

**Wednesday Bible Study**  
**The Book of Isaiah The One True God Versus Idols (45-48)**  
**September 25, 2024**

**Objectives:**

- 1) To see how God used Isaiah to comfort to a generation of Israel long after his own death
- 2) To consider the challenge made to the nations of men and their idols proves the existence and identity of the One True God
- 3) To note the prophetic references that were fulfilled with the coming of Jesus Christ.

The Book Isaiah is often referred to as “The Messianic Prophet”, because of his many prophecies that were fulfilled in Jesus. The New Testament quotes and applies more scriptures from the book of Isaiah than any other Old Testament prophet. Yet Isaiah’s work was not solely foretelling the future. A prophet of God was not primarily a future teller, but one who spoke God’s word to the people of his own day. The word “prophet” literally means “to boil up like a fountain.” Therefore, a prophet was a spokesman for God; not so much a “foreteller” as a “forth teller”!

**SUMMARY** We now begin a new section that continues through the rest of the book of Isaiah. Chapters 40-66 contain prophecies and proclamations that were designed to comfort God’s people when they found themselves in Babylonian captivity. Though Isaiah himself did not live during the period of Babylonian captivity, as a prophet he was able to speak words of comfort to those who would experience that difficult time of Israel’s history.

**B. THE LORD PROMISES TO DELIVER ISRAEL...**

1. He, the only True God, has anointed Cyrus to be their deliverer - 45:1-13 2. Israel’s deliverance will cause many to turn to God - 45:14-25 a. The effect of Israel’s redemption upon the Gentiles - 45:14-17 b. The Creator calls upon all, especially Israel, to come to Him - 45:18-25 V.

**THE LORD’S JUDGMENT ON BABYLON (46:1-47:15)**

**A. THE LORD OF ISRAEL VERSUS THE GODS OF BABYLON...**

1. Babylon must carry their gods - 46:1-2
2. Israel is upheld by the Lord - 46:3-4
3. The idols made by men cannot answer nor do they save - 46:5-7
4. The Lord declares the end from the beginning and brings His salvation to pass - 46:8-13 B.

**THE LORD’S JUDGMENT PRONOUNCED ON BABYLON...**

1. The Lord will humiliate Babylon - 47:1-7 a. Upon her He will take vengeance - 47:1-3 b. For she showed no mercy when He used her to judge His people - 47:4-7
2. Babylon will not escape her judgment - 47:8-15 a. Because of the arrogance of her sorceries, wickedness, and knowledge - 47:8-11 b. Her sorceries and counselors will be unable to save her - 47:12-15 VI.

**THE LORD’S REDEMPTION OF ISRAEL (48:1-22)**

**A. ISRAEL WILL BE REFINED FOR GOD’S GLORY...**

1. Israel has not leaned on the Lord in truth and righteousness - 48:1-2
2. To cure their hardness and idolatry, God told them in advance what He would do - 48:3-8

3. For His Name's sake He will not cut Israel off, but refine her - 48:9-11 B. ISRAEL WILL BE REDEEMED

### AS GOD FORETOLD...

1. Israel called to heed, as God will do His pleasure on Babylon - 48:12-15
2. God had not spoken in secret, if only Israel had heeded! - 48:16-19
3. Even so, Israel will go forth from Babylon, redeemed by the Lord! - 48:20-22

### Questions for Review:

1. Through whom does God promise to deliver Israel from exile? (45:1,13) - Cyrus (cf. Ezr 1:1-11)
2. What effect will Israel's deliverance have among the Gentiles? (45:14-17) - It will cause many to turn to the God of Israel
3. Whom does God call to come to Him and be saved? (45:22-23) - All the ends of the earth
4. In whom shall the descendants of Israel be justified? (45:25) - In the Lord
5. What two things illustrated the weakness of the gods of Babylon? (46:1-2) - They had to be carried on beasts; they could not prevent their own captivity
6. Who had upheld Israel from birth to old age? (46:3-4) - The Lord
7. What were idols made out of gold or silver unable to do? (46:5-7) - Answer man's cries, nor save him out of his trouble
8. What distinguished the Lord God from all other gods? (46:8-11) - Declaring the end from the beginning, and fulfilling what He purposed
9. What did the Lord promise to Israel? (46:12-13) - To place His salvation and glory in Zion
10. What did the Lord promise to do to Babylon? (47:1-3) - To take vengeance on her, humiliating her
11. Why was God angry with Babylon? (47:4-7) - For showing no mercy when He used her to judge His people 12. Why would Babylon not escape her judgment? (47:8-11) - Because of the arrogance of her sorceries, wickedness, and knowledge
13. What would be unable to save Babylon? (47:12-15) - Her sorceries and counselors.
14. How had Israel failed in their leaning on the Lord? (48:1-2) - By not doing so in truth and righteousness
15. How would God cure their hardness and idolatry? (48:3-8) - By telling them in advance would He would do 16. Why would God not totally cut Israel off, but instead refine her? (48:9-11) - For His own Name's sake
17. As Israel is called to pay heed, what did God promise to do? (48:12-15) - To do His pleasure on Babylon, with His arm against the Chaldeans
18. What passage strongly implies three distinct personalities in the Godhead? - Isa 48:16 ("the Lord God and His Spirit have sent Me")
19. What plaintive cry by God is made? (48:17-19) - If only Israel had heeded, for God had not spoken in secret
20. Despite His judgment on Israel, what wonderful assurance was given by God? (48:20-21) - Israel would go forth from Babylon, redeemed by the Lord!
21. What ominous warning is given? (48:22) - There is no peace for the wicked