God of Space and Time

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Isaiah 44-48.
- B. Man can never truly receive what he wants by himself—peace on this planet.
- C. It only comes through God when man acknowledges His need. (Matthew 6)
- II. God will indeed pour water upon the thirsty today.
 - A. This is grace.
 - B. God makes His promises to the losers.
 - C. Only God has the key to help the broken in spirit.

III. Who this God is.

- A. He is in every respect greater than everything is.
- B. You cannot have pride and know God.
- IV. The idolater is deluded and cannot deliver himself.
 - A. Our society is given over to idol worship even though we do not have wooden idols.
 - B. Automobiles and sex are examples of idols today that leave man unsatisfied.
 - C. God's love is reaching out to those entrapped by such things.
- V. Cyrus is named before he is born as redeemer.
 - A. This is amazing because he is a follower of Zoroaster.
 - B. He is commissioned to rebuild the temple in that city.
 - C. We are encouraged that God is in full control of the forces of earth.
- VI. It is arrogance for human beings to criticize the workings of God when He is in full control.
 - A. To argue with God is to argue with the very power that made it possible for you to argue.
 - B. Man is pitiful compared to God and His work in nature.
 - C. Man's folly.

- 1. He thinks he is fully in control.
- 2. He gives himself to the control of a secondary force—some idol.
- 3. Both mistakes result in slavery and human agony.
- 4. Right becomes whatever is convenient for man.

VII. God's answer: salvation.

- A. God swears by the greatest power in the universe—Himself.
- B. God exalted Jesus our salvation, the whole thrust of the universe. (Philippians 2)

VIII. The cult practices are futile.

IX. Behind the judgments of God is a loving heart seeking to redeem man.

X. There is no peace for the judged because they have turned away from the only source of peace they have—God.

Application questions:

1. Why is pride so dangerous in light of who God is?
2. What are some examples of modern idols that we face? With what idols do you struggle
3. What is the result of man questioning his Creator? Why is this so dangerous?