

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Week 104

Isaiah Chapters 47 and 48

Chapters 47 and 48 go together. They bring this section of Isaiah, chapters 40-48, to a dramatic conclusion. Chapter 48 is the mirror image of chapter 47. Babylon and Israel will have their fortunes reversed.

Chapter 47 contemplates the fall of Babylon, while chapter 48 anticipates the call of the Jewish captives to return home to Zion.

Babylon is destroyed because of her pride. Israel is redeemed despite her stubborn unbelief and rebellion. The Lord acts for His own sake, to vindicate His name and reveal His glory. He is the sovereign, all-powerful God, and there is none other like Him.

Chapter	Audience	Message
47	The virgin daughter of Babylon	Destruction will come upon you suddenly (47:11).
48	The house of Jacob	The LORD has redeemed His servant Jacob (48:20).

Isaiah Chapter 47

Chapter 47 is a poem in the form of the oracles against the nations in chapters 13-23. Babylon is featured prominently in that section of Isaiah – see chapters 13, 14, and 21.

The poem derives its power from verse 4. The Lord will execute His vengeance on Babylon in a single, catastrophic day.

Once again, Isaiah uses rich imagery. Here he uses the metaphor of **the daughter of the Chaldeans** to personify the kingdom of Babylon. Let's read **Isaiah 47:1-5** to see how Isaiah works with this metaphor to dramatize the fate that awaits Babylon.

The daughter of the Chaldeans is set in contrast to the daughter of Zion, who is found in such passages as Isaiah 1:8; 37:22, and **62:11; Micah 4:10-13**. The daughter of Zion personifies the faithful remnant of Israel.

Babylon will reemerge in the Tribulation period as the great harlot who sits on many waters. See **Revelation 14:8; 17:1-5, 15, 18; 18:2-3, 7-10, 16-19**. She will also sit as a queen and will be destroyed in one hour.

Let's read Isaiah chapter 47 now.

As in chapter 46, the stanzas in chapter 47 are introduced with the Lord's commands. Here in chapter 47, they are all directed at Babylon. Verse 4 stands apart, with Isaiah declaring Who is acting.

	Command	Message
Verses 1-3	"Sit in the dust"	Your shame will be exposed.
Verse 4	NA	Our Redeemer is the Lord of hosts, the Holy One of Israel.
Verses 5-7	"Sit in silence, go into darkness"	You will no longer be a queen.
Verses 8-11	"Now, hear this"	Destruction will come on you suddenly.
Verses 12-15	"Stand in your spells and sorceries"	There is none to save you.

Verse-by-verse

Next week, we will study chapter 47 verse by verse.