

Called Tender and Delicate

Isaiah 47:1 – 48:22

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~ Just as things were becoming so comfortable in our Spiritual Safari in this second major division of the prophecy of Isaiah, we come across another judgment of Babylon; a burden that clouds the waters and makes this section of Scripture even more difficult to understand than our several previous reports have already been. This judgment is number three in a series against Babylon Isaiah presents; and this one — which comes out of nowhere in the Book of Isaiah — concerns the overall, final decline, fall, and total desolation of the Chaldeans in Babylon. Frankly, I thought we were finished with Babylon in Isaiah but — not so. In chapters thirteen and fourteen, we saw extreme, harsh burdens of Babylon. In chapter twenty-one, we had another; and, here we are again.

Idolatry originated in Babylon; and it's easy to look back and judge them for that but, let's look inward. The term "*idolatry*" seems so trite and so far disconnected from modern mankind that we dismiss our contemporary idolatry; which can be anything from houses, clothes, jobs, money, spouses, children, siblings, pets, friends, cars, television, games, expensive toys, technical gadgetry, music, hobbies, food, travel, business, sex, drugs, or alcohol — even religion — and any number of other things. Most people are literally saturated in idolatry — but they have not even the dimmest awareness of their condition. Whatever they deem okay is their only standard of right and wrong. They have a life philosophy developed from select bits of secular education, combined with a smattering of Bible truth — and they can and will justify anything and everything they do and say — mostly by claiming God gave it them — and that it's none of your business. Well, the Babylon of the past lay humiliated under the rubble and ruins of judgment today — for exactly this reason. Because of idolatry, Babylon's former glory and grandeur are now century's old dust and debris....

XLVII

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 meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover the thigh, pass over the rivers.

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.

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

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.

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.

~ This is a difficult passage of Scripture to understand, friends. God is speaking to the nation Israel through his prophet Isaiah. That's first and foremost to consider. However, nakedness and sex permeate American society, indeed, world culture, today. Most people aren't even the slightest bit troubled by our pornographically saturated society. In fact, if you say these things that I am saying today, most people will just laugh and shrug you off as outdated; and then they'll never speak to you again. Well, see, in verse six, God says, "I allowed it...." When God's people sin against Him, He will allow them to go into troubles at the hands of an oppressor, such as Assyria or Babylon. Most interestingly, God's judgment of Israel even deceived Babylon! The Babylonians thought they were smart, clever, and strong beyond imagination – and Babylon believed they had conquered Israel....

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 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 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 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.

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 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.

~ So, this chapter ends with a blistering condemnation against mankind lifting himself up in pride and leaning on his own understanding. God satirically and sarcastically tells them they need to go back to their witchcraft. That's verse twelve. Those people trusted it - even though it brought them nothing but trouble. That made for one utterly confused society that was dying from within. Men today become very rich and famous – but never for making some lasting and meaningful contribution to mankind. No, they get rich by selling momentary entertainment, gambling, pornography, sex, drugs and alcohol – and by greed, theft and fraud, of course. Well, those things tear mankind down – they do not build us up.

The cost on society from drug and alcohol abuse *alone* are astronomically higher than what those manufacturer's contribute to society. Sprinkle in all the other questionable, illegitimate businesses, and a nation is suddenly a house of cards. Add to that the weight of poverty and, my friend, total

chaos ensues. With all the wealth in this world, there is no legitimate excuse for our poverty problem. There is absolutely no explanation for the wholly failed programs for the poor; except that we have departed from the laws and precepts of the Living and True God – the Lord Jesus Christ. Frankly, that problem must needs come first in this world; or we can just forget about being a great nation – I don't care who we are. If you want to see a change in the United States of America, then act more honorably, my American friends. These people were boasting about being of God when they were total strangers to Him. Preaching at problems and talking past people is a total and complete waste of time. God judges – just as He judged Babylon....

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 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 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.

XLVIII

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.

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

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 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 from the beginning; even before the day when thou heardest them not; lest thou shouldest say, Behold, I knew them.

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.

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

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.

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

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 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.

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

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.

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.

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 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.

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 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.

22 There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked ~

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