

## Isaiah Lesson 47

Isaiah Chapter 47

*Distributed by: KJV Bible Studies*

*Website: [www.KjvBibleStudies.net](http://www.KjvBibleStudies.net)*

*Email: [mailKjvBibleStudies@gmail.com](mailto:mailKjvBibleStudies@gmail.com)*

**Introduction:** The folly of idolatry was the topic last week in Chapter 46. Israel was exhorted to remember the power of God and the impotence of idols. We studied the powerlessness of the idols of Babylon to prevent the defeat thereof by Cyrus and the Persians. Chapter 47 describes the coming destruction of Babylon, of the Chaldeans, and the causes of it.

### I. The Humiliation of Babylon

*Isa 47:1 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.*

*Isa 47:2 Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover the thigh, pass over the rivers.*

*Isa 47:3 Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet thee as a man.*

The coming destruction of Babylon is foretold. The noble women of Babylon are used as a metaphor for the coming downfall. Those who had been accustomed to the genteel life of nobility in Babylon would soon be sitting in the dust. No longer would there be elegant furniture (i.e., thrones) for them to sit upon.

The elite of Babylon would soon be forced into the more rustic life of the common population. Conquest and desolation lay ahead for this self-appointed queen of nations. The city which had fashioned itself as the elite of the nations would soon, like a common servant, be forced into such humble employment as grinding flour. Though women of rank had fancy hairdos, in that day, their hair would hang down uncurled.

It was uncomely for a lady to immodestly lift her skirts to ford a stream, so Babylon would soon be humbled. Though the greater thought is a metaphor for the impending desolation of Babylon, the direct application is likely in view as well.

As the Medes and the Persians would someday overrun Babylon, undoubtedly the women of the realm would be forced into immodesty by the ravages of war. God warned that this judgment would come from Him and He would not deal

kindly with them “I will not meet thee as a man.” The thought here is that Babylon would not be dealt with humanely.

*Isa 47:4 As for our redeemer, the LORD of hosts is his name, the Holy One of Israel.*

*Isa 47:5 Sit thou silent, and get thee into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called, The lady of kingdoms.*

*Isa 47:6 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.*

*Isa 47:7 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.*

The matter is placed into perspective. The One behind this coming judgment was Jehovah God. It is quite clear that in the end, He would redeem Judah. Notice again how that God is described as the Lord of hosts and the Holy One of Israel. God refers to Himself as the Lord of hosts in 235 places in the Old Testament. He refers to Himself as the Holy One of Israel on 31 occasions.

With that perspective established, God continues His warning to Babylon. . . Babylon had fashioned itself as the queen of the nations. Revelation 17 speaks of Babylon as the great whore, prostituting herself for gain amongst the nations. God also warned the day was coming when this spiritually (and no doubt physically) immoral city would be brought down.

The fact is clearly established that God had chastened His people Judah for their sin. He had allowed Babylon to conquer and deport them. Babylon did so arrogantly and cruelly. They had shown them no mercy. God therefore would exact retribution against them.

Implied is that the leadership of Babylon understood how that Jehovah God had allowed them to capture Judah. Through Daniel, God revealed to the leadership of Babylon the greater scope of divine providence, and divine purpose, and that God would someday establish His kingdom. The rulers of Babylon chose to ignore the knowledge of their latter end.

*Isa 47:8 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:*

*Isa 47:9 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.*

Once again, the arrogance and spiritually careless condition of Babylon is revealed. Babylon was a city given to carnal pleasures. They thought themselves invincible. The city foolishly and arrogantly thought they would never be without a leader nor lose their children to war.

God had a message for them. The day was coming when Babylon would be like a widow, having lost her husband. The thought likely is to when the Medes and Persians invaded Babylon, killing Belshazzar.

*Dan 5:30 In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.*

*Dan 5:31 And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.*

On that same night, multitudes of Babylonian soldiers would be slain. Babylon would become a widow without a king and lose many of her sons in battle. In addition to arrogance and immorality, Babylon was also renowned for its occult activities.

*Dan 2:1 And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.*

*Dan 2:2 Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.*

God foretold that He would cause Babylon to be overrun by her enemies, the Medes and the Persians. Furthermore, the leadership of Babylon undoubtedly was aware of this prophecy but chose to ignore it.

## **II. God Warns Israel of Their Wickedness**

*Isa 47:10 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.*

*Isa 47:11 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.*

Babylon had come to trust her own wicked devices—her own power, wealth, and presumed wisdom. She foolishly thought that no one knew her secrets and goals. Her deception was a self-imposed delusion. God through the prophet foretold that judgment lay ahead for them.

Trouble would come upon them and they would not know from whence it came. That happened on that fateful night when the Medes and the Persians broke into the city of Babylon as we read in Daniel 5:30-31. The attack would be such they would not be able to put it off. Babylon would be destroyed as an empire, in one night, to such a degree, that no one would understand it.

*Isa 47:12 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.*

*Isa 47:13 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.*

God taunted the astrologers and occult practitioners of Babylon. God challenged the Babylonians to seek to their occult enchantments and their witchcraft to help them. He essentially asked, see if they will help you to prevail on that day. Many of the Babylonians were weary of the occult influence which prevailed in their land. Their impotence would be fully revealed in that day.

*Isa 47:14 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.*

*Isa 47:15 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.*

In the day when God would judge Babylon, their astrologers and occult practitioners would be destroyed like stubble before a flame. They would be destroyed such that they would not even be as an ember for warmth. The merchants who prospered from these practices would also suffer the same fate.

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*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

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