmeth himself,
(Which man) kindleth (to) bake bread.
(Of that Ash:)
(yea) *(They) make god(s) and (they) worship (them).*
(They) make graven image(s) and (they) fall down thereto.
- Verse 16 (yea) (They) burn part thereof (of the Ash) in the fire,
With part thereof, (they) eat flesh. (broil a roast)
(They) roast (a) roast and (are) satisfied.
(yea) (They) warm (themselves) and say, "Aha, (it is) warm, (in front of) the fire."
- Verse 17 (And) **The residue thereof (of the wood):**
(They) make a god; even (their) graven image. (idol)
(They) fall down unto it, and worship it and pray unto it and (they)
say, "Deliver (us), for thou art (our) god."
- Verse 18 **They have not known nor understood:**
(for) Their eyes are shut, that they cannot see.
(and) Their hearts are shut, that they cannot understand.
- Verse 19 (And) None considereth in his heart,
Neither is there knowledge nor understanding to say, "I have
burned part of it (the wood of my idol) in the fire."
(yea also) I have baked bread upon the coals thereof.
I have roasted flesh (upon the coals thereof) and I have eaten it.
(and) Shall I make the residue thereof an abomination? (idol)
Shall I fall down (stoop) to the stock of a tree? (to a mere lump of wood)
- Verse 20 (that) (They) feed on ashes, (They are followers of ashes)
A deceived heart hath turned (them) aside. (from true worship)
(They) cannot deliver (their own) soul,
Nor say, "Is there not a lie in my right hand?"
(Or say, "Surely this thing in my hand is a fraud.")
- Verse 21 Remember these (things), O Jacob, for thou art my servant.
I have formed thee, O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me.

Verse 22 (and) I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions,
I have blotted out, as a cloud, thy sins.

Return unto me, for I have redeemed thee:

Verse 23 Sing, O ye heavens, for ^(what) the Lord hath done!
Shout, ye lower parts of the earth, for what the Lord hath done!

Break forth into singing, ye mountains!
Break forth into singing, O forest, and every tree therein!

(for)
(and) The Lord hath redeemed Jacob!
The Lord hath glorified himself in Israel!

Verse 24 **Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer; he that *formed* thee
from the womb, "I am the Lord and the maker of all
things":**

That stretcheth forth the heavens alone,
That spreadeth abroad the earth by myself.

(and) That frustrateth the tokens of the liar,
That maketh diviners mad.

(and) That turneth wise men backward,
That maketh their knowledge foolish.

Verse 26 (and) That confirmeth the word of his servant,
That performeth the counsel of his messengers.

That saith to Jerusalem, "Thou shalt be inhabited,"
That saith to the Cities of Judah, "Ye shall be built, and I will
raise up the decayed places thereof."

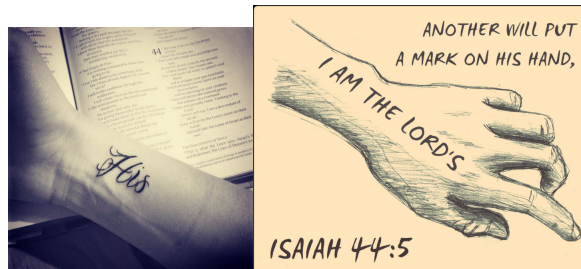
(and) That saith to the deep, "Be dry"
That saith to the deep, "I will dry up thy rivers."

(and) That saith of Cyrus, "He is my shepherd."
That saith of Cyrus, "He shall perform all my pleasure."

(and) That saith to Jerusalem, "Thou shalt be ^(re)built."
That saith to the Temple, "Thy foundation shall be ^(re)laid."

* **And another shall subscribe with his hand unto the Lord** - The Septuagint renders this, 'And another shall write with his hand (*χειρί cheiri*), I am of God.' Lowth, 'On his hand,' Aquila and Symmachus, (*Χειρά Cheira*). Lowth supposes that the allusion here is to the marks which were made indelible by puncture with ink on the hand or on other parts of the body. He supposes that the mark thus indelibly impressed was the name of the person, or the name of the master if he was a slave, or some indication by which it might be known to whom he belonged. In this way, the soldier marked himself with the name of his commander; the idolater, with the name of his god; and in this way, Procopius says, that the early Christians marked themselves. On this passage he says, 'Because many marked their wrists or their arms with the sign of the cross, or with the name of Christ' (see Revelation 20:4; Spencer, De Leg. Heb. ii. 20).

But all this is too refined, and could be a departure from the true sense of the passage. The mark, or writing, was not on the hand, but with it - literally, 'and this shall write his hand to Yahweh; 'and the figure is evidently taken from the mode of making a contract or bargain, where the name is subscribed to the instrument. It was a solemn compact or covenant, by which they enrolled themselves among the worshippers of God, and pledged themselves to his service. The manner of a contract among the Hebrews is described in Jeremiah 32:10, Jeremiah 32:12, Jeremiah 32:44. A public, solemn, and recorded covenant, to which the names of princes, Levites, and priests, were subscribed, and which was sealed, by which they bound themselves to the service of God, is mentioned in Nehemiah 9:38. Here it denotes the solemn manner in which they would profess to be worshippers of the true God; and it is expressive of the true nature of a profession of religion.



and streams on the dry ground;
I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring,
and my blessing on your descendants.

4 They shall spring up among the grass
like willows by flowing streams

5 **This one will say, 'I am the LORD';**
another will call on the name of Jacob,
and another will write on his hand,
'The LORD's,'
and name himself by the name of Israel."

Besides Me There Is No God

6 Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
"I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

7 **Who is like me? Let him proclaim**
Let him declare and set it before
since I appointed an ancient people