



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

“He Was There All the Time”

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts (TLV): Is 45:14-19; Is. 45:1-13; 44:24-28; 41:10; 41:1; Gen. 12:3; Acts 11:18; Ps 72

There's something deeply moving about realizing that God was present long before we noticed Him. That's why I love the title today: **“He Was There All the Time.”** It's like that old song—one of those melodies that sticks in your heart from childhood. And Isaiah 45 is like that. It's the Lord pulling back the curtain and saying, *“I've been here. I've been speaking. I've been working. You just didn't recognize it yet.”*

In this passage, God is still in the middle of that great courtroom showdown—challenging the idols of the nations, exposing the absurdity of worshipping what human hands have made. He has named Cyrus, a Gentile king, as His “anointed,” His shepherd, the one who will open doors and level roads for Israel's deliverance. And the Lord is making something unmistakably clear: **history is not random, salvation is not accidental, and His purposes have been unfolding all along.**

1. THE NATIONS WILL ONE DAY RECOGNIZE THE LIVING GOD (Isaiah 45:14)

Isaiah gives us this stunning picture: nations like Egypt, Cush, and the Sabaeans—peoples known for their labor, trade, and stature—coming not in arrogance, but in humility. They come bringing their strength, not to dominate, but to lay it down. They walk behind Israel, bowing, pleading, acknowledging something they can no longer deny: *“Surely God is with you. There is no other God.”* (Is. 45:14)

This is what Israel was always meant to be: a witness. A light. A city on a hill. God's work in Israel was never meant to terminate in Israel—it was meant to radiate outward *from* Israel. The nations will someday look at the people everyone overlooked and realize: **the God of Israel is the God of all.** And they will come not because of conquest, but because of revelation. Because they finally see what idols could never do.

2. GOD'S PURPOSES WERE HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT (Isaiah 45:15-16)

Then comes that almost shocked confession: *“Truly You are a God who hides Himself, O God of Israel, Savior.”* (Is. 45:15). It's like the nations are saying, *“Where have You been all this time?”* And yet the truth is, He wasn't absent—He was concealed. His purposes were there all along, spoken through Abraham, echoed through the prophets, present in every promise. But people missed it because they filtered God through their own expectations. Just like the disciples walking with Yeshua for three years—He was right there, and still they didn't fully understand.

That's why Acts 11 is so stunning. When Gentiles receive the Spirit, the believers are stunned to discover: *“Then even to the Gentiles God has granted repentance leading to life.”* (Acts 11:18) It's almost unbelievable to them... but it had always been God's heart. The mystery wasn't that God changed His plan. The mystery was that, all along, His plan was bigger than they imagined. He was there all the time.

3. GOD HAS NOT SPOKEN IN SECRET—HE HAS MADE HIMSELF KNOWN (Isaiah 45:17–19)

God contrasts Israel's salvation with the shame of idol worshippers. The idols disappoint. They humiliate. They cannot rescue anyone. But Israel is saved with something everlasting: *"Israel has been saved by Adonai with an everlasting salvation."* (Is. 45:17). And the reason is simple: Israel worships the Creator, not the creation. The Lord formed the earth to be inhabited, not meaningless. Life is not accidental. You are not incidental. Your purpose is rooted in the One who made you.

"I am Adonai, and there is no other." (Is. 45:18). And then God closes with a gentle rebuke: *"I have not spoken in secret... I did not say, 'Seek Me in chaos.'"*

"I, Adonai, speak righteousness, declaring things that are upright." (Is. 45:19). In other words: **You weren't abandoned. You weren't left groping in darkness. I have been speaking. I have been revealing. I have been here the whole time.**

CONCLUSION:

The God who at times has seemed hidden was never absent. The God who felt distant was always near. His purposes have been unfolding through history, through Israel, through Messiah, through redemption, through the Spirit... and even through your life in ways you may not yet understand. Today, if you've been wandering, if you've been exhausted, if you've been searching in darkness—hear this: **He was there all the time.** Turn to Him now. Lay down your self-dependence. Exchange your strength for His. And let the Savior who rescues nations also rescue you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What stands out to you about the nations coming to Israel and saying, *"Surely God is with you"*?
2. In what ways do people today still "worship the work of their own hands"?
3. Have you ever experienced a moment where you realized God was working all along, even when you couldn't see it?
4. Why do you think God's purposes can feel "hidden," even when He has spoken clearly?
5. What does it look like practically to stop seeking God "in chaos" and instead trust His revealed Word?

CLOSING PRAYER:

ADONAI, You who formed the heavens and shaped the earth, we bless Your Name. You alone are God, and there is no other. Forgive us for the ways we have looked to idols, to self-dependence, to the work of our own hands. Thank You that You have not spoken in secret, that You have not left us in darkness, that Your salvation is everlasting. Open our eyes to see that You were there all the time. Draw us near, renew our strength, and help us exchange our weakness for Your power. And today, let every heart that feels far away come home to the Savior who rescues.

B'Shem Yeshua, In the name of Yeshua, amen.