

## The Sovereign Goodness of God Isaiah 45:1-19

### **How everyone can know that the God of the Bible is God (vv.1-6)**

God works in verifiable history in such supernatural ways that everyone can know He is God.

<b>What was going on in 700 BC</b>	<b>What God prophesied would happen</b>	<b>What actually happened</b>
Israel in Palesstine	Babylon dominant power	Babylon dominant power (626 BC)
Assyria dominant power	Israel exiled in Babylon	Israel exiled in Babylon (606 BC)
Babylon small	Cyrus becomes Persian emperor	Cyrus becomes Persian emperor (600 BC)
Persia small	Cyrus conquers Babylon	Cyrus conquers Babylon (538 BC)
No Cyrus	Cyrus sends Israel back and rebuilds her temple	Cyrus sends Israel back and rebuilds her temple (536 BC)

Ezra 1:1-3.

### **Two crucial truths about God (vv.7-8)**

God is sovereign (v.7) — God not only does everything, it's his right to do everything in whatever way He chooses.

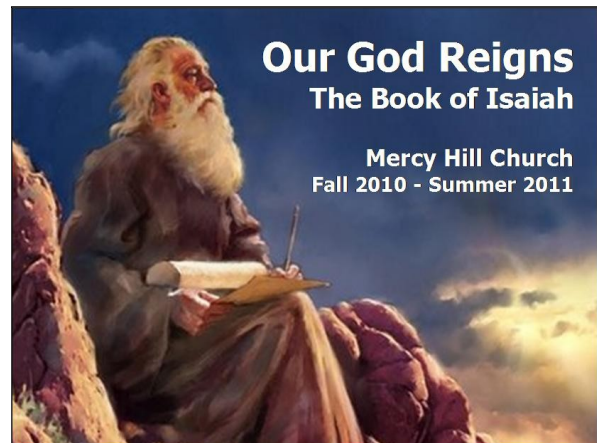
God is good (v.8) — for those who trust Him through Christ everything He does is good.

### **Don't complain: submit to God's sovereignty (vv.9-12)**

Since God is Creator and we are His creatures, He has the right to do with us whatever He chooses. For those who trust Christ, this will always be ultimately good. But it's crucial that we not complain, but humble ourselves before Him.

### **Don't despair: trust God's goodness (vv.13-19)**

For those who trust Christ, every trial will bring great good — especially the infinite good of increased nearness with Him.



## **HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING**

*(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)*

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

Does this prophecy concerning Cyrus and its fulfillment persuade you that the God of the Bible is God? Why or why not? How would your neighbors or work associates respond to this? How would you answer them?

When have you found it hard to submit a trial to God's sovereignty? Why is this so important? What are we saying if we won't submit to God's sovereignty?

What trials are you going through right now? Are you tempted to complain? To despair? How did Sunday's teaching impact you?

What's your take-away from this message? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

