

# Isaiah 47 - The Humiliation of Babylon

## III. Prophecies of comfort (Is 40:1—66:24)

(1) Promises of Israel's deliverance from Babylonian captivity because of God's attributes (Is 40:1—48:22)

(H) Deliverance based upon predictions of Babylon's fall (Is 46:1—47:15)

(b) Destruction of Babylon (47:1-15)

(i) Destruction described (47:1-5)

(ii) Sins inviting destruction (47:6-15)

## Isaiah 47

(b) Destruction of Babylon (47:1-15)

(i) Destruction described (47:1-5)

**1** "Come down and sit in the dust, Virgin daughter of Babylon; Sit on the ground without a throne, Daughter of the Chaldeans! For you will no longer be called tender and delicate.

**1** "Come down and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon; Sit on the ground without a throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans! For you shall no longer be called tender and delicate.

**1** "Come down and sit in the dust, Virgin Daughter of Babylon. Sit on the ground without a chair, Daughter of the Chaldeans! For no longer will they call you tender and attractive.

**1** Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate.

**2** "Take the millstones and grind flour. Remove your veil, strip off the skirt, Uncover the leg, cross the rivers.

**2** "Take the millstones and grind meal. Remove your veil, strip off the skirt, Uncover the leg, cross the rivers.

**2** Take millstones and grind flour. Remove your veil, strip off your robes, bare your legs, and wade through the rivers.

**2** Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover the thigh, pass over the rivers.

## Judgment upon Babylon

Babylon, more than the local, also the pride of the Chaldeans. This is the third time in Isaiah (13-14; 21) that we have considered the prediction of the doom of Babylon. There was also

a suggestion of the fall of Babylon in Is 46, which opened with God's judgment upon the idols. The time given to this subject is remarkable in view of the fact that Babylon at this time was a very small and insignificant kingdom. It was almost a century later that it would become a world power.

3 "Your nakedness will be uncovered, Your shame will also be exposed; I will take vengeance and will not spare anyone."

3 "Your nakedness will be uncovered, Your shame also will be exposed; I will take vengeance and will not spare a man."

3 Your nakedness will be exposed, and your disgrace will also be seen. I'll take vengeance, and I will spare no mortal.

3 Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet thee as a man.

- These idioms seem strange without also referring to Rev 17-18, which describes Babylon as the harlot

4 Our Redeemer, the LORD of armies is His name, The Holy One of Israel.

4 Our Redeemer, the LORD of hosts is His name, The Holy One of Israel.

4 "Our Redeemer— the LORD of the Heavenly Armies is his name— is the Holy One of Israel.

4 As for our redeemer, the LORD of hosts is his name, the Holy One of Israel.

5 "Sit silently, and go into darkness, Daughter of the Chaldeans; For you will no longer be called The **queen of kingdoms**.

5 "Sit silently, and go into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans, For you will no longer be called The queen of kingdoms.

5 "Sit silent, and enter into the darkness, you daughter of the Chaldeans; for no more will they call you Queen of Kingdoms.

5 Sit thou silent, and get thee into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called, The lady of kingdoms.

- "...queen of kingdoms" - Rev 18:7, note plural kingdoms (Cf. Is 13:19)

— God is making it clear to them that the reason Babylon was able to take His people was because He permitted it and not because Babylon was superior

(ii) Sins inviting destruction (47:6-15)

6 "I was angry with My people, I profaned My heritage And handed them over to you. You did not show mercy to them, On the aged you made your yoke very heavy.

6 "I was angry with My people, I profaned My heritage And gave them into your hand. You did not show mercy to them, On the aged you made your yoke very heavy.

6 I was angry with my people, and I desecrated my heritage, and gave them into your control. You showed them no mercy; even on the aged you laid your yoke most heavily.

6 I was wroth with my people, I have polluted mine inheritance, and given them into thine hand: thou didst shew them no mercy; upon the ancient hast thou very heavily laid thy yoke.

- Here's a prophecy that God would order the Babylonian captivity because of Israel's disobedience

— Jeremiah would later say that God was giving Israel to Babylon for 70 years and after that He would judge the Babylonians for their guilt (Jer 25:8-12)

— Some have questioned the Lord's motives in judging Babylon for simply obeying His instructions, and for them Isaiah's prophecy also contains His answer to their accusation.

7 "Yet you said, 'I will be a queen forever.' These things you did not consider Nor remember the outcome of them.

7 "Yet you said, 'I will be a queen forever.' These things you did not consider Nor remember the outcome of them.

7 You said, 'I will always continue—Queen forever!' You didn't take these things into your thinking, nor did you think about their consequences.

7 And thou saidst, I shall be a lady for ever: so that thou didst not lay these things to thy heart, neither didst remember the latter end of it.

8 "Now, then, hear this, you luxuriant one, Who lives securely, Who says in her heart, 'I am, and there is no one besides me. I will not sit as a widow, Nor know the loss of children.'

8 "Now, then, hear this, you sensual one, Who dwells securely, Who says in your heart, 'I am, and there is no one besides me. I will not sit as a widow, Nor know loss of children.'

8 "Now hear this, you wanton creature, lounging with no cares, and saying to herself: 'I am the one, and there will be none besides me; I won't live as a widow, nor will I see the loss of children.'

8 Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children:

9 "But these two things will come on you suddenly in one day: Loss of children and widowhood. They will come on you in full measure In spite of your many sorceries, In spite of the great power of your spells.

9 "But these two things will come on you suddenly in one day: Loss of children and widowhood. They will come on you in full measure In spite of your many sorceries, In spite of the great power of your spells.

9 Both of these things will overtake you suddenly on a single day: loss of children and widowhood. They will come upon you in full measure, despite the multitude of your incantations and the great power of your spells."

9 But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments.

10 "You felt secure in your wickedness and said, 'No one sees me,' Your wisdom and your knowledge, they have led you astray; For you have said in your heart, 'I am, and there is no one besides me.'

10 "You felt secure in your wickedness and said, 'No one sees me,' Your wisdom and your knowledge, they have deluded you; For you have said in your heart, 'I am, and there is no one besides me.'

10 "You trusted in your own knowledge. You said, 'No one sees me.' Your wisdom and knowledge have misled you. You said in your heart, 'I am the one, and there will be none besides me.'

10 For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me.

- Driven by the lust for power...

### **The Fall of Babylon**

11 "But evil will come on you Which you will not know how to charm away; And disaster will fall on you For which you cannot atone; And destruction about which you do not know Will come on you suddenly.

11 "But evil will come on you Which you will not know how to charm away; And disaster will fall on you For which you cannot atone; And destruction about which you do not know Will come on you suddenly.

11 "But disaster will come upon you, and you will not know how to charm it away. A calamity will befall you that you will not be able to ward off; and devastation will come upon you suddenly, and you won't anticipate it.

11 Therefore shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off: and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, which thou shalt not know.

12 "Persist now in your spells And in your many sorceries With which you have labored from your youth; Perhaps you will be able to benefit, Perhaps you may cause trembling.

12 "Stand *fast* now in your spells And in your many sorceries With which you have labored from your youth; Perhaps you will be able to profit, Perhaps you may cause trembling.

12 "But stand up now with your spells and your many incantations, at which you have labored from your childhood until today,

12 Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail.

13 "You are wearied with your many counsels; Let now the astrologers, Those who prophesy by the stars, Those who predict by the new moons, Stand up and save you from what will come upon you.

13 "You are wearied with your many counsels; Let now the astrologers, Those who prophesy by the stars, Those who predict by the new moons, Stand up and save you from what will come upon you.

13 according to your multiple schemes. Let them stand up now— those who conjure the heavens and gaze at the stars, predicting at the new moons— and save you from what is about to happen to them.

13 Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee.

14 "Behold, they have become like stubble, Fire burns them; They cannot save themselves from the power of the flame; There will be no coal to warm by *Nor* a fire to sit before!

14 "Behold, they have become like stubble, Fire burns them; They cannot deliver themselves from the power of the flame; There will be no coal to warm by *Nor* a fire to sit before!

14 "See, they are just like stubble; fire burns them up. They could not even save themselves from the power of the flame. There will be no coals for warming oneself, no fire to sit by.

14 Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it.

15 "So have those become to you with whom you have labored, Those who have done business with you from your youth; Each has wandered in his own way; There is no one to save you.

15 "So have those become to you with whom you have labored, Who have trafficked with you from your youth; Each has wandered in his own way; There is none to save you.

15 So will they be to you—those with whom you toiled and did business since your childhood— they wander about, each in his own direction; there is not one who can save you.

15 Thus shall they be unto thee with whom thou hast laboured, even thy merchants, from thy youth: they shall wander every one to his quarter; none shall save thee.

- The city lives up to its name—Babylon means "confusion"