

Isaiah 44**6-2-05*****“There is no other Rock!”*****1. Intro:**

- 1.1. **Announce:** Baptism class room 133 upstairs.
- 1.2. **Outline:** Man Made in God’s Image(1-8); God Made in Man’s Image(1-8); Will the Real God Please Stand Up(1-8).

2. There is no other Rock! (1-12)

- 2.1. In 8th grade I painted a paint by # of *Leonardo di Vinci* “The Last Supper”...would you believe me if I said it wasn’t as good as *Leonardo’s*?
 - 2.1.1. Here we have the contrast from the original creator to other wannabe creators.
- 2.2. **Man Made in God’s Image!** (1-8)
- 2.3. (1) **Transition** – from discipline of last verses, to blessings of ch.44.
- 2.4. (2) Once again God reminds them: He **Made** them, **formed** them, & **chose** them.
 - 2.4.1. So, no need to be afraid(“**fear not**”), for God meets every need(3-5).
- 2.5. **Jeshurun** - a poetical name for the people of Israel, a term of endearment, meaning, “*the dear upright people*”. (root = “*To be blessed*”)
- 2.6. (3) **I will pour water on him who is thirsty!**
 - 2.6.1. **Q:** Anybody need that tonight?
 - 2.6.2. He says I will **refresh you**. He will drench you!
 - 2.6.3. I will turn your dry ground into **fruitful ground** again.
 - 2.6.4. (Spurg) “**Water swells the buds & makes the fruits ripen; you shall have fructifying grace!**” [to become productive or fruitful]
- 2.7. (5) **Ownership!** – “The Lord’s”!
- 2.8. (6-8) **God is incomparable; there is no other like Him.**
 - 2.8.1. (6) Jesus in **Rev.1:17**.
- 2.9. He knows what lies ahead & helps you prepare yourself to meet it.

- 2.10. **God Made in Man's Image!** (9-20)
- 2.11. **What folly!** – Why is it that it seems **easiest** to trust in anything other than the Lord?...even the things we manufacture?¹
- 2.12. (11) Those that trust false gods will be afraid. (opposite of vs.2)
- 2.13. (12-14) Some got out their Erector set, others their Lincoln logs.
2.13.1. (14) Pretty great lengths in getting choice woods for his idols.
- 2.14. (15-18) Great question by Isaiah: **Q:** how can ½ the wood be god & the other ½ be used for cooking?
2.14.1. The **idols** are ignorant(18); The **idol makers** are ignorant(9-14); The **idol worshipers** are ignorant(15-17,19-20).
- 2.15. (19,20) Their **bodies** may feast on excellent food(19), but their **souls** feast on **ashes**(20).
2.15.1. **It begs the question: Q:** Are you feeding on anything that could be considered **ashes** to God?
- 2.16. **Will the Real God Please Stand Up?** (21-28)
- 2.17. Just like the exodus from **Egypt**, the nation's exodus from **Babylon** would be a time of **redemption, rejoicing**, & would **confirm** God's Word to His people.
- 2.18. (22) **Thick clouds** – MAF on last trip.
2.18.1. Spurgeon – **Our sins are like clouds.**
2.18.1.1. Many shapes & shades.
2.18.1.2. They obscure the light of Jehovah's face.
2.18.1.3. They threaten us with storms & tempest.
2.18.1.4. Yet, they are like "**clouds without water, carried about by the winds**" (i.e. no refreshing)
2.18.2. "**blotted out**" – not blown away...for then they could return.
2.18.2.1. But *blotted out* from existence once & for all.
2.18.3. "**return to Me**" – Why should pardoned sinners live at a distance from their God? - "**I have redeemed you!**" 😊
- 2.19. (25) I wonder if God enjoys this as much as we would.
- 2.20. **Prophecy** – predictions of **places, people, or events** that could not be known or predicted by chance or common sense.
2.20.1. **3 basic forms of predicting the future:**²

¹ Warren Wiersbe; pg. 479.

² Ralph O. Muncaster; Does the Bible Predict the Future?; pg.4.

- 2.20.2. **[1] Forecasting** (by experts) Predictions of effects from causes – based upon experience & understanding (encouraged by the bible)
- 2.20.3. **[2] Divination** (by psychics & others) Predictions based on supernatural information not from God (forbidden by the bible)
- 2.20.4. **[3] Prophecy** (by prophets) predictions based on information received from God (encouraged by the bible)
- 2.20.5. The bible is very **open to & available for** the testing of prophecy.
- 2.20.5.1. The bible has over **1000** prophecies. [668 are historical³]
- 2.20.5.2. They pertain to **places, people, or events.**
- 2.20.5.3. They are **precise** & made sometimes **centuries** in advance with total accuracy.
- 2.20.5.4. Prophecies help verify the bible is **never** wrong!
- 2.20.5.5. No other holy book has the prophetic accuracy of the Bible.
- 2.20.5.6. Most holy books are noticeably devoid of prophecy.
- 2.20.6. **Q: What about the Jeane Dixon's of the world?**
- 2.20.6.1. She was famous for her prediction of that JFK would be **elected & die in office** (Parade 1950).
- 2.20.6.2. She would not qualify as a biblical prophet.
- 2.20.6.3. **1st** – odds of this prediction were not amazing. **1 chance in 5.**
- 2.20.6.4. **2nd** – many of her other prophecies were wrong:
- 2.20.6.4.1. WWII did not happen in 1954.
- 2.20.6.4.2. Jackie Kennedy married Aristotle Onassis the day after Dixon predicted she would never remarry.
- 2.20.6.4.3. the Vietnam Conflict did not end in 1966, but rather in 1975.
- 2.20.6.5. **Q: What did the bible say about less than 100% accuracy?**
- 2.20.6.5.1. **Deut. 18:20-22.**
- 2.20.7. **Critics argued** – The writers wrote later than was assumed.
- 2.20.8. **Daniel** accurately predicted the progression of kingdoms from Babylon/Medo-Persian/Greek/& Roman Empire/suffering of the Jews through Antiochus IV/desecration of the temple/& the freedom of the Jews via Judas Maccabeus. (wrote before 530bc)
- 2.20.8.1. **Critics** – “*it was written much later!*”...**Until** the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. - Is. Scroll was dated 2 bc.
- 2.20.9. **Critics also argued** – Maybe the Gospels were written to Match Prophecy?
- 2.20.9.1. **Fact 1:** The Gospel accounts were widely circulated in the lifetime of eyewitnesses. A lie would not stand this test.

³ John Walvoord; The Prophecy Knowledge Handbook.

- 2.20.9.2. **Fact 2:** 11 of the 12 Apostles who knew the truth, were executed (over a # of years) for their beliefs. Why would they die for a known lie?
- 2.20.9.3. **Fact 3:** Many other people died in support of the truth, some in the lifetime of eyewitnesses (7 million catacomb graves verify this). Why?
- 2.20.9.4. **Fact 4:** Paul, a prominent persecutor of Christians, gave up wealth & status, & later died to tell the story after seeing the risen Jesus. Why?
- 2.20.10. **Cyrus**—(king of Persia, founded the Persian empire. Defeated Babylonian 539bc)
- 2.20.11. **Isaiah** predicts in advance that both **Jerusalem & the Temple** would be destroyed.
 - 2.20.11.1. **At the time Jerusalem was strong & the Temple a major landmark.**
 - 2.20.11.2. **And here, that they would be rebuilt** (he issued this decree 1 year after defeating Babylon) — **Ezra 1:1-4.**
- 2.20.12. He further predicted that it would be a King named **Cyrus** that would let the Jews rebuild the Temple. (personally addressed)
 - 2.20.12.1. That he would be a **shepherd**(i.e a ruler)
 - 2.20.12.2. That he would **subdue nations**(Is.45:1).
 - 2.20.12.3. That he would be like a ravenous bird that couldn't be stopped (Is.46:11)
 - 2.20.12.4. That he would tread on rulers as mortar, as a potter treads clay(Is.41:25).
 - 2.20.12.5. **All of this 160 yrs before he was even born!**
- 2.20.13. **Interesting God could even use pagan rulers for His bidding. And demonstrate his power through them!**
 - 2.20.13.1. **Pharaoh;** the wicked **Herod;** the cowardly **Pilot.**
 - 2.20.13.2. Prov.21:1 **"The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes."**
- 2.21. He is the **Lord of creation**(intro); He is the **Lord of History**(end).