

The Servant is Divinely Empowered for Success

Lesson 12: Isaiah 46:1-49:13

November 25, 2018

Review

- 1-39 Book of Condemnation
 - 1-5 The Lord Speaks to Isaiah
 - 6 Isaiah is Called and Sent
 - 7-12 **The Coming Assyrian Invasion**
 - 13-27 **The Lord Speaks to the Nations**
 - 28-35 **The Lord Speaks to the Nation**
 - 36-39 **The Assyrian Invasion**
- 40-66 Book of Comfort
 - 40-48 Comfort in the Sovereign God (theology proper)
 - 49-59 Comfort in God the Deliverer (soteriology)
 - 60-66 Comfort in the Kingdom of God (eschatology)

Lesson Outline

- 46:1-7 The **worthlessness** of idols
- 46:8-13 **God** is the only one
- 47:1-7 **God's** judgment on Babylon
- 47:8-15 The **worthlessness** of sorcery and astrologers
- 48:1-11 Israel rebuked
- 48:12-22 God's power in redemption
- 49:1-13 The great work of the despised Servant

Chapter 46 Outline

- 1-4 The inability of idols
- 5-7 The futility of idols
- 8-11 God's deeds prove He is God
- 12-13 Respond to God's salvation

The inability of idols Isaiah 46:1-4

¹Bel has **bowed down**, Nebo **stoops over**;
Their images are *consigned* to the beasts and
the cattle.

The things that you carry are burdensome,
A load for the weary *beast*.

²They **stooped over**, they have **bowed down**
together;
They could not **rescue** the burden,
But have themselves gone into captivity.

³“Listen to Me, O house of Jacob,
And all the remnant of the house of Israel,
You who have been borne by Me from **birth**
And have been **carried** from the womb;

⁴Even to your **old age** I will be the same,
And even to *your* graying years I will **bear**
you!

I have done *it*, and I will **carry you**;
And I will **bear you** and I will **deliver you**.

- Parallelism in Hebrew poetry
 - Synonymous: bowed/stoops
 - Antithetical: righteous/wicked
 - Synthetic: bear/deliver
- Idols cannot even rescue themselves
- God will deliver Israel

The futility of idols Isaiah 46:5-7

⁵“To whom would you liken Me
And make Me equal and compare Me,
That we would be alike?

⁶“Those who lavish gold from the purse
And weigh silver on the scale
Hire a goldsmith, and he makes it *into* a god;
They bow down, indeed they worship it.

⁷“They lift it upon the shoulder *and* carry it;
They set it in its place and it stands *there*.
It does not move from its place.
Though one may cry to it, it cannot answer;
It cannot deliver him from his distress.

- No one can compare with God
- Idols cannot move
- Idols are unable to deliver

God's deeds prove He is God

Isaiah 46:8-11

⁸“Remember this, and be assured;
Recall it to mind, you transgressors.

⁹“Remember the former things long past,
For I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is no one like Me,

¹⁰Declaring the end from the beginning,
And from ancient times things which have
not been done,

Saying, ‘**My purpose** will be established,
And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’;

¹¹Calling a bird of prey from the east,
The man of **My purpose** from a far country.
Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to
pass.

I have planned *it, surely* I will do it.

- What God does
 - Declares the beginning and end
 - Establishes His purposes
 - Calls the man of His purpose

Respond to God's salvation Isaiah 46:12-13

¹²"Listen to Me, you stubborn-minded,
Who are far from righteousness.

¹³"I bring near My righteousness, it is not far
off;

And My salvation will not delay.

And I will grant salvation in Zion,
And My glory for Israel.

- God must be the one to bring righteousness near
- Salvation reveals God's glory

Chapter 47 Outline

- 1-4 Babylon's humiliation
- 5-7 Why God judged Babylon
- 8-11 Babylon's security will fail
- 12-15 Sorcery and astrologers cannot deliver Babylon

Babylon's humiliation Isaiah 47:1-4

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.

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

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

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

- Babylon will lose her high position
- God will bring judgment on
Babylon
- God is Israel's redeemer

Why God judged Babylon Isaiah 47:5-7

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

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.

⁷“Yet you said, ‘I will be a **queen** forever.’
These things you did not consider
Nor remember the outcome of them.

- God used Babylon, but she will be punished
- Like Assyria they did not show mercy

Babylon's security will fail

Isaiah 47:8-10

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.**’

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.

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.’

- What would come to Babylon
 - Loss of children
 - Widowhood
- Reason for judgment
 - Sorceries and spells
 - Self-security
 - Self-exaltation to the status of god

Sorcery and astrologers cannot deliver Babylon Isaiah 47:11-13

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.

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.

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.

- Disaster would come suddenly
- Sorceries would not help
- The astrologers would not help

Sorcery and
astrologers cannot
deliver Babylon
Isaiah 47:14-15

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!

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.

- The astrologers cannot deliver themselves
- There would be no help for Babylon

Chapter 48 Outline

- 1-11 Rebuke of Israel
- 12-15 God the omnipotent creator
- 16-19 God's regret at Israel's waywardness
- 20-22 Joyful exodus from Babylon

Rebuke of Israel

Isaiah 48:1-4

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.

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

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.

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

- Isaiah now addresses Israel
- Using God’s name is not enough
- Israel was obstinate from the time they became a nation

Rebuke of Israel Isaiah 48:5-7

⁵Therefore 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.'

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.

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.'

- God declares things before they happen to prove idols false
- God hides things so we cannot claim to know they would happen

Rebuke of Israel Isaiah 48:8-11

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.

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.

¹⁰“Behold, I have refined you, but not as
silver;

I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

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.

- God acts for the sake of His name and glory
- Even affliction is for God’s glory

God the omnipotent
creator

Isaiah 48:12-15

¹²“Listen to Me, O Jacob, even Israel whom I
called;

I am He, I am the first, I am also the last.

¹³“Surely My hand founded the earth,
And My right hand spread out the heavens;
When I call to them, they stand 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 on Babylon,
And His arm *will be against* the Chaldeans.

¹⁵“I, even I, have spoken; indeed I have called
him,

I have brought him, and He will make his
ways successful.

- God is the first and the last
- The idols have not declared what God would do
- God’s love for Israel would bring judgment on Babylon

God's regret at Israel's waywardness Isaiah 48:16-18

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."

¹⁷Thus 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.

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.

- "I" may be the Servant
- Descriptions of God
 - Israel's Redeemer
 - The Holy One of Israel
 - The one who teaches them
 - The one who leads them

Joyful exodus from Babylon Isaiah 48:19-22

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.”

²⁰Go 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.”

²¹They 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.
²²“There is no peace for the wicked,” says the LORD.

- Obedience would have brought blessing
- God will redeem Israel from Babylon anyway
- The redeemed need to live as God’s servants

Chapter 49:1-13 Outline

- 1-3 **God's plan for the Servant**
- 4 **The Servant's struggles and trust in God**
- 5-6 **God's expanded plan for the Servant**
- 7 **The despised and honored Servant**
- 8-12 The Servant will be a covenant
- 13 Hymn of praise

God's plan for the Servant Isaiah 49:1-4

¹Listen to Me, O islands,
And pay attention, you peoples from afar.
The LORD called Me from the womb;
From the body of My mother He named Me.
²He has made My mouth like a sharp sword,
In the shadow of His hand He has concealed
Me;
And He has also made Me a select arrow,
He has hidden Me in His quiver.
³He said to Me, "You are My Servant, Israel,
In Whom I will show My glory."
⁴But I said, "I have toiled in **vain**,
I have spent My strength for **nothing** and
vanity;
Yet surely the justice *due* to Me is with the
LORD,
And My reward with My God."

- Second servant song
- The Servant was named before birth
- God will show His glory through the Servant
- The Servant will be opposed

God's expanded plan for the Servant Isaiah 49:5-6

⁵And now says the LORD, who formed Me
from the womb to be His Servant,
To bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel
might be gathered to Him
(For I am honored in the sight of the LORD,
And My God is My strength),
⁶He says, "It is too small a thing that You
should be My Servant
To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore
the preserved ones of Israel;
I will also make You a light of the nations
So that My salvation may reach to the end of
the earth."

- Purpose of the Servant
 - Bring Israel back to God
 - Light to the nations for salvation
- Jesus' name means salvation

The despised and honored Servant Isaiah 49:7-8

⁷Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel
and its Holy One,
To the despised One,
To the One abhorred by the nation,
To the Servant of rulers,
“Kings will see and arise,
Princes will also bow down,
Because of the LORD who is faithful, the Holy
One of Israel who has chosen You.”

⁸Thus says the LORD,
“In a favorable time I have answered You,
And in a day of salvation I have helped You;
And I will keep You and give You for a
covenant of the people,
To restore the land, to make *them* inherit the
desolate heritages;

- The servant will be despised
- The servant will be honored
- The servant will be a covenant for the people

The Servant will be a covenant Isaiah 49:9-12

⁹Saying to those who are bound, 'Go forth,'
To those who are in darkness, 'Show
yourselves.'
Along the roads they will feed,
And their pasture *will be* on all bare heights.
¹⁰"They will not hunger or thirst,
Nor will the scorching heat or sun strike
them down;
For He who has compassion on them will
lead them
And will guide them to springs of water.
¹¹"I will make all My mountains a road,
And My highways will be raised up.
¹²"Behold, these will come from afar;
And lo, these *will come* from the north and
from the west,
And these from the land of Sinim."

- The servant will make great reversals
- He will show great compassion

Hymn of praise Isaiah 49:13

¹³Shout for joy, O heavens! And rejoice, O earth!

Break forth into joyful shouting, O mountains!

For the LORD has comforted His people
And will have compassion on His afflicted.

- Command: praise
- Why: God has comforted His people

Summary

- God is the only one who knows all and can save
- No one can compare with God
- God is the one who must bring salvation near
- God both declares and hides things to show no one is like Him
- God acts for the sake of His name and glory
- The Servant will be despised and honored
- The Servant will be a light to the nations for salvation