

2-11-18

Isaiah 45:1-13 Authoritative Prayer

Intro: Many in the holiness, Pentecostal, and deeper life movement at the turn of the last century found in Isaiah 45:11 a verse they believed gave them great, authoritative power in prayer. The verse appears to invite us to command God concerning the work of His hands.

This raises a significant and profound question concerning the subject of prayer: does God really invite us to command Him? Is the translation, and subsequent interpretation, correct? If so, why do we not do it? If not, is the concept (or principle) correct? How are we to understand and apply this verse?

I. Exegesis of Isaiah 45:11

A. The verse in various translations

1. KJV Ask Me of things to come concerning My sons,
 And concerning the work of My hands, command ye Me
2. NLT Do you question what I do for My children?
 Do you give Me orders about the work of My hands?
3. NIV Concerning things to come, do you question Me about My children?
 Or give Me orders about the work of My hands?
4. NAS As Me about the things to come concerning My sons,
 And you shall commit to Me the work of My hands?

B. The context (Isaiah 45:1-13)

C. The verse in context—a series of interrogatives relative to the decisions God makes and whom He chooses to use

D. Various commentary—

1. Vast majority of Hebrew scholars, Evangelical and Jewish, argue for the interrogative
2. J.A. McMillan (1935), *Authority of the Believer*, argue for the declarative
3. Smith Wigglesworth (1940), a Pentecostal evangelist, argues for the declarative
4. Conclusion of exegetical analysis: despite the Pentecostal and deeper life translation (based upon the KJV), the interrogative renders the best sense.

II. But is the concept valid?

A. The principle of inquiry

1. Jesus at the tomb of Lazarus (John 11:41-43)
2. John 15:15—I have shown you all things
3. I Cor 2:9--Eye has not seen, ...

B. The authority of the believer

1. Peter and John at the temple with the lame man
2. If you abide in me and my words abide in you
3. Whatever you bind on earth (Matt 18:18)

III. What is the price of being an intercessor?

- A. Spending much time in the Scriptures
- B. Learning to discern the voice of God
- C. Abiding in Christ and His Word
- D. Learning to wait on God

Are you willing to accept the call to be an intercessor?