

Isaiah 45:1-13;

New American Standard Version

¹ Thus says the LORD to Cyrus His anointed,
Whom I have taken by the right hand,
To subdue nations before him
And to loose the loins of kings;
To open doors before him so that gates will not be shut:
² “I will go before you and make the rough places smooth;
I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their iron bars.
³ “I will give you the treasures of darkness
And hidden wealth of secret places,
So that you may know that it is I,
The LORD, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name.
⁴ **“For the sake of Jacob My servant,
And Israel My chosen one,
I have also called you by your name;
I have given you a title of honor
Though you have not known Me.**
⁵ **“I am the LORD, and there is no other;
Besides Me there is no God.
I will gird you, though you have not known Me;**
⁶ That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun
That there is no one besides Me.
I am the LORD, and there is no other,
⁷ **The One forming light and creating darkness,
Causing well-being and creating calamity;
I am the LORD who does all these.**
⁸ “Drip down, O heavens, from above,
And let the clouds pour down righteousness;
Let the earth open up and salvation bear fruit,
And righteousness spring up with it.
I, the LORD, have created it.
⁹ **“Woe to the one who quarrels with his Maker—**
An earthenware vessel among the vessels of earth!
Will the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you doing?’
Or the thing you are making say, ‘He has no hands?’
¹⁰ “Woe to him who says to a father, ‘What are you begetting?’
Or to a woman, ‘To what are you giving birth?’”
¹¹ Thus says the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker:
“Ask Me about the things to come concerning My sons,
And you shall commit to Me the work of My hands.
¹² “It is I who made the earth, and created man upon it.
I stretched out the heavens with My hands
And I ordained all their host.
¹³ **“I have aroused him in righteousness
And I will make all his ways smooth;
He will build My city and will let My exiles go free,
Without any payment or reward,” says the LORD of hosts.**

This entire passage is included for context, and certain parts are highlighted for your attention.

***“I believe in ...
...Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...”***

Observation (What does it say?):

What do you notice in this passage?

- *Underline actions or attributes of God that show He is Almighty.*
- *Circle actions or attributes of God that show He is Creator.*

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

How do the characteristics of Almighty and Creator relate to each other?

Is He Almighty because He is Creator?

Is He Creator because He is Almighty?

Is there some other connection between the two?

How does each (Almighty, Creator) relate to the fact that He is Father?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

Which of those characteristics do you most relate to? Why?

Which seems the most remote or the least relevant to your life? Why?

Additional questions for thought and discussion:

- The Creed mentions Father, Almighty, and Creator. Does the order matter? Is that the order in which we begin to know God? What if the order was switched around (Creator, Father, Almighty; or Almighty, Father, Creator; or Father, Creator, Almighty; etc.)? What difference in emphasis might there be?
- God is described as Almighty. Jesus was executed by torture as a criminal. How do those two truths relate to each other?
- The Creed identifies the “Who” of creation (God), and the “What” (heaven and earth), but it says nothing about the “How.” Does that matter?
- Why does the Creed include “heaven and earth” rather than just say “Creator”? Why did the Nicene Creed (about 150 years later) add, “all things visible and invisible”? What loopholes might the false teachers have been exploiting? What’s the difference between heaven and earth? Between visible and invisible? What do they have in common? What are fundamental differences?

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation
(What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

Interpretation
(What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application
(What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)