[Music] [Music] [Music] well welcome to wednesday night bible study and last week we got part way through isaiah chapter 45 we made it up to verse 19. we'll finish god willing we'll finish the chapter this evening and then go on to chapter 46 let's open with the word of prayer well heavenly father we pause and we just want to give you thanks lord we want to give you praise we are so grateful that you have given us this ancient scroll of the prophet isaiah a mini bible we just thank you father for our opportunity to study this scroll line by line and we pray that you'll bless this study as you've blessed the previous studies father that you would deepen our understanding that you would deepen our faith and our and our love for jesus christ and for each other and for your plan for mankind we praise you lord we thank you we ask this blessing now in jesus most holy name amen well as i said we are up to isaiah chapter 45 and uh this is all in the context of isaiah chapter 44 where we're focusing here on god's intervention in the life of judah uh through the anointed one cyrus and and we want to just stay focused on this opening verse in chapter 44 where god says yet now here o jacob

my servant so jacob is god's servant he says yet now hear o jacob my servant he says he continues and israel whom i have chosen so this is all about god's chosen that jacob is the one that he has chosen to serve him he is is of all the nations in the world god only knows the nation of the people who are descended from the man called israel he's the one that god has chosen there's a covenant relationship that god has with this people this is israel whom i have chosen he says thus says the lord that made you and formed you from the womb which will help you this is what the god who formed you from the womb and he will help you this is what he has to say to you fear not so obviously uh this is a fearful time and the god of the universe his message to his people which his faithful ministers will magnify and amplify his message to his people is do not be afraid o jacob my servant the god of the universe has chosen jacob and you jeshurun whom i have chosen so let's now go back into just keep that in mind that god has chosen this people from the womb and they should not fear despite the fearful circumstances they live in so let's continue now in isaiah 45 and in verse 19 he says have not i have not spoken in secret in a dark place of the earth i said not

unto the seed of jacob seek you me in vain so god is saying i did not and listen he didn't say to the seed of jacob this is this is a dna thing so anybody who has the dna of this man called jacob has been told to seek god that these are the chosen people and god the god of the universe is saying i didn't say to the seed of jacob to seek me in faith in vain he says i the lord speak righteousness i declare things that are right so we might have we might take exception to this we might think this is god is so unfair this is just not right who says that these people are chosen god says he speaks righteousness and he declares the things that are right and so the world is not right and the world is not in a state of righteousness until it is in the state that god declares that it should be in and that state was declared in exodus 19 and verse 6 where god says that this nation will be a peculiar people unto him and that all other nations of the earth will have to look to this these people as the facilitators of the relationship that god will have with mankind these are the things that god has declared and they are right verse 20 and we went into that verse last week but let's continue now in verse 20. he says assemble yourselves and come draw near together you that are escaped of the nations so there is going to be

this

massive exodus the second exodus where god is going to move to gather his people from the four corners of the earth and they are going to escape the captivity the the subjection the humiliation the the torture of the gentile nations and god is going to move and gather them from these nations so he says come assemble yourselves and come i've chosen you assemble yourselves and come draw near together you that are escaped to the nations now speaking of the nations he says this that they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image and pray unto a god that cannot save so there's going to be this worldwide movement now this is you know this is happening in isaiah's time he's predicting the near term but he's also looking at the time just before christ returns and and and it's a pattern that's laid down that they're going to be people gentile peoples that are going to exalt their graven images as their god and they're going to bow down to these graven images but they're going to be they're going to have the upper hand they're going to be a people that have the upper hand and having that upper hand they're going to be inspired or or motivated to subject the seed of jacob to humiliation

and to subject judah to torture and annihilation and god is going to act to undo this so that's that's the reality of what the bible is teaching us this this is the future for these people you go the scripture goes on to say he says that uh so here are just saying this this iranian senior official is saying destroying israel is the muslim world's top priority and yet god's top priority is saving israel so there's a problem there's a problem god's agenda is to save israel this senior official says that the agenda the top priority of the muslim world is to destroy israel so we we definitely uh we definitely have a problem here he goes on to say tell you and bring them near yes let them take counsel together so so this this is their belief that they have to destroy israel okay god is challenging them and saying okay let them take counsel together if all these muslim nations want to destroy israel go ahead let them plan together but god says who has declared this from ancient time so there's something that god said that this would happen from ancient time so let's uh let's take a listen to this [Music] foreign [Music] [Music] [Music] foreign [Music] [Music]

go ahead let them take counsel together but then god says this who has declared this from ancient time so the very thing that they are doing god is saying to his people i actually declared this i said that this would happen so so them bowing down to their graven image and taking counsel together to destroy his people god is saying it's actually what i declared from the beginning i said that this would happen he says who told it from that time have not i the lord and there is no god else beside me a just god and a savior so the god of the universe is saying they're going to pla they're going to come together to destroy my people but i actually declared this anciently so the very the the very fact that they're worshiping a false god and they're coming together to destroy my people is proof that i am the true god because anciently i said that this would happen and there is no god besides me and and i am a just god i declare the things that are right i speak in righteousness and i am a savior jesus god saves i'm a savior so so the the what god is saying is the mindset the modus operandi of the god of the universe is to save not to destroy satan's modus operandi is to destroy the god of the universe his modus operandi is to come and save so he's saying there's no other god besides me i'm a savior and i declared this from the beginning there is none beside me

and so this verse here in isaiah 45 21 and god repeats it several times i'm going to show you several times in the very book of isaiah how he repeats this but this is really really critical uh here in psalm 138 and verse 2 god says the psalmist david writes i will worship toward your holy temple and praise your name for your loving kindness and for your truth for you have magnified your word above all your name you know i had somebody speaking to me yesterday uh a professed christian saying to me that you cannot trust the bible that the bible has been tampered with this is crazy what we have is the bible and god is telling us through isaiah what you have is my word and herein and god prides himself and if i can put it this way that he he he wants us to understand that we can trust him because he speaks in righteousness that what he says he means and he never speaks a lie and he never speaks something that's untrue and he does not change his mind in in that sense that when he declares that this is going to happen and and lays it down that's what's going to happen and david realized this about god and he says i'm going to worship you and i'm going to praise your name but because of your loving kindness and because of your truth and he says you have magnified your word above all your name david understood how

much god's word means to him and we as christians must understand this and the tactic of the devil is to take god's word away from us if he can get us away from god's word he's got us but as long as we cling to god's word he cannot touch us when satan attacked christ christ defeated him with god's word now the book of isaiah is so critical to us because it's a mini bible but it's not just because it's a mini bible that it is critical to us i want to show you something else that is why the book of isaiah is so critical in in in defending against the wiles of the devil look look at this this is from uh the wikipedia the isaiah scroll designated one q lsa and also known as the great isaiah scroll is one of the seven dead sea scrolls that were first recovered by bedouin shepherds in 1947 from the gumran cave one the scroll is written in hebrew and listen to this and contains the entire book of isaiah from beginning to end apart from a few small damaged portions it is the oldest complete copy of the book of isaiah beginning approximately one being approximately 1 000 years older it's 1 000 years older than the oldest hebrew manuscripts known before the scrolls discovery it is notice this it is also notable

in being the only scroll from the gumran caves to be preserved almost in its entirety did you catch that isaiah is this mini it's a bible within the bible and the manuscript that we had when the dead sea scrolls were discovered it came a thousand years after the version that was discovered in the gumran cave and that version of isaiah was the entire book there were just a couple of sections that were damaged it was the entire book of of it was the entire scroll and it was preserved in its entirety and so what does that mean to us it means that we can withstand the wiles of the devil because we can take isaiah to say look we had a we had a manuscript of isaiah and then the dead sea scrolls were discovered one of the seven scrolls that was discovered was the book of isaiah in its entirety and it was a thousand years before the version of the manuscript that we had written in hebrew we had the manuscript in hebrew and when we compared it was the same thing so it proves that the book of isaiah the word has been successfully preserved so we have isaiah so now we can go to any from genesis to revelation we can go anywhere in the bible and as long as it reconciles with what we read in isaiah we know that it it's true and in fact when jesus christ was on the earth he quoted

extensively from isaiah he didn't come to earth and say what have you done the book of isaiah oh it's corrupted no he just quoted from isaiah and he he quoted extensively from three books isaiah psalms and deuteronomy those were the three books that he quoted from extensively and and we have the book of isaiah we have it and it's preserved in its entirety and look what david says about god's word that he has magnified his word even above his own name god is god because of his character and his character is magnified and amplified and expressed in his word so he is telling us now in isaiah here in verse 21 he says yeah you know what bring bring them near all these pagans all these gentile leaders and nations that want to persecute and destroy bring them bring them here and let them take counsel together let them let them collude with each other to see how they're going to answer here's the question who has declared this from ancient time that the the nations would collude together in fact i'm thinking of uh psalm psalm 2 where it says why did the heathen rage why do they rage and imagine a vain thing the kings of the earth set themselves and the rulers take counsel together against the lord and against his anointed so so he says the lord will laugh at them so so this is something that is written anciently god declared it all from

we read in deuteronomy 30 moses declared it

and all the prophets have declared it who has declared this from ancient time who has told it from that time haven't i the lord

and there is no god beside me a just god and a savior

there is none beside me so god is using his ability

to declare the future as

proof that he is the true god and a lot

of people think oh prophecy we don't

need prophecy too much prophecy

god is saying you need prophecy in order

to know that i'm the true god you need

prophecy in order to withstand the

claims of the nations

the false claims of the nation you need prophecy

and my word i exalt it higher than my own name

that's what god says so let's continue

in isaiah to see this theme

and we read this when we were in chapter 41

where god writes keep silence before me all islands

speaking to the nations here and let the people renew their strength let my

people renew their strength keep silent and let my people renew their strength

let them come near

then let them speak let us come near

together to judgment

who raised up the righteous man from the east so this again

from from chapter 41 god was speaking of cyrus

and he's saying who raised up the righteous

and it says man is in italics you can see but it's the righteous it's god's righteous judgment it's god's righteous act

and god is setting he speaks in righteousness and so this is an act that's done in righteousness to make the world right to restore judah to jerusalem who raised up the righteous from the east called him to his foot gave the nations before him and made him rule over kings he gave them as the dust to his sword and as driven stubble to his bow he pursued them and passed safely the casiris even by the way that he had not gone with his feet so it's a new path that he was able to take nobody could withstand him who has wrought and done it god is saying who who enabled this calling the generations from the beginning again this is god god says this is how you know that i'm god that i called the generation i called it i said that this was going to happen and so isaiah was able to say when when assyria was the superpower he was able to save the jew to judas panicking over um assyria this great superpower and isaiah was able to say don't worry about assyria your problem is going to be babylon babylon will crush assyria and then babylon is the problem for you but don't worry about that because god is going to raise up persia and persia will crush babylon so god is able to call the generations from the beginning he said i the lord the first and with the last i am he let them bring forth

and show us what shall happen this is this is the whole point of prophecy this god says he uses prophecy to prove that he is god let them bring forth and show us what shall happen come on let let us see what's going to happen and and and when he says this it's in the context that his people don't have to do anything they just need to wait and watch and see the salvation of the lord so so he he declares what's going to happen and then he does it he makes it come to pass so let them bring forth and show us what shall happen let them show the former things so bring out your former prophecies go let's go back a thousand years let's go back five thousand years and see what did the prophecy say and see how it's being unfolded today can you do that can your god do that let them show the former things what they be that we may consider them and know the latter end of them or declare us things to come show the things that are to come hereafter that we may know that you are gods this is what god says proves that he is god and if they want to worship another god if they want to bow down to a graven image let them bring prophecy let them show us the things that are going to happen hereafter that we may know that they are gods and they have to do it their god needs to do it yes do good or do evil that we may be dismayed and beholded

together

and then in chapter 43 a couple of weeks

ago we read let all the nations be gathered together

these nations that are powerful

that are wealthy that are mighty god

says let all the nations be gathered together

and let the people be assembled who among them

can declare this and show us former things

this is what god uses as proof positive that he is god who else can do this so gather

all the nations with all their gods and let us see their scriptures of prophecy that their god is going to bring something to pass that was declared anciently who among them instead of a god that's constantly changing his mind and abrogating what he said before because he doesn't he doesn't know what he's doing

this god knows what he's doing he says who among them can declare this and show us former things let them bring forth their witnesses

that they may be justified this is a time of judgment

and god is going to inquire and say hmm you worship this god do you

okay show me your scriptures written anciently

that declared what was going to happen that give you the legal right

the divine right to do all the slaughter that you're doing because if you can't produce that

you're worshiping a false god and god is going to charge you with blasphemy and he's going to act against you let them bring forth their witnesses that they may be justified

or let them hear and say it is truth and then in chapter 44 this is the constant theme that isaiah through that god through isaiah is drilling through us or to us and who as i shall call and shall declare it who can and and god is not boasting to say i'm just so wonderful that's not god's modus operandi what god is doing is he's strengthening the faith of his people this whole section of second isaiah begins with comfort you comfort you my people this whole section here that we begin in in chapter 44 says jacob you are my servant israel i've chosen you don't be afraid and what god is doing here is he's explaining why you don't have to be afraid because i'm the only god that can predict in advance what's going to happen in the affairs of men and then it happens exactly without any deviation it happens exactly as i say so this is why god is saying this he's not just saying it just because he's on an ego trip he's saying no look who who is i shall call and shall declare it and set it in order for me since i appointed the ancient people so the ancient people here being israel he appointed them and the things that are coming and shall come let them show unto them so these nations that are rising up to destroy not only judah but all the house of israel

the very fact of their rebellion and their their rising is proof the fact that these enemies are growing in power and are going to destroy god's chosen people this is proof that the god of the chosen people is god because he's the one that said this is exactly what i am i am going to raise up these people to punish my people and then i'm going to save my people and then punish those people for their uh extreme violence that they're just they're just going to take advantage of this opportunity and go wild and then i'm gonna punish them to teach them that these are the people that i've chosen and if you want to know me you're going to know me through them and that's what this book of isaiah is showing us and and we know the book of isaiah is preserved we had it we had the hebrew manuscript and then bedouin discovered this scroll in these these caves in gumran and that scroll that he discovered of isaiah fully intact was a thousand years older and it's the exact same scroll and it's a mini bible and so this is just fantastic this this is the word of god isaiah says in chapter 44 do not fear this this is why he's he's driving this point home around prophecy so that his people will not fear neither be afraid haven't i told you from that time and have declared it and then even christ when he was on earth

he said behold i have told you beforehand and he says fear them not because i'm god and proof that i'm god is my ability to tell you in advance what's going to happen you are even my witnesses is there a god beside me yeah there is no god i know not any and then here we are now in chapter we're going to be in chapter 46 today but let me just rush ahead a little bit we'll see in verses 9 and 10 where god says remember the former things of old for

i am god so go back and read the ancient scriptures

because i am god and there is none else i am god and there is none like me declar so what is it about god that makes him so unique when he says look i'm god there's nobody else like me what is it that we have to say like okay what are the attributes that god has that make him so unique the hindus have a god

or many gods muslims have god buddhists say they have a god everybody has a god so what is it about this god and even the people who say they have no god power is their god

money is their god sex is their god idols are their god everybody has a god what is it about the god of israel that there's no god like him

we don't have to wonder because he tells us

he says he says here i

am god and there is none like me and then he explains how is it that he's so unique

declaring the end from the beginning that's why jesus says i'm alpha in omega

i'm the first and the last i declared the end from the beginning and everything has happened exactly as i would say as exactly as i said so this is what makes the god of israel unique he declares the end from the beginning and from ancient times things that are not yet done saying my counsel shall stand and i will do all my pleasure so god has a counsel god has a plan and he's saying that his counsel shall stand and he will do all his pleasure so we'll come back to that when we get into isaiah 46 in isaiah 48. he says i have declared the former things from the beginning are you getting a sense that this is important to god how much he repeats this how much he exalts his own word above even his own name i have declared the former things from the beginning and they went forth out of my mouth and i showed them i didn't abrogate them i showed them so so we have two different types of god the god that says something and then it's not quite working out the way that he said so he abrogates it cancels it and comes up with something else that kind of suits what's actually happening now and she's trying to figure it out as he goes because it actually doesn't exist it's imagination or you have the god that confidently says from the beginning this is what's going to happen and then it happens exactly as he said this is what he's saying this is this is who he is i've declared the former things from the

beginning and they went forth out of my mouth and i showed them and i did them suddenly and they came to pass no obligation i declared it i showed it i did them suddenly and they came to pass in chapter 55 so shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth it shall not return to me void when i speak whatever i've said it's gonna it's going to be performed there's no way that this god will say something and then it's not performed and you know this is why we have to get prophecy right we have to be concerned about prophecy and we have to get it right so that we are actually declaring what god said if we mix up prophecy and we start saying things that are wrong then we are actually attacking the very root of god's argument that he is the god of israel and israel must not fear because he has this ability to declare declare from the end from the beginning the end but if we mess up his declaration so that the things that he says don't actually come to pass we're actually working against god and we're destroying the foundation of his argument that he is god and what he wants us to take to his people to tell them not to fear but rather to repent and turn to this god so we need to get this right we cannot be declaring false things he says so shall my word be that goes

forth out of my mouth it shall not return to me void but it shall accomplish that which i please that which i please so we need to know what is god's pleasure what is it that he wants and it shall prosper in the thing where to i sent it it's a very clear statement that god is making over and over again so let's go back now to chapter 45 and verse 21 he says here tell you and bring them near yes let them take counsel together who has declared this from ancient time who has told it from that time haven't i the lord and there is no god else beside me a just god and a savior there is none beside me now go on to verse 22. look so he says all of that so that he can say this look unto me look unto me this this is the message that we must take to judah and to the house of israel look unto me don't don't be making alliances so here um in isaiah's time the kings were thinking of making alliances to fight against the king of assyria and the message no don't make any alliances look unto god look unto me and be you saved all the ends of the earth for i am god and there is none else now i just want to highlight this ends of the earth because it's kind of doesn't make sense the whole time he's talking to jacob the whole time he's talking to israel

isaiah says that this is really a message specifically to israel and more specifically to jerusalem to judah and jerusalem and so now after declaring to israel the seed of jacob not to be afraid don't be afraid and the reason you don't need to be afraid is all of this that's happening around you with the nations i actually prophesied it i i told you anciently that it would happen but also what i told you anciently is that i will come and save you and that's why you shouldn't be afraid and so now in verse 22 for him to suddenly change the subject and say look unto me and be you saved all the ends of the earth for i am god and there is none else it's like this doesn't make sense because the whole argument is i am god and there is none else therefore don't be afraid of the nations but israel look unto me and i'm going to come and save israel well the only way this can make sense is that all the ends of the earth means israel that he's saying look unto me and be you saved israel having been scattered and enslaved throughout all the ends of the earth for i am god and there is none else and that's exactly what he says in mark 13 as well as matthew 24 and i think it's luke 21 in several places but let's read it here in mark 13. he says and then when he comes to act when he comes to save and then shall he send his angels and shall gather together his

elect that is israel we proved uh from uh isaiah that his elect is the house of jacob and shall gather together his elect from the four winds and from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven so he's saying here so when he says here look unto me he's still speaking to the house of jacob so the whole argument is to the house of jacob now he's saying to them look unto me and be you saved house of jacob in all the ends of the earth i'm your god so you're going to be punished you're going to be scattered to all the ends of the earth and then i'm going to come and i'm going to save you and i'm going to i'm going to send my angels and they're going to gather you from the uttermost parts of the earth he says i have so the so the argument never shifts to god's suddenly going to save all the gentiles the gentiles have to acknowledge that god has chosen israel and that's what isaiah is all about verse 23 i have sworn by myself the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness so we just had that whole section that we just covered on how god magnifies his word even above his own name and so now that we understand just how important god's word is to him he says i have sworn by myself the word has gone out of my mouth in righteousness i'm never going to abrogate what i've said the word has gone out of my mouth in righteousness

and shall not return it's it's gone i've said it that unto me every knee shall bow and every tongue shall swear and and so god is saying i will be known as the god of israel and the whole earth is going to acknowledge that and every tongue will it will confess that god is in israel and every knee is going to bow to this god not their false gods and of course this is a famous passage that's quoted in philippians when god says he's exalted christ and given him a name which is above every name that at the name of jesus that is god saves at the name of god saves every knee should bow and of things in heaven and things in earth and things under the earth this is also quoted in romans paul quotes it in romans not just philippians because isaiah was their bible right they had the torah and they had the prophets and they had the writings but isaiah is like the most heavily quoted text because it's a mini bible so here paul writes for it is written it's written in isaiah as i live says the lord every knee shall bow to me and every tongue shall confess to god so again isaiah every time i can get these opportunities to show how heavily quoted isaiah is well i'll show that isaiah was their scripture in the early church verse 24 surely shall one say in the lord have i righteousness and strength

even to him shall men come so again it's not a gentile person that is saying in the lord i have righteousness and strength and then suddenly everybody comes to him it is a jew it is a somebody of the house of judah or the house of israel and then the rest of the gentiles say we have heard that god is with you and we want to follow you and take us to zion so that we may learn the ways of god and that's what god established from the beginning that this would be a peculiar nation and the rest of the nations would have to look to this nation he says surely shall one say in the lord so when he when he moves to save these people then they'll say in the lord i have righteousness and strength even to him shall men come that is gentiles will come to him and we see that through the rest of isaiah and other texts and all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed so this is something that god has written from from ancient times that there there will be those who are incensed and that is they're they're burning with fury over these people and i think i think we've seen that i think we're very familiar with that incendiary uh um uh narrative and and uh rhetoric that is that leveled against uh the jews and god is saying that these same people will be ashamed these same people will

be ashamed of what they've done and what they've said and they're going to have to acknowledge that god is glorified in israel verse 25 in the lord shall all the seed of israel be justified and shall glory so again you can see here from verse 25 that never in this passage did god ever deviate from his argument to say all of a sudden all mankind is everybody's just he's the god of mankind the god of israel he stopped being the god of mankind in genesis chapter 12. prior to genesis 12 we could very clearly make the argument that god is the god of mankind but then beginning in genesis 12 he stops being the god of mankind and he becomes the god of abraham and then specifically he becomes the god of abraham and isaac and then he becomes the god of abraham isaac and jacob and christ says he's the god of the living not the god of the dead so these men are going to come back to life and he's going to be their god forever and he's the god of their seed forever so if you are not in the line of abraham isaac and jacob then god is not your god you have to repent you have to be grafted in to israel there's no other way because he is the god of abraham isaac and jacob forever forever and when the new jerusalem comes down it comes down with 12 gates check it out in revelation 21. it comes down with 12 gates three on

each side and each of those gates are named after the tribes of israel so there's no way in if you want to bring your offering if you want to come and worship the god of of of abraham isaac and jacob you can't access god unless you come in through one of the tribes because god is not the god of the world he's the god of abraham isaac and jacob and that's so he says here in the lord shall all the seed of israel be justified and shall glory so everybody that's angry with the seed of israel will be ashamed the seed of israel will be justified and they will glory in the lord that's chapter 45 and then chapter 46 is a short chapter so let's just continue with chapter 46. he says here baal bows down bell bells down meebo stoops so these are two gods of babylon so these are chief gods in babylon he says their idols were upon the beasts and upon the cattle your carriages were heavy laden and they are a burden to the weary beast so what is the saying so in babylon they have their chief gods they worship these chief gods they make these big idols and then to transport these idols to you know the place of worship a special ceremony they're so big and heavy that they need these beasts these cattle to bring the idols from one place to another and it's a

it's because they're very heavy it's a real burden to the beast that this is real work to move this heavy big idol from one place to another he says they stoop they bow down together so the burden of these idols is so heavy that the animals are stooping they're bowing down together they could not deliver the burden but themselves are gone into captivity so isaiah is kind of laughing at the idolaters here to say that they're making this big song and dance and big effort to move their god from one place to another the god is so heavy that is burdening the beast and yet these beasts that are doing all this work to try to move transport the gods when these people are attacked they have no ability so you know when cyrus comes in or or whoever they're having to face here they have no ability to withstand the the opponent so if their god is so powerful and it's such a burden why isn't he able why isn't he powerful enough to protect them from captivity so they're worshiping these gods these gods that are so heavy laden and yet the god has no power that's what isaiah is saying here um let's just go back to judges because this is significant for us uh in judges joash the father of uh gibeon he says and josh said unto all that stood against him so this is within israel that he was against ba'al but there were israelites that stood

against him

and so he said this to all the

israelites that stood against him

will you plead for ba'all will you save him

he that will plead for him let him be put to death

while it is yet mourning if he that is if ba'al

be a god let him plead for himself because one has cast down his altar so so

if we cast down the altars of ba'al why are you opposing if baal is a god let him plead for himself why are you pleading for him let him plead for himself

and i think the modern equivalent of that today is all of these christians who are pleading for

allah and clearly we can see here that allah

is the arabian moon god also known as ba'al so allah is the arabian version of ba'al

khubal and molek muslims will react with denial when you point out that this was the god of the muhammad of the tribe that muhammad was born into and children were sacrificed to this demon idol that is why the idol has its hands in the position with fire beneath it

and so clearly all of these nations are worshiping ba'al they call him different things but it's the same worship and we have christian churches today

who are going to defend baal

well this ancient worship and and

clearly we can see the

symbolism that has carried down through

the generations that leaves traces

of where this this moon worship all

comes from so there were people who worshipped the sun and the moon and some made the sun the dominant god and the moon was the the cohort in other cases like in arabia where the sun is so punishing they flip it and they make the moon god the dominant god and the sun is the cohort but it's all the same male female perversion and false worship and again we have christians christians who are going to stand up and defend allah and this is this is no different this is this is no you know same song different verse we thought it was would get better but it's going to get worse and so what we see here is this uh worship of baal and uh the people of god defending ba'al and so josh said unto all that stood against him will you plead for baal will you save him he that will plead for him let him be put to death while it is yet mourning if he be a god let him plead for himself and in fact if he be a god he'll defend his anybody who's defending him from death because one cast down his own altar so let let all take care of this and in fact isaiah said in chapter 41 same thing he says for those who are turning to this idolatry of baal worship behold you are of nothing your work is nothing an abomination is he that chooses you an abomination is something that god abhors so when somebody chooses ba'al or chooses to defend ba'al

god says through isaiah this is

an abomination carrying on in chapter 46 verse 3

he says hearken unto me o house of jacob he's saying

look at these people with their gods and the effort that they go through to try

to prop up their gods

to prop up their gods

their god can't do anything they have to do everything for their god

and god says look hearken unto me a house of jacob

and all the remnant of the house of israel

which are born by me from the ballet so this goes all the way back to chapter 44 where he says i've chosen you from the womb you're born by me but but isaiah here is doing something very interesting that the false worshipers have to bear their god

they have to carry their god but what isaiah is saying here of the true god he carries israel he bears israel so all of this effort that they're going through to bear their god and their god can't do anything their god is not a savior

here god is saying look i carry you hearken unto me or house of jacob and all the remnants of the house of israel again the argument is never out to the gentiles

he stayed this is an exclusive argument to the house of israel

which are born by me from the belly which are carried

from the womb and even to your old age i am he god is saying look i'm the one right from the womb to the tomb i'm carrying you i'm looking after you i've chosen you

so hearken unto me and even to your old age i am he

even to the hoary hairs will i carry you you don't have to carry me i'll carry you i have made and i will bear i'm going to bury you even i will carry and will deliver you and here in jeremiah 5 jeremiah is speaking again to judah but also out to israel even though israel was taken captive he's speaking to israel in future he says hear now this o foolish people and without understanding notice he repeats what isaiah said which christ also quoted foolish people without understanding which have eyes and see not which have ears and hear not and and they were in that state the isaiah says until they receive the punishment that they deserve and then god will act god says here throughout jeremiah fear you not me says the lord will you not tremble at my presence which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree that it cannot pass it so god is the one that all that sand he's the one that decreed this and though the waves thereof tossed themselves yet can they not prevail so the the sand is just persistent and and no matter how much the waves toss themselves the sand is persistent and god said i'm the one who does that and you should listen to me though they roar yet can they not pass over it so as much as the waves act up they can't shift the sand but this people

has a revolting and a rebellious heart this is how god describes his people they have the people of god and i think in this the god of of the quran allah and the true god yahweh agree that this is a people that have a revolting and a rebellious heart the difference is the god of the quran says that these people must be destroyed they must be completely exterminated they must be wiped out yahweh says i've chosen these people i've chosen them from the womb and i will purge them of their iniquity and i will restore them and i will i will save them and i will restore them and the whole world will come to know me through them big difference very big difference and and the god of the bible yahweh says i declared this anciently that i'm going to raise up a people that are going to hate my people and are going to punish them because of their revolting and rebellious heart so they're going to be empowered by an ideology that tells them to hate this people and instructs them to destroy this people but they will not succeed because i will act and save but this people has a revolting and a rebellious heart they are revolted and gone neither say they in their heart let us now fear the lord our god they just don't say this that gives rain both the former and the latter in its season he reserves unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest

so here malachi sees the same thing in chapter 3 he says i am the lord i change not therefore you sons of jacob are not destroyed so god is saying look because i've made this covenant and i don't abrogate my covenants i never break my word i never break my promises it's only because of that because i've exalted my word above even my own name and it's only because of that that you sons of jacob are not destroyed you deserve to be destroyed but because of my word and my promise to abraham you will not be destroyed because i don't i don't change when i make a when i make a commitment i'm all in that's what god is saying back to isaiah 46 to whom will you liken me he says to whom will you make me equal so so who can we equate with god god says there's none like me nowhere you can search the entire earth search everybody's god you will not find a god like me who declares the end from the beginning and from ancient times that which is not yet that which shall be saying my counsel my purposes shall stand so god here in verse 5 says to whom will you liken me and make me equal and compare me that we may be alike and remember uh satan his desire is to be like the most high so he's going to deceive people into worshiping false gods that they believe are equal to yahweh are higher than yahweh and god is saying

here's how you can tell the difference i exalt my word even above my own name to whom will you liken me and make me equal and compare me that we may be alike they lavish gold out of the bag and weigh silver in in the balance and hire a goldsmith and he makes it a god so they go through a lot of effort to prop up their images and to prop up their god and to make it look really spectacular and in this day and age you might even look at their their places of worship where they really knock themselves out and make it spectacular to affect the psyche that you look at this and you're like wow this must be a great god if this is such a great building so they really knock themselves out to make this impression and hire a goldsmith and he makes it a god they fall down yeah they worship excuse me so this this uh act of worship god is not impressed so he says here um they bear where was i so yes they knocked themselves out to to back up these images and to make an effect on the on the human psyche and they make it a god they fall down yeah they worship they bear him upon the shoulder so this is what god is saying here that he will bear israel but these people they bear their false gods so he says here they bear him upon the shoulder they carry him so god carries israel

they carry their false god so they have to do all the work where with israel israel in fact israel rebels against god but god still acts to save them whereas the false gods can do nothing because they're not true gods so the people have to bear their false god the people have to do all the work of the false god they bear him upon the shoulder they carry him and set him in his place and he stands from his place shall he not remove yet one shall cry unto him yet can he not answer nor save him out of his trouble so this is what god says think about this this is the difference between god the true god and the false gods remember this and show yourselves men bring it again to mind o you transgressors so the false gods are gonna if they have any kind of prophecies it's more like self-fulfilling prophecy it's instructions you have to do this you have to go out and kill and slaughter and bring this to pass god the true god says i will carry you even though you're rebelling against me i'm going to act to save you and you watch and see my salvation big difference big difference so remember this and show yourselves man stand up to the persecution knowing that your god will save you your god will rescue you bring it again to mind oh you transgressors so god does not mince words his people are transgressors but he's

going to wash them and make them clean remember the former things of old for i am god and there is none else he's making it very clear now i am god there is none else and there is none like me and this is again we're going to go back to deuteronomy with this when he says here remember the former things of old we go all the way back to moses and that's exactly what moses said to them remember the days of old consider the years of many generations ask your father and he'll show you your elders and they will tell you so this is something that it was written anciently and that's what god says here that's what he means when he says he declares the end from the beginning in other words we can look into genesis and see the seeds of revelation what happens in revelation is announced in genesis he declares the end from the beginning the very things that the book of genesis opens with are the very things that he concludes with in revelation because he declares the end from the beginning and that's why you see the tree of life in the garden of eden we see the trees of life in the book of revelation garden of eden opens with a marriage ceremony it ends with the book of revelation ends with a marriage ceremony it's all the very beginning it's declared that god is going to redeem the woman revelation is all about the redemption of the true woman

it's all he declares the end from the beginning and from ancient times things that are not yet done saying my counsel shall stand and this is the challenge this is this is the exact challenge that god gives to the false gods what's your plan what's your counsel where is it written where was it declared anciently because that's what yahweh does he says his plan his counsel his purpose he has a purpose specifically to do with israel and he says my purpose to do with israel shall stand and i will do all my pleasure so the nations are going to resist god they don't like god's pleasure because god's pleasure is to exalt israel god's pleasure is to be glorified in israel and they're going to resist it so he says my counsel my plan my purpose will stand and i will do my pleasure nobody's going to resist me in psalm 33 11 he says the counsel of the lord stands forever so we better figure out what is the lord's plan because it stands forever the thoughts of his heart to all generations nobody can stop this in proverbs 19 verse 21 he says there are many devices in a man's heart nevertheless the counsel of the lord that shall stand when god has a plan that's it nobody can reverse it nobody can frustrate it god does exactly what he plan what he savs he will do so he he does intervene in the affairs of mankind

and i think a lot of people don't understand that you can't understand the world today unless you understand isaiah unless you understand jeremiah ezekiel micah malachi zechariah all these prophets they tell us what the lord's counsel is and now we can look out into the world all this migrant crisis that we see all the who who's where's the money coming from that all these migrants are able to move from country to country we're seeing this mass migration it sort of gives us a hint of what it what the world will look like when god gathers his elect from all the four corners of the earth and brings them to the promised land this is a counterfeit and this is actually the the act the devil's work actually to bring down the house of israel and the house of judah that that when it's time for these nations to go to war you know this this was the assyrian tactic this is exactly what the assyrians would do is they would just mix up nations so much that the nations would be demoralized and they would have no national pride and there's no way then that they would have anything to fight for or even have people to fight for them because their peoples their populations were so tribally mixed up that they couldn't gather enough people to stand up for them and so if there were ever god forbid but you know it's coming there's no there's

no evidence of a sustainable peace in the world but when world war three comes these nations that have tribal factions within them they will not be able to have an army that's actually going to fight for their nation they'll actually be destroyed from within that those tribes that are loyal to their home nations will fight for their home nations from within and these nations will collapse and that's what god says he's going to believe that times of the gentiles are coming so that means the israelite nations have to collapse and when the israelite nations collapse judah that is the nation of israel today will have no external support and they're surrounded by their enemies they're surrounded by people who hate them by people who believe that they have to be annihilated as we saw earlier the chief duty of every muslim is to annihilate the jews and so all of this we're seeing that the world is changing but if you don't know the counsel of god you can't interpret what you're seeing around you and in fact you may end up supporting the very thing that is opposing god and god's people he says so let's go back to isaiah 46 he declares the end from the beginning so we have to search this book of isaiah to see what is it that he's declaring he declares the end from the beginning and from ancient times

the things that are not yet done saying my purpose shall stand and i will do all my pleasure and then he says here now in verse 46 and we come back now to cyrus so all of that was a buildup around the the act that he's going to do of calling cyrus so this is where he says he declares the answer the affairs of men are ordered by god nothing happens unless he allows it so he says here now in verse 11 of chapter 46 that he calls a ravenous bird from the east so that ravenous bird is king cyrus he calls a ravenous bird from the east the man that executes my council from a far country so his purpose is to restore judah to jerusalem despite the power of babylon this very very powerful nation is irrelevant god's purpose which shall stand is for judah to return to jerusalem and rebuild the temple and as i said last week cyrus is just a type of the messiah so yes he's god's anointed here but he's a type and the way isaiah writes you see that he's talking about cyrus but he's also talking about christ and the ultimate salvation that will come to judah so god calls a ravenous bird from the east the man that executes his purpose from a far country yes i have spoken it i will also bring it to pass i have purposed it i will also do it so this is what we have to understand about yahweh that when he speaks he means it

and when he has a purpose he does it and the most powerful nations could all gather together it's irrelevant he does what he says he will do and so the rising of the kingdom of persia and the specifically cyrus was his act in order to bring down babylon in order to release judah to go back to jerusalem hearken unto me you stout-hearted so god god calls his people stout-hearted that's the same thing that jeremiah was grappling with that jeremiah says they're stubborn same thing that malachi saw so he says here hearken unto me you stout hearted that are far from righteousness so god is not saying that these people are so wonderful that these people are so beautiful they're such righteous people and that's why he's chosen them no he's saying he's chosen them because of abraham he's chosen them because of isaac he's chosen them because of jacob and so they're chosen and so even though they're stout hearted they're still chosen and god is doing all of this because they're chosen and so he's telling them hearken unto me you stout hearted that are far from righteousness so yeah they're far from righteousness but that doesn't mean that they're not chosen and malachi says that here in in chapter 3 he says in verse 13 your words have been stout against me that these people are stout hearted people your words have been stout against me says the lord

yet you say what have we spoken so much against you you have said it is vain to serve god and what prophet is it that we have kept his ordinance that we have walked mournfully before the lord of hosts you're saying it doesn't make any sense for us to to suffer for god and god says malachi 3 verse 11 and i will rebuke the devourer for your sakes so even though you are stout hearted i am still going to act in your favor i will rebuke the devourer for your sakes and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground neither shall your vine castor fruit before the time in the field says the lord of hosts and all nations shall call you blessed malachi sees the same thing that isaiah saw that's why isaiah is not talking to the nations isaiah is talking to israel and he's going to god says he's going to gather israel from all four corners of the earth and all nations are going to call israel blessed because they've been chosen by god and who are we to argue with god this is this is god's plan this is how god will actually save the nations but he wants to have this kingdom of priests and that's why when christ was buried and then was resurrected went to heaven and then he came back to earth and he he was with his disciples for 40 days instructing them but when he was instructing them in acts 1 peter asked christ is this the time you're going to restore

the kingdom to israel and christ said what a crazy idea i know i never taught you any such thing he didn't say that he said no it's not for you to know the time but all nation nations will call israel blessed that the kingdom is the kingdom of israel and israel will be restored and all nations shall call you blessed for you shall be a delightsome land says the lord of hosts all the prophets are saying the same thing and this is why if you love muslims you need to bring them the truth of the bible because their text who they say muhammad is you know all these all these prophets teach the same thing uh muhammad actually teaches the exact opposite of what the prophets teach muhammad teaches his followers that they must slaughter the house of judah they must slaughter the house of judah and sell and completely eliminate them in order to bring about the end it's the exact opposite of what the prophets teach isaiah 46 13 i bring near my righteousness it shall not be far off and my salvation shall not tarry i will place salvation in zion oh i thought i will play salvation all over the world i i salvation is all over the world no this is what the text says let's read it carefully let's read it together i will place salvation in zion that's where salvation will be

and all the nations will have to come to zion for salvation i will place salvation in zion for israel my glory israel is god's glory so he is going to be glorified in israel and that's where salvation will be and all the nations will come to zion and that will glorify israel which will glorify god and let's see that in zechariah he says and so i believe that's the last verse of 46 but here let's just reinforce what god said to isaiah by looking at zechariah here in zechariah he says thus says the lord of hosts there shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of jerusalem that is mind-blowing that is mind-blowing how can that be when we understand the hatred that is going to be levied against this people that this is just um this is an amazing prophecy that there will yet be old men and old women dwelling in the streets of jerusalem foreign foreign and the scriptures tell us jerusalem is going to be surrounded by armies and zechariah 14 tells us that the jerusalem is going to be ravished it's going to be just it's going to wholesale slaughter god says that those who dwell in judea at this time run for your life but zechariah also tells us that god is going to act and he's going to say zechariah 12. but here in zechariah 8 despite all the slaughter that is going to the desolation that's going to be

upon this people zechariah looks into the future and he says there shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of jerusalem so the focal point of the earth is jerusalem and we can't understand what is going on in the you can't understand the migration crisis the migration movement the the u.n global compact for safe orderly and regular migration you can't understand this unless we understand that this is all about jerusalem and how do we get all the nations to hate jerusalem unless we weed out the value system of the western nations the judeo-christian nations how do we read out their dilute their value system replace their value system so that all the nations can agree together that jerusalem the people of the jews in jerusalem must be rooted out and yet zechariah says there shall yet be old men and old women dwelling in the streets of jerusalem and every man with his staff in his hand for very age in other words they're totally safe no risk of terrorism no risk of assassination no risk of murder no risk of harm they'll just be able to grow old and the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls this is this is what isaiah sees that the streets of the city are going to be full

of boys and girls there's going to be such joy in the in the streets and the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof again totally safe they'll just be able to play children old people walking no full safety of god's people thus says the lord of hosts if it be marvelous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days should it also be marvelous in my eyes says the lord and it shall come to pass that as you were a curse among the gentiles among the heathen among the the nations o house of judah and house of israel not just the house of judah god's going to restore the house of israel as well as you were a curse among the nations o house of judah and house of israel so will i save you and you shall be a blessing fear not but let your hands be strong all the prophets are seeing the same thing he goes on to say for thus says the lord so the same way that isaiah keeps saying fear don't be afraid don't be afraid zechariah is saying the same thing malachi's saying the same thing jeremiah was saying the same thing don't be afraid for thus says the lord of hosts as i thought to punish you when your fathers provoked me to wrath says the lord of hosts and i repented not so again have i thought in these days to do well unto jerusalem and to the

house of judah do not fear now the the whole conflict with jerusalem let's just look here at this um uh text or or um submission article in in uh again this is in uh wikipedia uh actually no this is um let's see what this the source of this is jerusalem center for public affairs the jerusalem center for public affairs who are the palestinians so who are the palestinians that are forcing their way in to um who are the palestinians that are forcing their way in to jerusalem here this article says yet again palestinian leaders are claiming that the palestinians are descended from the canaanite people who lived in the land of canaan or kanan before the israelite tribes settled in it so their claim to jerusalem their claim to judah is saying we were here first we are descendants of the palestinians saying we are descendants of the canaanite people and they lived in israel before the the jews moved in there no less than the chairman of the palestinian authority mahmoud abbas made that claim in germany no one was taken aback by his remarks or questioned him so why is this significant it's again it's significant because we have to ask ourselves what is the lord's counsel and what is god doing and so here

in zechariah we just read that judah must not be afraid why because in the end time there's going to be such conflict leveled against these people about the land and so let's be clear if they're going to say that they are descendants of canaan well that's very interesting here in exodus 3 verse 17 god says declaring the the things anciently and i have said i will bring you up out of the affliction of egypt unto the land of the canaanites oh you're saying you're descended from the canaanites god says he's bringing the house of israel and the israelites from egypt unto the land of canaanites and the hittites and the amorites and the perizzites and the hivites and the jebusites unto a land flowing with milk and honey so he's giving them the land of canaan verse chapter 33 verse 2 and i will send an angel before you and i god will drive out the canaanite the amorite the hittite the perizzites the hivite and the jebusite chapter 34 verse 11 observe you that which i command you this day behold i drive out before you the amorite and the canaanite and the hittite and the perizzite and the hivite and the jebusite joshua 3 verse 10 and joshua said hereby vou shall know that the living god is among you and that he will without fail drive out from before you the canaanites and the hittites and the hivites and the

parasites and the gurgashites and the amorites and the jebusites joshua 1563 as for the jebusites the inhabitants of jerusalem these are descendants of canaan the children of judah could not drive them out because they disobeyed god instead of doing what god says they couldn't they were unfaithful and so they could not drive them out but the jebusites dwell with the children of judah at jerusalem unto this day so if you want to claim that you are descendants of the canaanites and that the land is yours the only reason you're there is because the jude the house of judah the children of judah were disobedient and god was not with them so they couldn't drive out and so the jebusites dwell with the children of judah at jerusalem as of this day so let me just fix a reference here so clearly claiming that you're a canaanite or descended from canaanites and that's why you want to be in the land not a good idea that's actually going against yahweh the god of the bible and here in judges 1 21 he says and the children of benjamin did not drive out the jebusites that inhabited jerusalem but the jebusites dwell with the children of benjamin in jerusalem unto this day and in chapter 3 of judges and the children of israel dwelt among the canaanites hittites and amorites and parasites and hivites and jebusites so they were supposed to drive those people out of

the land but because they were unfaithful they didn't do that and so uh god is clear though i'm going to finish here on this zechariah 14 we've read it before i'll just read it again zechariah 14 verse 21 yes every pot in jerusalem when when god finally acts and brings salvation he says every pot in jerusalem and in iudah shall be holiness unto the lord of hosts it's going to be spectacular everything is going to be upgraded of the highest standard is going to be a spectacular city when god comes and he says every pot shall be holiness unto the lord of hosts and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them so everyone's going to come and and and take of them and see therein so there's going to be these meals that are made and everything's going to be holy and in that day when god comes there shall be no more the canaanites in the house of the lord of hosts so so god is very very clear he has given this land he's taken away from canaan and we have to go back to genesis to understand why but he's taken it away from canaan and he's given it to his people and so to say i'm a canaanite and this is my land uh be careful because the only way you can be in this land when god comes is if you repent and you're grafted into israel because god is saying no way

palestinians canaanites jebusites perizzites hivites hittites amorites none of them will be in jerusalem when jesus christ returns only the house of israel in the house of judah and those that are grafted in so god is saying to judah and and to israel fear not look to me hearken unto me look at the text study the text see see what i've declared because everything that i've said i'm bringing my purpose to pass and so we as christians we need to study this text understand our role in all of this be able to look out on the world scene and see that god is bringing his purpose to pass isaiah calls it his strange act habakkuk calls it his unbelievable his unbelievable work a work that we won't believe jesus himself says it's going to be a short work but it's his work and so let's understand this let's declare it what a mighty god we serve praise him jesus christ