



The New King James NKJ The New Living Translation NLT & the English Standard Version ESV  
would you raise your hand if you're using one of those . . .

u can see that pretty much covers everybody

Let's look at vv 5 and 6 of Isa 45 here they are in the NKJ

5 I am the LORD, and there is no other; There is no God besides Me.

I will gird you, though you have not known Me,

6 That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting

That there is none besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other;

the phrase is repeated there at the beginning of v5 I am the LORD, and there is no other

& the conclusion of v6 I am the LORD, and there is no other

and despite minor variations in wording elsewhere,

all 5 translations read and repeat the phrase: "I am the Lord, and there is no other"

and you can see there's other assertions about the uniqueness of God

v5 There is no God besides Me v6 . . there is none besides Me

But you'll find the phrase "There is no other"

repeated 5 to 7 times in chapter 45, depending on translation

vv 5, 6, 14, 18, 21 & 22 There is no other

No other Creator No other Sovereign No other Savior

and if you were here last week you'll sense the continuity with Ch 44

where the prophet detailed the folly of idolatry

There's even an occurrence of the phrase 'there is no other' ch 44, v8

. . Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other . . Rock; . .

well, that theme comes to fruition and 'takes over' in Ch 45

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So that's the message OF the text, but before we follow its particular applications

we survey the passage as a whole, which we're picking it up at v24 of Ch 44

24 Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, And He who formed~ you from the womb:

"I am the LORD, who makes all things,

Who stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself;

25 Who frustrates the signs of the babblers, And drives diviners mad;

Who turns wise men backward, And makes their knowledge foolishness;

26 Who confirms the word of His servant, And performs the counsel of His messengers;

Who says to Jerusalem, "You shall be inhabited," To the cities of Judah, "You shall be built,"  
And I will raise up her waste places;

27 Who says to the deep, "Be dry! And I will dry up your rivers";

28 Who says of Cyrus, "He is My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure,

Saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built,"

And to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid." '

God identifies Himself as Creator I am the Lord who makes all things . .

and Sovereign . . Who frustrates the signs of the babblers

those are the false prophets He frustrates their signs by ensuring their claims don't come true 615

in contrast to the Word of HIS Prophets which DOES come true

v26 He confirms the word of His servants and performs the counsel of His messengers  
and there follows, in v28 One of the most amazing instances of this in All Scripture

28 Who says of Cyrus, "He is My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure,  
Saying to Jerusalem, 'You shall be built,'  
And to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid." '

And that's amazing enough in that it's a prophecy

the King of Persia would release the Jews from Babylonian Captivity which he did

But what's mind-blowing there,

is that the King is identified BY NAME a century before he was born

we'll talk about that in detail, cuz it's HUGE but for now. . .

continuing with the overview Ch 45 v1

- 1 Thus says the LORD to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held—  
To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings,  
To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut:
- 2 "I will go before you And make the crooked places straight;  
I will break in pieces the gates of bronze And cut the bars of iron.
- 3 I will give you the treasures of darkness And hidden riches of secret places,  
That you may know that I, the LORD, Who call you by your name, Am the God of Israel.
- 4 For Jacob My servant's sake, And Israel My elect,  
I have even called you by your name; I have named you, though you have not known Me.

again in 45 v1, Cyrus is addressed by name

& the Lord is telling him I'm giving you victory I'm leading you even tho you don't know Me  
not because you're so great but rather v4 For Jacob My servant's sake, And Israel My elect,  
vv5 thru 8

- 5 I am the LORD, and THERE IS NO OTHER; There is no God besides Me.  
I will gird you, though you have not known Me,
- 6 That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting  
That there is none besides Me. I am the LORD, and THERE IS NO OTHER;
- 7 I form~ the light and create^ darkness, I make peace and create^ calamity;  
I, the LORD, do all these things.'
- 8 "Rain down, you heavens, from above, And let the skies pour down righteousness;  
Let the earth open, let them bring forth salvation, And let righteousness spring up together.  
I, the LORD, have created^ it.

He alone is the Sovereign Creator guiding Cyrus, freeing His people, v6

That [all] may know from the rising of the sun to its setting  
There there is none besides Me. I am the LORD, and THERE IS NO OTHER;

Cyrus is just a means, as Israel . . ultimately is just a means  
for the world to know That He alone is God

in vv9 thru 12 He speaks as Creator

- 9 "Woe to him who strives with his Maker~!  
Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth!  
Shall the clay say to him who forms~ it, "What are you making?'  
Or shall your handiwork say, 'He has no hands?'

10 Woe to him who says to his father, "What are you begetting?"  
Or to the woman, 'What have you brought forth?' "

11 Thus says the LORD, The Holy One of Israel, and his Maker~:  
"Ask Me of things to come concerning My sons;  
And concerning the work of My hands, you command Me.

12 I have made the earth, And created^ man on it.  
I-My hands--stretched out the heavens, And all their host I have commanded.

v13 bridges to Sovereignty-

13 I have raised him [that's Cyrus] up in righteousness, And I will direct all his ways;  
He shall build My city And let My exiles go free, Not for price nor reward,"  
Says the LORD of hosts.

The remainder of the Chapter emphasizes the message to the Gentiles

eventually, they'll recognize this v14

14 Thus says the LORD:  
"The labor of Egypt and merchandise of Cush And of the Sabeans, men of stature,  
Shall come over to you, and they shall be yours;  
They shall walk behind you, They shall come over in chains; And they shall bow down to you.  
They will make supplication to you, saying, 'Surely God is in you,  
And THERE IS NO OTHER; THERE IS NO OTHER God.' "

[this is the worldwide gentile recognition of the God of Israel  
[fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom . . . v15

15 Truly You are God, who hide Yourself, O God of Israel, the Savior!  
16 They shall be ashamed And also disgraced, all of them;  
They shall go in confusion together, Who are makers of idols.  
17 But Israel shall be saved by the LORD With an everlasting salvation;  
You shall not be ashamed or disgraced Forever and ever.  
18 For thus says the LORD, Who created^ the heavens, Who is God,  
Who formed~ the earth and made it, Who has established it,  
Who did not create^ it in vain, Who formed~ it to be inhabited:  
"I am the LORD, and THERE IS NO OTHER.  
19 I have not spoken in secret, In a dark place of the earth;  
I did not say to the seed of Jacob, "Seek Me in vain";  
I, the LORD, speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.

beginning in v20 the erring Gentiles are directly addressed:

20 "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.  
21 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?.

[Again the point is that True prophecy demonstrates Sovereignty  
[their idols can't do it But the Lord can, and has - which shows the point which IS  
~~AND~~ THERE IS NO OTHER God besides [Him],  
A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me.

22 "Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and THERE IS NO OTHER.  
23 I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness,  
And shall not return, That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath.

[the concluding vv 24 & 25 refocus on Israel  
[the vehicle thru which God reaches all the earth v24

24 He [Israel] shall say, "Surely in the LORD I have righteousness and strength.  
To Him men shall come, And all shall be ashamed Who are incensed against Him.  
25 In the LORD all the descendants of Israel Shall be justified, and shall glory.' "

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so there's Isa 44:24 thru Ch 45 in overview

as always, in Isaiah there's a lot of stuff goin on

but we'll follow the primary message - There is no other in 3 directions -

There is no other Creator            There is no other Sovereign            There is no other Savior

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~~so first off ————— There is no other ————— Creator~~

Gen. 1:1        In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Gen. 2:7        . . the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground,  
and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life;

God    created        the heavens and the earth.  
God    formed man      of the dust of the ground

the words 'created' and 'formed' are significant

the Heb word translated 'created' is bara,

a verb for which Only God is the Subject        only He can 'bara'

the word occurs 54x in the OT        6 of those are in this chapter

as in v7        I form the light and CREATE darkness, I make peace and CREATE calamity;

v12        I have made the earth, And CREATED man on it.

the Heb word translated 'formed' is yatzar

which is what God did to produce Adam from the dust

it occurs 48x in the OT        7 of those are in this passage

as in v7        I FORM the light and create darkness,

v18        . . thus says the LORD, . . Who FORMED the earth and made it,

on the basis of that word usage - Isa 45 is the primary text on God as Creator outside Gen 1 & 2

now it may seem to us, the Prophet is harping on God as Creator

we're not far past Ch 40 where His majesty as Creator was highlighted

a couple of weeks ago in Ch 43 I took off on the Glory of God

and the absolute basis of that is the glory Manifested & Deserved as Creator

and in Ch 45, here we are again . . . God Creating and Forming . . .

and we may be tempted to go        Okay! Enough! We get it.

that may be how we feel, but as moderns, it's hard for us to really 'get it'

There's nothing more fundamental and more comprehensive than God's Status as Creator

and the implications for us        as 'creation'

Because everything, including us, belongs to Him by right of creation

yet even those who believe this,        who willingly acknowledge Him as Creator

are effected by the environment of unbelief we inhabit

1615

in the modern view the Heavens and the Earth weren't 'created'  
they just . . . 'happened' 'evolved'  
and the very existence of that tot in the background can erode our respect for our Creator  
then there's the mechanistic aspect of the Modern view  
the Creator is a person, He created persons . . . all very 'personal'  
but the modern view can see life & consciousness as mere chemical phenomenon,  
atoms bouncing around everything Impersonal  
now as believers, we don't accept that amen  
But again, the fact that it's there, can effect us, dilute our response to our Creator  
it takes Faith to get it right . . .

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command,  
so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. Heb. 11:3

according to Romans 1 the failure to honor Him as Creator is the Primary Failure:

20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities –  
his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen,  
being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him,  
but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

In chapter 45 Isaiah's telling us There Is No Other  
and the most fundamental aspect of that is There is no other Creator

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No other Creator . . . No Other Sovereign

Apart from Creation, in the book of Isaiah, God's sovereignty is emphasized through Prophecy

this is in contrast to the idols who, time and again are challenged

Show us things to come Tell us what will be  
and time and again they fail

But the Lord can and does thru His servant Isaiah prophesied many things

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son . . . 7, 14

He [was] despised and rejected by men,  
A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. 53, 3

but for Lazer-like precision for Pure Gee-Whiz amazingness 44, 28 may top them all

28 [The Lord] Who says of Cyrus, "He is My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure,  
the Most amazing thing about that -

Is Not that it predicts the King of Persia would free the Jews from the Babylonian Exile  
which he did

It's Not that it predicts the Rebuilding of the City & the restoration of the Temple  
before they were even destroyed which it does

The most amazing thing about that is - it identifies him by name

over a century before he was born!!

28 Who says of CYRUS, "He is My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure,  
,  
& in case you missed that in case it didn't sink in He does it again in the next v!! Ch 45, v1  
Thus says the LORD to His anointed, To CYRUS, whose right hand I have held-

So in Isaiah 44:28 and 45:1 an Individual is prophetically addressed BY NAME  
over a century before he was born!!

Let's review . . . to be sure we understand what's goin on

Isaiah is speaking / writing around 700 BC

he's telling the people they'll be taken into Exile by the Babylonians

and from where he stands, that's about a century in the future

he's also telling them, even further in the future, they'll be Released from Exile

it will be the Babylonians who conquer them and take them into exile

it will be the Persians who conquer the Babylonians and release them from exile

The King of Persia who conquered Babylon and released the Jews was Cyrus

there is ample historical as well as biblical record of him. .

the book of 2nd Chronicles concludes with these words

22 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia,  
that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled,  
the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia,  
so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying,

23 Thus says Cyrus king of Persia:

All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me.

And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah.

Who is among you of all His people? May the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up!

That's the proclamation that freed the Jews from exile

and it is NOT mind-blowing to see Cyrus' name there in 2 Ch 36

because it's a historical record written after the fact

But it IS Mind-blowing to see Cyrus' name in Isa 44 & 45

because that is prophecy written BEFORE 0 fact

if you're just pulling the Bible off the shelf and reading it this is not obvious

the OT isn't laid out chronologically you have to be aware of the Time-frames

but when you realize Isaiah was prophesying in the 8th century BC

speaking of someone in the 6th century BC BY NAME

when you recognize that, you realize it's one of the most amazing prophecies in all of Scripture

In Isa 45 the prophet is telling us There is no Other

right now we're focusing on Sovereignty There is no Other Sovereign

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And Isaiah uses Prophecy to illustrate God's Sovereignty

So, how 'sovereign' do you have to be to prophesy, to declare the future?

That's a BIG question to even BEGIN to answer & we're just gonna touch on one part of it

I want to point out how little things produce big effects  
cuz in order to 'know the future' it's not like you just have to know a few 'big' things  
you have to know absolutely everything. little as well as 'big'  
because in the unfathomably complex interplay of life Little things produce big effects

and we'll think about it in an old-fashioned way an old proverbial saying "For want of a nail"  
the reference being to a horseshoe nail for want, i.e. lack, of a horseshoe nail

the whole saying goes like this:

For want of a nail the shoe was lost.	For want of a shoe the horse was lost.
For want of a horse the rider was lost.	For want of a rider the battle was lost.
For want of a battle the kingdom was lost.	And all for the want of a horseshoe nail.

it traces a chain of causation from a tiny thing the loss of a horseshoe nail  
to a huge thing the loss of a kingdom

the nail falls out of the horseshoe	the horseshoe falls off the horse
[we assume the horse stumbles]	so the rider falls off the horse
he was an important rider	cuz the battle was lost cuz he fell . .
it was an important battle . . . .	

PACING

because the Kingdom was lost because the battle was lost because the rider was lost  
because the horseshoe was lost because the nail was lost

that's a classic, old-fashioned way of envisioning the Enormous Impact of 'little things'  
the 21st century version of this is 'The Butterfly Effect'

which connects the flapping of a butterfly's wings to the Course of Hurricane

• and as I speak hurricane 'Dorian' is making landfall in Florida  
and there's a lot of people who'd like to have a chat w/ the Butterfly that started that one!  
but whether Butterfly wings or Horseshoe nails the point is little things have huge effects

which means in order to Prophesy to proclaim the future with certainty

you have to know EVERYTHING before you can prophesy ANYTHING

which is why Prophecy is Isaiah's favorite example of God's Sovereignty

now we're gonna reflect on this one more way before we move on

think about how this unfolded in history the order of the events

first Isaiah prophesizes it we'll call that 700 BC

time passes the Babylonians come then the Persians come

we'll date their conquest 539BC - little debate about the year

but in or around 539 the Persians suddenly and unexpectedly conquered the Babylonians

Then their King Cyrus was shown the prophecy in Isaiah

the very passage we are reading today  
50614 SERMON

Cyrus read AFTER he conquered Babylon  
8 ACTS 16:16-40 SHEPHERD'S GATE



In this passage God directly addresses Cyrus from the Past!

it's written there in the Book of Isaiah Ch 45, v1

1 "Thus says the LORD to His anointed,  
To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held—  
To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings,  
To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut:  
[THEN, SHIFTING TO DIRECT ADDRESS]  
2 "I will go before you And make the crooked places straight;  
I will break in pieces the gates of bronze And cut the bars of iron.  
3 I will give you the treasures of darkness And hidden riches of secret places,  
That you may know that I, the LORD, Who call you by your name, Am the God of Israel.  
4 For Jacob My servant's sake, And Israel My elect,  
I have even called you by your name; I have named you, though you have not known Me.  
5 I am the LORD, and THERE IS NO OTHER;

2 Ch 36 says "The Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus King of Persia"

He did it by speaking To Him From the Past Thru Isaiah

First century Jewish historian Josephus says Quote

This was known to Cyrus by his reading the book which Isaiah left behind him of his Prophecies. . .  
Accordingly when Cyrus read this, and admired the divine power,  
an earnest desire and an ambition seized upon him, to fulfil what was so written. [Ant 11.1.2]

after reading the Prophecy of what he would do in which he was addressed by Name

Cyrus then did it closed the loop by issuing the decree recorded in 2 Ch 36

This stuff gives me goosebumps . . . Way Way Cool!

but even more better we close by talking about Salvation

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and this is the point where our hearts are, or should be, most touched

we are rightfully owned by our Creator we are inevitably under our Sovereign

But we are uniquely loved by our Savior

God demonstrates His — love toward us,  
in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Rom. 5:8

this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us  
and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1John 4:10

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son . . Jn 3:16

His Love is what drives the process and that frees us to just respond

we don't have to try to become Lovable or Worthy

we don't have to . . pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps

we couldn't if we tried

He Loves He Seeks He Saves all we have to do is respond

Of course, we're speaking in light of the fulness of NT revelation

In Isaiah the emphasis is not on the Love but on the fact that there is no Other Savior

Ch 45, v22 sums it up well

Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and THERE IS NO OTHER.  
Pretty Much says it all "Look to Me" other translations have 'Turn to Me'  
either way the point being Attend to Him  
don't look elsewhere do not look at yourself!!  
Look to [Him], and be saved All [the] ends of the earth!

The salvation is for any and all

the OT is the story of God's choosen People the nation of Israel Amen  
But it's important to keep in mind WHY they were choosen  
it was not so that THEY could be saved  
but so that they could be a vehicle of salvation for the World  
As God told Abraham when He called him,  
in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Gen 12:3

Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and THERE IS NO OTHER.

we arrive in conclusion . . . where we began

remember John 6 where Jesus upset people by claiming to be the Bread of Life  
He said He came down from heaven [33, 38, 41]  
said they had to eat His flesh [52-56]

v52 says [They] quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?"  
in, v60, they complain to Him "This is a hard saying; who can [accept] it?"  
and I think His response is so significant so contrary to the way many imagine Jesus to be  
cuz the Jesus they imagine would have said something like

Did I offened you? I'm so sorry, let me rephrase that . . .  
I'll tone it down dial it down water it down till you find it 'acceptable' TONE  
so Jesus is imagined,

but Jesus as He is, did not say that He said, [Jn 6:61 (62)]  
Does this offend you? What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before?

No Apology No Retraction  
He says, in effect, we're just warming up, there is more to come  
which is why many walked away v66  
From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

we don't know exactly what they thot,

but it seems they must have thot they had some other option 650  
maybe they felt secure enough in their conventional Jewishness to figure they had the bases covered  
Jesus had been exciting, intriguing but ultimately too much, too radical  
so they walked away to what they believed was another option

the 12 did not walk away            becuz they knew there was no other option

As Peter put it            To Whom shall we go?

Buddah            Muhammad            Sigmund Freud            Karl Marx

only Jesus has the words of eternal life            There is no other Savior

In the mid-19th century when the pioneers were going west  
they had a saying, sometimes they'd hang it as a sign on their wagon

Oregon or Bust            California or Bust

it was a way of saying they were all in            no Ifs, Ands or Buts

they were gonna get there            or die trying

Well in terms of Salvation            according to the Bible            It's Jesus    or Bust

as He Himself put it            John 14:6

I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

as Peter put it            Acts 4:12

Salvation is found in no one else,  
for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.

as the Lord puts it            Isa 45:22

Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and THERE IS NO OTHER.

now that can sound narrow and restrictive            'negative' in that sense

But that's the wrong way to think about it

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cuz we're talkin about Salvation, Redemption, Hope, Heaven, Eternity

We should be delighted that there is any way at all

not troubled because there's only 1

God did not have to Create            He chose to  
& God did not have to Redeem            He chose to  
and in that Sovereign knowledge of Everything He has had from the beginning  
He knew            what it would cost

to redeem is to buy back, and He knew the price            He would have to pay

Gal. 3:13    Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law,  
                  having become a curse for us. . .

ransom has much the same meaning as redeem

Matt. 20:28    the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,  
                  and to give His life a ransom for many

The Main Reason there's no other way to be saved            is because No One Else Could Provide Salvation

God Alone            had the capacity to pay the debt

and only the Incarnate Son            had the will to make the payment

So let us            faithfuyllly honor Him as our Creator  
                  joyfully submit to Him as our Sovereign  
&            lovingly look to Him as our Savior

There Is No Other