

New Things

Isaiah 40 – 48

by Don Falkos

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A prophet arose announcing, "The time of your exile has come to an end. The time has come for you to return to the land of your ancestors. The Lord will rule over you and hold you close."

The people responded with indignation. "The Lord has ignored us in all our troubles. Could it be the gods of Babylon are more powerful than the God of Israel?"

The Lord said through the prophet, "I have not rejected you. Your exile was my judgment against you, the consequences of your rejection of me. Babylon's gods are fashioned by human hands. They have no life in them and can do nothing for you. I am your creator. I made the heavens and the earth and breathed life into every living thing. All of history is in my hand. Don't be afraid! I am with you; I am your God; I will strengthen you and help you. I have anointed Cyrus of Persia to be my shepherd. He will accomplish what I want done. He will pave the way for your return to Jerusalem. He will set you free to go home and rebuild my Temple."

The people refused to acknowledge the Lord and clung to their foreign idols. So the Lord announced, "Listen to me! You claim to rely on me, the God of Israel, the Lord Almighty. So why have you not obeyed my commands? Why have you embraced false gods? From now on I will tell you of new things, of hidden things you have not known. Listen to me! I have called you. I am the first and I am the last. Get ready to leave Babylon with shouts of joy. I have redeemed you."