



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

“Should You Take Driving Instructions from your Jr. Higher?”

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts (TLV): *Is 45:9-13; Is. 45:1-8; Job 1:20-21; Rom. 9:19-33; 10:1-4; Hos. 2:25; 1:10; Deut. 30:19*

There's something almost comical about a child who has never driven trying to tell the driver how to drive. You're behind the wheel. You can see the road ahead. You know the destination. And from the passenger seat comes, “No, no, turn here. Why are you going this way?” It's funny — until you realize how often we do that with God.

Isaiah 45 drops us right into that tension. The Lord has just revealed that He's raising up Cyrus — a pagan king — to accomplish His righteous purposes. That didn't fit Israel's expectations. It didn't look like Moses. It didn't look like David. It didn't look like revival. It looked... wrong. And that's where Isaiah 45:9–13 speaks directly to the human instinct to question, correct, and even quarrel with the One who formed us.

1. DON'T QUARREL WITH YOUR MAKER (Isa. 45:9–10)

“Oy, to the one who quarrels with his Maker... Shall the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you making?’” (Isa. 45:9). The issue here isn't honest questions — it's contention. The word pictures are strong: a clay pot arguing with the potter. Clay critiquing the craftsman. The created challenging the Creator's intentions and abilities. “What are You doing?” “This doesn't make sense.” “You can't possibly mean that.” The absurdity is the point.

And then it gets even more personal in verse 10: *“Oy, to him who says to his father, ‘What have you begotten?’”* That's not curiosity — that's accusation. That's distrust. That's implying the Father doesn't know what He's doing. When we quarrel with God's methods, we're not just disagreeing with a strategy — we're questioning His wisdom. And Isaiah says plainly: woe to that posture. When you don't understand what God is doing, resist the instinct to argue. Step back into humility.

2. YOU DON'T GIVE ORDERS TO THE CREATOR (Isa. 45:11–12)

Verse 11 is dripping with holy irony: *“Concerning things to come, do you question Me about My children, or give Me orders about the work of My hands?”* The tone is almost sarcastic. “Go ahead. Command Me. Tell Me what I should do.” It's as if God leans back and says, “I'm listening.” That's the absurdity. The child in the car seat doesn't give instructions to the Driver. The clay does not issue directives to the Potter.

And then the Lord grounds it in reality: *“I made the earth and created man on it. My hands stretched out the heavens, and I commanded all their host.”* (Isa. 45:12). In other words: “I am not improvising. I am not guessing. I am not reacting in panic.” The One who stretched out the heavens is not confused about your situation. He is not uncertain about how to redeem what looks broken. The Creator does not require advisory counsel from the created. So trust Him. Trust grows when we remember who is actually in charge.

3. GOD ACTS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS — EVEN WHEN WE DON'T UNDERSTAND (Isa. 45:13)

Then the Lord says something crucial: *"I stirred him up in righteousness and I will level all his roads."* (Isa. 45:13). The raising up of Cyrus wasn't random. It wasn't political maneuvering. It wasn't compromise. It was righteousness. That's the anchor. Everything God does flows from His character. Even when it doesn't look like what we expected, it is not outside His righteousness.

He continues: *"He will build My city and set My exiles free, with no price or bribe."* The outcome? Restoration. Freedom. Deliverance. But it comes through a method that offended their expectations. That's often how God works. He levels roads we didn't know needed leveling. He opens doors we didn't know were there. And sometimes He does it through people or pathways we would never have chosen. When God's methods confuse you, anchor yourself in His righteousness.

CONCLUSION:

The heart of Isaiah 45:9–13 is this: Know your place — and rest in it. We are not the Driver. We are not the Potter. We are not the Creator. We are not the One who stretched out the heavens. And that's actually good news. Because the One who is in charge is righteous. He is good. He is just. He is faithful. When we can't trace His hand, we trust His heart. Today, if you've been quarrelling with God — repent. If you've been issuing silent instructions — surrender. If you've been saying, "This isn't how it's supposed to work," lay that down today. Come back to simple trust. Let Him drive the car. Let Him shape the clay. Let Him be God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is the difference between asking God honest questions and quarrelling with Him?
2. Where in your life have you felt tempted to "give God orders" about how things should unfold?
3. How does remembering God as Creator change your posture in seasons of confusion?
4. Why is it significant that God says He stirred Cyrus up *"in righteousness"*?
5. What practical step can you take this week to surrender control more fully to the Lord?

CLOSING PRAYER:

ADONAI, You are the Maker and we are the work of Your hands. Forgive us for the times we have contended with You, questioned Your wisdom, or tried to direct Your steps. You stretched out the heavens. You formed the earth. You act in righteousness. Teach us to rest in that truth. Where we are confused, give us trust. Where we are resistant, give us humility. Where we are afraid, give us peace. Shape us as You will, and level the roads before us according to Your righteousness. We choose to trust You today.

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