

SERMON OUTLINE

Speaker: Dr Philip Satterthwaite

Text : The Lord: The One And Only Redeemer

Title : Isaiah 44

Introduction

Isaiah 44 and the Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act...

Is the prophet serious?

Did they make idols from logs in Babylon?

And *why* this extended attack on idols at this point in Isaiah's argument?

1. The Call to Israel: You are my Witnesses (44:1–8)

- Israel as servant/witness (cf. 41:8–10; 42:1–9; 43:10–13)
- To what does Israel bear witness?
- Israel's failure to live up to its call (42:18–25; 43:22–28)

2. The Folly of Idolatry (44:9–20)

- The need for Israel to trust in God again
- The worthlessness of idols (including the gods of Babylon)
- The delusion of idolatry

3. The Promise of Forgiveness and Restoration (44:21–23)

- 'Remember these things' (v. 21)
- 'You will not be forgotten by me' (v. 21)
- 'I have swept away your transgressions' (v. 22)
- 'Return to me' (v. 22)

4. And the Agent of Redemption will be None Other than... (44:24–28)

- Return and rebuilding...
- ...under the supervision of Pastor Cyrus, the LORD's Anointed! (44:28; 45:1)

Conclusion

The continuing call to bear witness

The continuing danger of idolatry