

GOD COMMANDS ALL SINNERS TO REPENT AND BELIEVE

**** AS SEEN IN ISAIAH 45:20-25 ****

We zero in on **Isaiah 45:22** ~ *Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.*

Who is speaking?

It is God -- the one, true and living God. And He speaks, not in a suggesting tone but in a commanding tone! He is giving a command here!! Implication: All who hear this command has a duty to obey. All who hear this command has a warrant to respond.

What is the command?

To look to God! What does it mean to look to God? What is involved in this looking? It involves turning your eyes away from whatever you were looking and fixing your eyes now on Him. It means to turn from your sins, from your self-devised ways of salvation, from a deluded infatuation with your supposed merits. It means to believe in God, to trust in God, to rely on God, to submit to God.

Look = believe? In **Numbers 21** - the incident of the bronze serpent, the Israelites were called to look to the bronze serpent and be healed. Jesus quoted this incident in **John 3**, draws a parallel to what He will be doing in the coming days, and said this: *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.* When Old Testament Israelites look at the bronze serpent lifted up, they shall be healed. When sinners now look the lifted up (crucified) Saviour, they shall have eternal life!

What's the result of obeying the command?

Look to Me and be saved. Salvation is promised to the person who looks. If you look, you will be saved. If you don't look, then you will not be saved. Is it Biblical to say this? Based on **Isaiah 45:22**, definitely! In fact, we can say that whether you will be saved or not depends on whether you will look or not!!

A New Testament version of this is found in **John 1:12** ~ *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.* You are a child of God (saved) only if you receive Christ, if you receive in His name. Salvation is promised to any and to all who receive Jesus.

What 'salvation' is being talked about here? **Verse 17** says this: *But Israel shall be saved by the LORD with an everlasting salvation; you shall not be ashamed or disgraced forever and ever.* It is not some 'temporary' or 'physical' deliverance. What's at stake here is salvation as we understand it in the New Testament sense == salvation from sin, everlasting salvation.

Who is commanded to look and be saved?

All you ends of the earth! Every sinner everywhere is commanded to look to God and be saved. This means everyone has a duty to repent and believe the Gospel. This means God promises salvation to everyone upon the condition that they repent and believe the Gospel. This is what **Isaiah 45:22** says! It may stick like a sore thumb in your reformed logic, but reformed logic must be subject to the Scripture. You believe in the final authority of the Bible, don't you?

This call to look is universal. This command to look and be saved is indiscriminate. All sinners everywhere are included. Again, note that there is no qualifying terms before the word 'sinner', before the phrase "all you ends of the earth". It is not "all you ends of the earth who are elected" or "awakened sinners" or "prepared seekers". It is sinners, it is all you ends of the earth – just that!

Allow me, at this point, to quote John Calvin in his Commentary on this verse:

He invites the whole world to the hope of salvation, and at the same time brings a charge of ingratitude against all the nations, who, being devoted to their errors, purposely avoided, as it were, the light of life; for what could be more base than to reject deliberately their own salvation? He therefore commands all "to look to him," and to the precept adds a promise, which gives it greater weight, and confirms it more than if he had made use of a bare command.

And ye shall be saved. Thus we have a striking proof of the calling of the Gentiles; because the Lord, after having broken down “the partition-wall” (Ephesians 2:14) which separated the Jews from the Gentiles, invites all without exception to come to him. Besides, we are here reminded also what is the true method of obtaining salvation; that is, when we “look to God,” and turn to him with our whole heart. Now, we must “look to him” with the eye of faith, so as to embrace the salvation which is exhibited to all through Christ; for “God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him may not perish.” (John 3:16.)

For I am God. When he exhorts all the ends of the earth, he at the same time shews that all men have hitherto wandered, and have not “looked to” the true God; for where infidelity exists, there cannot be a distinct looking towards God, so as to distinguish him from empty masks. In a word, he declares that the ruin of all has been occasioned by their being driven about by their wicked inventions, and thus revolting from the true God, from the knowledge of whom certain and eternal salvation flows. The Lord therefore stretches out his hand, in order to rescue all and point out the method of obtaining salvation.

What does the command to look include?

Verse 20-21 ~ *Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, you who have escaped from the nations. They have no knowledge, who carry the wood of their carved image, and pray to a god that cannot save. Tell and bring forth your case; yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, a just God and a Savior; there is none besides Me.*

What’s this? Persuasion!! God is reasoning with these sinners, persuading them of the folly of not worshipping Him. Is there any point in reasoning and persuading dead sinners? God just did it here, so what do you think?

From **Isaiah 45:22**, we see God commanding everyone to look to Him, promising salvation if they do. As His church, we imitate Him by preaching to everyone that they are commanded to repent and believe in Jesus, and if they do, they will be saved. This we do, no more, no less. So God help us!