



DEVOTIONAL | JUNE 29

RECEIVE

Isaiah 44:24–13 reminds us of God’s sovereign power over all of creation, all nations and all of history. During a week when we celebrate nationally, it is often a helpful reminder to read God’s Word and recognize that we are, indeed, a nation UNDER God. Take a moment to read this passage and consider it in light of our Fourth of July celebrations and the way we talk about our national heritage this week.

REFLECT

God’s Sovereignty

- o How does Isaiah 44:24–25 establish God’s authority over creation and history?
- o What does it mean for God to say He “frustrates the signs of liars and makes fools of diviners”(44:25)?

God’s Choice of Cyrus

- o Why do you think God chose Cyrus, a non-Israelite, to accomplish His purposes? (See 45:1–4.)
- o How does God’s use of Cyrus challenge our understanding of the people God can work through?

- o Have you ever been surprised at what you learned about God from someone you did not expect to reflect God? What was that like for you? How did it change you?

The Purpose of Power

- o In 45:6–7, God declares that His actions are so “that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me.” What does this suggest about the purpose of national power?

Justice and Righteousness

- o In 45:8, God calls for righteousness to “rain down” and justice to “spring up.” What would it look like for a nation to embrace these values under God’s authority?
- o What does embracing these values look like for you?

A Nation Under God

- o Compare the language in this passage to modern ideas of national governance. What does it mean for a nation today to align with God’s justice and righteousness?
- o How does this alignment differ from a form of nationalism that seeks to place one nation above others?

God’s Guidance and Our Role

- o In 45:12–13, God affirms His creation of the earth and His intention to guide Cyrus for His purposes. How can believers act as agents of God’s justice within their own nations?
- o What would need to change in your own life for you to help make this a reality?

RESPOND

Isaiah 44:24–45:13 shows us that God’s authority extends over all creation, including nations and rulers. His plans are for justice and righteousness to prevail. Recognizing this challenges us to advocate for God’s values in our communities and systems of governance. Doing so seems increasingly divisive in our world today. Let us pray for peace in this process and ask God to reveal to us the way forward in our divided times.

BLESSING

Lord of heaven and earth, You are the source of every good gift—of life, liberty and truth. Yet we confess, O God, that we have often loved Your gifts more than You, the Giver. You have made us a people richly blessed—yet we have grown proud and self-sufficient. Forgive us, Lord, for our national pride that forgets Your grace. You have called Your Church to be a light to the nations. But we have been content with comfort, and slow to speak truth in love. You have commanded justice, mercy and humility. Yet we have turned a blind eye to injustice, and a deaf ear to the cries of the weak. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive us our sins—personal and national. Renew our hearts. Restore our land. Let judgment begin with the household of God. In Jesus Christ alone is our hope—His cross our only plea, His righteousness our only covering. We return to You, O God. Heal us, forgive us, and make us faithful. Amen.