

Isaiah 45:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:

Analysis

This verse states radical monotheism emphatically: 'I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me.' The Hebrew 'zulati' (beside/apart from) eliminates all alternatives. God girds (strengthens, prepares) Cyrus though Cyrus doesn't know Him. Divine sovereignty operates independently of human recognition.

Historical Context

Against Persian dualism (Ahura Mazda vs. Angra Mainyu) and Babylonian polytheism, Isaiah asserts absolute monotheism. This became foundational for Jewish, Christian, and Islamic theology.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does absolute monotheism challenge religious pluralism and syncretism?

2. What does it mean that God strengthens you even when you don't recognize His work?

Interlinear Text

אֲנִי	יְהוָה	יְאֵי יְנִי	עִדֹּד	יְזַלְתִּי	יְאֵי יְנִי
H589	I am the LORD	H369	H5750	beside	H369
	H3068			H2108	
	אֵלֵּים	אֵלֵּים	אֵלֵּים	אֵלֵּים	אֵלֵּים
	and there is none else there is no God	me I girded			H3808
	H430	H247			
	יְדַעְתָּנִי				
	thee though thou hast not known				
	H3045				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 44:8 (References God): Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.

Isaiah 46:9 (References God): Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,

Isaiah 44:6 (References God): Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

Joel 2:27 (References God): And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

1 Kings 8:60 (References God): That all the people of the earth may know that the LORD is God, and that there is none else.

Job 12:21 (Parallel theme): He poureth contempt upon princes, and weakeneth the strength of the mighty.

Deuteronomy 32:39 (References God): See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.

Deuteronomy 4:35 (References God): Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him.

Psalms 18:39 (Parallel theme): For thou hast girded me with strength unto the battle: thou hast subdued under me those that rose up against me.

Deuteronomy 4:39 (References God): Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else.