

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Week 108

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 48

Chapter 48 is the climax in this section of Isaiah, the summing up of chapters 40-47. Everything has pointed to the coming day of deliverance. Yet this is not the end of the story.

Chapter 48 ends in **verse 22** with a note of dark foreshadowing. The biggest problem of all for Israel – and for all people – has yet to be dealt with. And this is the problem of sin.

Chapter 48 also includes a note of bright foreshadowing. For out of the shadows, One briefly appears.

He is the Servant of the Lord, whom we last saw in chapter 42. Here in chapter 48, He appears in just one verse - **48:16**. But, starting in chapter 49, He will be the central figure of the book.

Chapter 48 is addressed to the leaders in Jerusalem during Isaiah's ministry. By keeping this in mind, we can correctly interpret several statements in chapter 48.

With that in mind, we will now briefly consider the historic background.

When chapter 39 ended, Hezekiah was the king of Judah. He was a good king who honored the Lord. The Lord had delivered king Hezekiah and the nation from the Assyrian armies. Then the Lord delivered Hezekiah from an early death.

But Hezekiah made the fatal mistake of inviting the Babylonian emissaries to see the great riches he had. The Lord had prophesied that one day the Babylonians would return to haul off his treasures and his sons (Isaiah 39).

After the death of Hezekiah, the nation soon returned to its wicked ways. When Hezekiah's son Manasseh became king, he ushered in a period of unmatched idolatry and evil.

We will now read 2 Kings 21:1-12.

These are the people whom the Lord speaks in chapter 48.

Let's read Isaiah chapter 48 now.

The energy of chapter 48 is found in **verse 20**.

The motivation for the Lord's actions in chapter 48 is found in **verse 11**.

Chapter 48 has three sections:

	Marker	Message
Verses 1-11	"Hear this, O house of Jacob"	"For the sake of My name, I delay My wrath" (verse 9).
Verse 12-16	"Listen to Me, O Jacob	The LORD shall carry out His good pleasure on Babylon (verse 14).
Verses 17-22	"Thus says the Lord"	"Say, 'The LORD has redeemed His servant Jacob'" (verse 20)

Next week, we will begin our in-depth study of chapter 48.