

# Isaiah 48 - The Demands of Prophecy; Israel Refined for God's Glory

## 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)

(I) Deliverance based upon predictions of Israel's liberation from Babylon (48:1-22)

(a) Israel's stubbornness described (48:1-11)

(b) Israel's deliverance described (48:12-22)

## Isaiah 48

(I) Deliverance based upon predictions of Israel's liberation from Babylon (48:1-22)

(a) Israel's stubbornness described (48:1-11)

**1** "Hear this, house of Jacob, who are named Israel And who came from the waters of Judah, Who swear by the name of the LORD And invoke the God of Israel, *But* not in truth nor in righteousness.

**1** "Hear this, O house of Jacob, who are named Israel And who came forth from the loins of Judah, Who swear by the name of the LORD And invoke the God of Israel, *But* not in truth nor in righteousness.

**1** "Listen to this, house of Jacob, you who are called by the name of Israel, and who have come forth from Judah's loins; you who swear oaths in the name of the LORD and invoke the God of Israel— but not in truth, nor in good faith.

**1** Hear ye this, O house of Jacob, which are called by the name of Israel, and are come forth out of the waters of Judah, which swear by the name of the LORD, and make mention of the God of Israel, but not in truth, nor in righteousness.

- There are those who say that Judah and Israel are different: God contradicts that thinking in this verse

— Don't try to change the name God has given them. The whole house of Israel is addressed here, and they belong to the chosen line through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

— The apostate nation back then and in our day should listen to this final injunction to turn back to God

2 "For they name themselves after the holy city, And lean on the God of Israel; The LORD of armies is His name.

2 "For they call themselves after the holy city And lean on the God of Israel; The LORD of hosts is His name.

2 For they name themselves after the holy city, and rely on the God of Israel— the LORD of the Heavenly Armies is his name.

2 For they call themselves of the holy city, and stay themselves upon the God of Israel; The LORD of hosts is his name.

3 "I declared the former things long ago, And they went out of My mouth, and I proclaimed them. Suddenly I acted, and they came to pass.

3 "I declared the former things long ago And they went forth from My mouth, and I proclaimed them. Suddenly I acted, and they came to pass.

3 I foretold the former things long ago; it went forth from my mouth, and I disclosed them; Suddenly, I acted, and they came to pass.

3 I have declared the former things from the beginning; and they went forth out of my mouth, and I shewed them; I did them suddenly, and they came to pass.

4 "Because I know that you are obstinate, And your neck is an iron tendon And your forehead bronze,

4 "Because I know that you are obstinate, And your neck is an iron sinew And your forehead bronze,

4 Because I knew that you are obstinate, and because your neck is an iron sinew, and your forehead is bronze,

4 Because I knew that thou art obstinate, and thy neck is an iron sinew, and thy brow brass;

5 Therefore I declared *them* to you long ago, Before they took place I proclaimed *them* to you, So that you would not say, 'My idol has done them, And my carved image and my cast metal image have commanded them.'

5 Therefore I declared *them* to you long ago, Before they took place I proclaimed *them* to you, So that you would not say, 'My idol has done them, And my graven image and my molten image have commanded them.'

5 I told you these things long ago; I announced them to you before they happened so that you couldn't say, 'My idol did them; my carved image or metal idol ordained them.'

5 I have even from the beginning declared it to thee; before it came to pass I shewed it thee: lest thou shouldest say, Mine idol hath done them, and my graven image, and my molten image, hath commanded them.

6 "You have heard; look at all this. And you, will you not declare it? I proclaim to you new things from this time, Hidden things which you have not known.

6 "You have heard; look at all this. And you, will you not declare it? I proclaim to you new things from this time, Even hidden things which you have not known.

6 "You have heard—now look at them all! How can you not admit them? From now on, I'll make you hear new things, hidden things that you have not known.

6 Thou hast heard, see all this; and will not ye declare it? I have shewed thee new things from this time, even hidden things, and thou didst not know them.

7 "They are created now and not long ago; And before today you have not heard them, So that you will not say, 'Behold, I knew them.'

7 "They are created now and not long ago; And before today you have not heard them, So that you will not say, 'Behold, I knew them.'

7 They are created now, and not long ago; you didn't hear them before today, so you cannot say, 'Yes, I knew them.'

7 They are created now, and not from the beginning; even before the day when thou heardest them not; lest thou shouldest say, Behold, I knew them.

8 "You have not heard, you have not known. Even from long ago your ear has not been open, Because I knew that you would deal very treacherously; And you have been called a rebel from birth.

8 "You have not heard, you have not known. Even from long ago your ear has not been open, Because I knew that you would deal very treacherously; And you have been called a rebel from birth.

8 And neither had you heard, nor did you understand, nor did you open your ear long ago. Indeed, I knew that you would act very deceitfully, and they would call you a rebel from birth.

8 Yea, thou heardest not; yea, thou knewest not; yea, from that time that thine ear was not opened: for I knew that thou wouldest deal very treacherously, and wast called a transgressor from the womb.

### **The Reasons for the Partiality of Judgment**

9 "For the sake of My name I delay My wrath, And *for* My praise I restrain *it* for you, In order not to cut you off.

9 "For the sake of My name I delay My wrath, And *for* My praise I restrain *it* for you, In order not to cut you off.

9 I defer my anger for my name's sake, and as my first act I'm restraining it for you, so as not to cut you off.

9 For my name's sake will I defer mine anger, and for my praise will I refrain for thee, that I cut thee not off.

10 "Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

10 "Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

10 Look, I have refined you, but not like silver; I have purified you in the furnace of affliction.

10 Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.

- Refers to Israel's purification during the Great Tribulation (Cf. Ezek 22; Is 1:22,25; Dan 12:10; Jer 6:27-30; 9:7; Mal 3:2-3)

11 "For My own sake, for My own sake, I will act; For how can *My name* be profaned? And I will not give My glory to another.

11 "For My own sake, for My own sake, I will act; For how can *My name* be profaned? And My glory I will not give to another.

11 For my own sake—Yes, for my own sake!—I'm doing it; indeed, how can I be profaned? Furthermore, I won't give my glory to another."

11 For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another.

(b) Israel's deliverance described (48:12-22)

**12** "Listen to Me, Jacob, Israel **whom I called**; I am He, **I am the first, I am also the last.**

**12** "Listen to Me, O Jacob, even Israel whom I called; I am He, I am the first, I am also the last.

12 "Listen to these things, Jacob, and Israel, whom I have called. I am the One: I am the first, I am even the last.

12 Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last.

- "...whom I called" - it would seem that God is no longer addressing the nation as a whole but confines His Word to the Remnant labeled

- "...I am the first, I am also the last" - a path to witness to Jehovah Witnesses: Is 41:4; 44:6; 48:12; Rev 1:11,17; 22:13...then Rev 2:8: "...These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive."

13 "Assuredly My hand founded the earth, And My right hand spread out the heavens; When I call to them, they stand together.

13 "Surely My hand founded the earth, And My right hand spread out the heavens; When I call to them, they stand together.

13 Moreover, my hands laid the earth's foundation, and my right hand spread out the heavens. I call out to them, and they stand up together.

13 Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together.

14 "Assemble, all of you, and listen! Who among them has declared these things? The LORD loves him; he will carry out His good pleasure against Babylon, And His arm *will be against* the Chaldeans.

14 "Assemble, all of you, and listen! Who among them has declared these things? The LORD loves him; he will carry out His good pleasure on Babylon, And His arm *will be against* the Chaldeans.

14 Let all of them come together and listen: Who is there among them that could declare these things? "The LORD loves me, and he will accomplish my purpose against Babylon; his arm will be against the Chaldeans.

14 All ye, assemble yourselves, and hear; which among them hath declared these things? The LORD hath loved him: he will do his pleasure on Babylon, and his arm shall be on the Chaldeans.

- Concept of Babylon is linked to the Chaldeans, not simply an allegorical reference

15 "I, yes I, have spoken; indeed I have called him, I have brought him, and He will make his ways successful.

15 "I, even I, have spoken; indeed I have called him, I have brought him, and He will make his ways successful.

15 I—Yes, I!—have spoken; indeed, I've called and I've brought him, and he will make his path successful.

15 I, even I, have spoken; yea, I have called him: I have brought him, and he shall make his way prosperous.

16 "Come near to Me, listen to this: From the beginning I have not spoken in secret, From the time it took place, **I** was there. And now **the Lord GOD** has sent Me, and **His Spirit**."

16 "Come near to Me, listen to this: From the first I have not spoken in secret, From the time it took place, I was there. And now the Lord GOD has sent Me, and His Spirit."

16 Draw near to me, and listen to this: 'From the beginning I haven't spoken in secret; at the time it happened, I was there.' And now the LORD God, and his Spirit, has sent me.

16 Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me.

- "...I" - Jesus

- "...the Lord GOD" - the Father

- "...His Spirit" - the Holy Spirit

-- OT evidence for the Trinity

### **What Might Have Been Had Israel Obeyed**

17 This is what the LORD says, *He who is* your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to benefit, Who leads you in the way you should go.

17 Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to profit, Who leads you in the way you should go.

17 "This is what the LORD says, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you how to succeed, who directs you in the path by which you should go.

17 Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.

- Who is speaking? See v12, "Alpha and Omega," Jesus Christ

— "I have not spoken of in secret" matches Jesus' words in John 20:18

18 "If only you had paid attention to My commandments!? Then your well-being would have been like a river, And your righteousness like the waves of the sea.

18 "If only you had paid attention to My commandments! Then your well-being would have been like a river, And your righteousness like the waves of the sea.

18 Now if only you had paid attention to my commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your success like the waves of the sea.

18 O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea:

19 "Your descendants would have been like the sand, And your offspring like its grains; Their name would never be eliminated or destroyed from My presence."

19 "Your descendants would have been like the sand, And your offspring like its grains; Their name would never be cut off or destroyed from My presence."

19 Your descendants would've been like the sand, and your offspring like its numberless grains. Their name wouldn't have been cut off or annihilated out of my reach.

19 Thy seed also had been as the sand, and the offspring of thy bowels like the gravel thereof; his name should not have been cut off nor destroyed from before me.

### **The Call to Flee from Babylon**

**20** Go out from Babylon! Flee from the Chaldeans! Declare with the sound of joyful shouting, proclaim this, Send it out to the end of the earth; Say, "The LORD has redeemed His servant Jacob."

**20** Go forth from Babylon! Flee from the Chaldeans! Declare with the sound of joyful shouting, proclaim this, Send it out to the end of the earth; Say, "The LORD has redeemed His servant Jacob."

**20** "Go out from Babylon, flee from the Chaldeans! With happy shouts, announce and proclaim this to the ends of the earth: Say, 'The LORD has redeemed his servant Jacob!'

**20** Go ye forth of Babylon, flee ye from the Chaldeans, with a voice of singing declare ye, tell this, utter it even to the end of the earth; say ye, The LORD hath redeemed his servant Jacob.

**21** They did not thirst when He led them through the deserts. He made the water flow out of the rock for them; He split the rock and the water gushed out.

**21** They did not thirst when He led them through the deserts. He made the water flow out of the rock for them; He split the rock and the water gushed forth.

**21** They didn't thirst when he led him through the desolate places. He made water gush from a rock for them; he split open the rock, and water gushed out.

**21** And they thirsted not when he led them through the deserts: he caused the waters to flow out of the rock for them: he clave the rock also, and the waters gushed out.

- It is Isaiah who becomes God's messenger. He is pleading with them, and as He pleads you can hear the Lord Jesus Christ.

**22** "There is no peace for the wicked," says the LORD.

**22** "There is no peace for the wicked," says the LORD.

**22** "But there is no peace," says the LORD, "for the wicked."

**22** There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked.

- This closing phrase is again echoed later in Is 57:21

*Since the prophet has not spoken in his own person before; whereas, on the other hand, these words are followed in the next chapter by an address concerning Himself from that servant of Jehovah who announces Himself as the restorer of Israel and light of the Gentiles, and who cannot be therefore either Israel, as a nation, or Isaiah, it can be none other than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. — Franz Delitzsch*

