

## Fact Sheet for **“Finding Fault with God”** **Isaiah 45:9-13**

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As Isaiah 44 closed and 45 opened God named a future Persian king by name (Cyrus) and told what he would do roughly 150 years later (Isaiah 44:24-45:7). He would give the order to rebuild Jerusalem and the Jewish temple. In Isaiah's day neither Jerusalem nor Solomon's temple had been destroyed. Their destruction would occur during the ministry of three future prophets who hadn't even been born yet... Jeremiah, Daniel, and Ezekiel. The Jewish people would serve the king of Babylon for 70 years (Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10). Then Cyrus would conquer Babylon and install Darius as its king. Daniel understood the 70 years of captivity prophesied by Jeremiah were coming to an end (Daniel 9:1-2). Moses had warned Israel of such a captivity for their sin and yet the possibility of their return to the land (Deuteronomy 30:1-5). Solomon, at the dedication of the temple, asked God that if Israel was one day taken captive and returned to Him in confession and prayer that God would bring His people back to the land (2 Chronicles 6:24-25). God responded to that prayer with these now famous words...

**ESV 2 Chronicles 7:14** if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Daniel knew that and began to pray accordingly (Daniel 9:3-14).

*But several of the Jewish people were apparently griping that it wasn't a descendant of David who would lead the Jewish people back to Jerusalem, but a pagan king Cyrus instead.*

It was in response to this gripe that God continued.

<sup>9</sup> **"Woe to him who strives with him who formed him,  
a pot among earthen pots!  
Does the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?'  
or 'Your work has no handles'?"**

**Woe** – When someone (who is created by God) criticizes his creator's work he risks God's pronouncement of doom on himself.

This same illustration would later be used by the apostle Paul in Romans 9:1-29. Paul anguished that so many of his Jewish kin would not accept Christ as their Savior. But why?! Weren't they God's people? God chose Abraham God chose Isaac, but not Ishmael. God chose Jacob, but not Esau. Shouldn't God choose all the Jewish people? The answer was "No!"

Isaiah continued...

<sup>10</sup> **Woe to him who says to a father, 'What are you begetting?'  
or to a woman, 'With what are you in labor?'"**

Notice that what God didn't say here through Isaiah, and God didn't say later through Paul, was the same thing that God didn't say to Job (Job 38:1-42:6). God never told them why! Job would have the right response (Job 42:1-6).

**<sup>11</sup> Thus says the LORD,  
the Holy One of Israel, and the one who formed him (*the one who is questioning God*):  
"Ask me of things to come;  
will you command me concerning my children and the work of my hands?"**

The Hebrew behind this verse is very easily translated as follows:

<sup>NET</sup> **Isaiah 45:11** This is what the LORD says, the Holy One of Israel, the one who formed him, concerning things to come: "How dare you question me about my children! How dare you tell me what to do with the work of my own hands!"

**<sup>12</sup> I made the earth  
and created man on it;  
it was my hands that stretched out the heavens,  
and I commanded all their host.**

So much for evolution! Here's the import of this verse: What right does the created have to criticize the Creator?

**<sup>13</sup> I have stirred him (*Cyrus*) up in righteousness,  
and I will make all his ways level;  
he shall build my city  
and set my exiles free,  
not for price or reward,"  
says the LORD of hosts.**

Today we are in danger of doing the same thing that God addressed in Isaiah 45:9-13. We are in danger of saying, "God, You got it wrong!" Christianity Today reports "If the Supreme Court establishes a constitutional right to same-sex marriage, challenges to religious freedom will increase." Did God get sexual morality right? Scripture is clear. Homosexuality is a sin (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

Many of those who identify themselves as Christians are abandoning the clear teaching of the Bible in favor of politically correct positions. The Christian Post reported four years ago "The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has become the fourth Protestant denomination in the U.S. to allow the ordination of gay and lesbian clergy" This is essentially saying, "God, You got it wrong!"

Now the Supreme Court may make things even tougher for Christians in their upcoming decision on same-sex marriages. How will you land on the issue? Will you find fault with God, or will you stand firm for Him?

Pointers...

1. Separate in your mind what is legal from what is Biblical. Don't let the questions from others "mush" your faith and the law together.
2. Look for ways to both stand firm on the Scripture and to follow the law.
3. Look for ways to share the Gospel in this. Sharpen your skills.