### Isaiah

## Chapter 44

1‘Now hear Me, O Jacob, My child;  
 Yes IsraEl, the one whom I’ve chosen!’  
  
  
2‘Jehovah, your God (the One who made you and shaped you) says this:  
  
 ‘Don’t be afraid, for I’ll help you,  
 O Jacob, My dearly-loved servant…  
 IsraEl, the one whom I’ve chosen.  
  
 3‘To your thirsty, I’ll provide water  
 As they enter a waterless land.  
 Then I’ll place My Breath on your offspring,  
 And I will bless all your children.  
 4They’ll grow like grass near [a river],  
 And like willows next to a stream.  
  
 5‘This one will say, ‘I’m God’s [servant];’  
 That one will say, ‘I am Jacob’s;’  
 Another will write, ‘I am God’s;’  
 And they’ll call themselves by IsraEl’s name.’  
  
  
6‘This was said by your God, Jehovah of armies, IsraEl’s Savior and King:  
  
 ‘I am the first and the last,  
 And there are no Gods other than Me!  
  
 7‘Who else [can claim] that he’s like Me?  
 Let him arise and announce it…  
 Let him stand up and tell  
 How man was made in that age!  
  
 ‘And have them tell you the future…  
 8Don’t let them [hide] or wander away!  
  
 ‘For, didn’t you hear these things long ago…  
 Didn’t I give a report?  
 So, you are the ones who can now testify  
 That there are no gods other than Me!  
  
 9‘But they failed to listen back then…  
 Those who carved and shaped worthless things…  
 Those who did whatever they pleased…  
 Things that did them no good.  
 So, against themselves, they have testified!  
  
 ‘For, they didn’t see and they didn’t know  
 That by their bad deeds, they were shamed,  
 When they formed the things that they thought of as gods,  
 And cast moldings of things that are worthless!  
  
 ‘{Look!} Those sharing in this will be shamed  
 10(Those who shaped gods and carved worthless things),  
 11For the places that they came from will wither away.  
  
 ‘So, let these dumb ones now gather  
 Then stand together and feel some remorse…  
 Together, let them all feel ashamed!  
  
 12‘For the smith sharpens his tools,  
 And with a hammer, he works it in coals…  
 Then he drills holes for [its handles].  
  
 ‘He shapes it with the might of his arm,  
 As he grows hungry and weak,  
 Because he won’t drink any water.  
  
 13‘And the carver selects a good piece of wood,  
 Then he measures, before he starts carving  
 It into the shape of a man.  
  
 14‘He cuts down an oak tree or cedar…  
 Yes, he takes a tree that was planted by Me  
 And which I made grow with the rain.  
 15Then part, he burns to get warm;  
 Part, he burns to bake bread;  
 And with what’s left, he shapes into a god,  
 To which he thereafter bows!  
  
 16‘He carves it and then bows before it…  
 Yet, half he burned to cook meat  
 To prepare a roast that would fill him.  
 And as he sat there warming himself,  
 He said:  
  
 ‘Ah, this is so good,  
 For I’ve seen the fire and now I am warm!’  
  
 17Then the rest, he carves into a god,  
 And to it, he then bows and prays:  
  
 ‘Please save me, for you are my god!’  
  
 18‘He doesn’t realize, nor does he think…  
 For his eyes are just too blind to see,  
 And he doesn’t comprehend in his heart…  
 19Yes, He’s just too stupid to see…  
 Half was burned in a fire to bake bread;  
 Then, over the flames, roasted meat that he ate,  
 And with the rest, he made something disgusting  
 Before which, he bowed with his face to the ground!  
  
 20‘Know that these [men] have all erred;  
 For the hearts [of their gods] are just ashes,  
 And none are able to save them!  
  
 ‘{Look!} Don’t say that My right hand has lied  
 About the things it’s accomplished.  
 21And, O IsraEl and Jacob;  
 Don’t forget the things that I’ve done!  
 For, you [alone] are My servant…  
 I shaped you and you are My slave!  
 So IsraEl, do not forget Me!  
  
 22‘{Look!} Your lawless deeds, I’ve wiped out like clouds,  
 And I’ve thrown all your sins in the shadows.  
 So, return to Me and I’ll buy you back!’  
  
23Now, shout in joy, O you heavens;  
 For IsraEl’s God has shown mercy upon you!  
 And foundations of the earth, blow a trumpet…  
 Yes, yell in joy, you mountains and hills,  
 As well as the trees that live on them;  
 For, Jehovah’s made IsraEl glorious,  
 And He’s [paid the] ransom for Jacob!  
  
  
24So says the Lord (the One who shaped you in the belly, and the One who ransomed you back):  
  
 ‘I am Jehovah… I’m the One who accomplished it all!  
 I’m the One who stretched out the sky,  
 And the One who made solid ground!  
  
 25‘I’m the One who wipes away the conclusions  
 Of the signs and omens that men bring from their hearts.  
 And I cause the intelligent to backtrack  
 By making their counsel look stupid.  
  
 26‘I’m the One who causes to happen  
 Whatever My servants ask in their prayers,  
 And that makes the council of My messengers true.  
  
 ‘I’m the One who says to JeruSalem,  
 ‘You will be lived in again!’  
 To the cities of Judah, ‘You’ll be rebuilt!’  
 And to her desolate places, ‘I’ll raise you!’  
  
 27‘I tell the abyss, ‘You’ll be empty!’  
 And I say to the rivers, ‘I’ll make you dry!’  
  
 ‘I’m the One who’ll say this to Cyrus:  
 ‘Think first and then you must do  
 All the things that I’ll tell you to do.  
 For JeruSalem must be rebuilt,  
 And My Temple’s foundation must be laid.’