> You will not be put to shame or humiliated to all eternity. (18) For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens. He is the God who formed the earth and made it; he established it and did not create it to be a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD and there is no other. (19) I have not spoken in secret, in some dark land. I did not say to the offspring of Jacob, Seek me in a waste place. I the LORD speak righteousness, declaring things that are right. ^22

Again the folly of idol worship is contrasted with God's mercy to Israel, and this is followed by renewed emphasis on His righteous plans.

The next verses again challenge the idolaters and declare that the LORD is the only God.

> (20) Assemble yourselves and come. Draw near together, you that escaped of the nations. They have no knowledge who carry about their wooden idol, who pray to a god that cannot save. (21) Declare and present your case; Jet them consult together. Who bas announced this from of old? Who has long since declared it? Have not I, the LORD? There is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Saviour; there is none except me.

The final verses of chapter 45 declare God's saving purpose for all the ends of the earth, and His determination universally to establish His righteousness. Verse 25 again places emphasis on His beneficent purpose for His people Israel.

> (22) Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth, for I am God and there is no other. (23) I have sworn by myself, the word has gone forth from my mouth in righteousness and will not return, that to me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. (24) They will say of me, Only in the LORD are righteousness and strength. Men will come to him and all who were angry at him will be put to shame. (25) In the LORD all the offspring of Israel will be justified and will glory.

The first two verses of chapter 46 declare that Bel and Nabu, the two leading gods of Babylon, will be defeated and themselves will go into captivity. The rest of chapter 46 repeats