

than mere human knowledge to make a true prediction of matters involving any degree of complexity. Yet the Scriptures are full of predictions that have come true. God alone knows the future. He controls all things and consequently is able, when He chooses, to tell exactly what is going to happen.

In verses 22-25 we have a wonderful call, which God gives not merely to Israel but to all the earth, to look unto Him and be saved. He has declared that in the end every knee is going to bow to Him. Now He is giving to the very "ends of the earth" an opportunity to come to His righteousness and strength. The day is coming, He tells us in verse 25, when all the seed of Israel will be justified in the Lord. This refers to that wonderful time when a nation shall be born in a day and all of Israel shall believe in Christ.

Isaiah 46

Up to this point all denunciation of idols has been made in general terms without naming any particular gods. Now we find a specific declaration that the two leading gods of Babylon, Bel and Nebo, are going to be proven utterly unable to accomplish anything. They themselves have to be carried, and will go into captivity when Cyrus conquers their land. In contrast to these idols which have to be carried by their people, God points out in verses 3 and 4 that He himself carries His people and is going to carry them and deliver them from youngest childhood to old age.

Verses 5-7 again revert to the general theme of the futility of the idols.

In verses 9-11 the omniscience of the God who is able to predict the future is again stressed as the great proof of His existence and power. The clinching argument is again His prediction of the coming of Cyrus who is to accomplish all of God's purposes for the deliverance of Israel from exile. It is interesting to see that in verse 11 Cyrus is called "a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country." What a contrast to the reference in Isaiah 41:2 as "the righteous man from the east." Both are pictures of Cyrus' character. He is the one who is to carry out the righteous purposes of God. In God's divine purpose this is