

from my mouth has gone out in righteousness  
a word that shall not return:

'To me every knee shall bow,  
every tongue shall swear allegiance.'

24 "Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me,  
are righteousness and strength;  
to him shall come and be ashamed  
all who were incensed against him.

25 In the LORD all the offspring of Israel  
shall be justified and shall glory."

The Idols of Babylon and the One True God

**46** Bel bows down; Nebo stoops;  
their idols are on beasts and livestock;  
these things you carry are borne  
as burdens on weary beasts.

2 They stoop; they bow down together;  
they cannot save the burden,  
but themselves go into captivity.

3 "Listen to me, O house of Jacob,  
all the remnant of the house of Israel,  
who have been borne by me from before your  
birth,

carried from the womb;  
even to your old age I am he,  
and to gray hairs I will carry you.

I have made, and I will bear;  
I will carry and will save.

Bel Babylonian word  
for Ba'el or Loed. Can  
represent any God

Neso Chief God of  
Borsippa. which was  
3 hours from Babylon.

(23) Here God declares the truth of His Holy word (Righteousness).  
For His word to return would make it untrue. Every knee is not a  
universal salvation but that everyone at Judgment will finally admit He  
is the one true God. (Rom 14.11) The following verses bear this  
out.

(24) God is compared to the wicked here. Those w/out God have not  
worshipped or acknowledged His Righteousness & strength. (Holiness & grace)  
The wicked are seen as angry w/ God and His requirements on them.

(25) Here the offspring of Israel is to be seen in the light of N. T.  
passages like Ju. 8.39-44 & Gal. 3.7-29. This is best stated in Gal 3.29  
"Now that you belong to CHRIST, you are true children of Abraham."  
This message of the offering of Salvation to all is in every  
promise of the O.T. Starting w/ Abraham's call (Gen 15.9-6) This  
is not a universal salvation but a universal offer to all who will  
respond to God's righteousness and turn from idol worship of  
the creation to worship the creator.

chapters 46-47 are what Sloan Coffin called "The Carried God and the  
God who carries." Here God is contrasted to idols of men. Chapter  
47 shows the fall of the city of Babylon that the gods were  
supposed to protect.

(1-2) The gods of Babylon or their idols cannot move themselves. They  
must be carried on animals who they cannot save and are a burden.  
These idols can be taken captive and cannot save themselves  
much less anyone who makes or worships them.

(3-4) In contrast God is not carried like an idol instead He is pictured  
as the one who carries the people. God is not created by the people  
but they come forward from Him. He always has carried them, and  
always will. The idols are carried away into captivity while God  
saves His people from captivity.

- 5 "To whom will you liken me and make me equal,  
and compare me, that we may be alike?
- 6 Those who lavish gold from the purse,  
and weigh out silver in the scales,  
hire a goldsmith, and he makes it into a god;  
then they fall down and worship!
- 7 They lift it to their shoulders, they carry it,  
they set it in its place, and it stands there;  
it cannot move from its place.  
If one cries to it, it does not answer  
or save him from his trouble.
- 8 "Remember this and stand firm,  
recall it to mind, you transgressors,  
remember the former things of old;  
for I am God, and there is no other;  
I am God, and there is none like me,  
declaring the end from the beginning  
and from ancient times things not yet done,  
saying, 'My counsel shall stand,  
and I will accomplish all my purpose,'  
calling a bird of prey from the east,  
the man of my counsel from a far country.  
I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass;  
I have purposed, and I will do it.
- 12 "Listen to me, you stubborn of heart,  
you who are far from righteousness:  
I bring near my righteousness; it is not far off,  
and my salvation will not delay;

5) God wants to know who they would compare Him to. Which idol can the name that can compare to God? Is there anything (idol) that can come close to who He is or what He can do? The question can be seen as a fault of the men who have created and serve idols.

- 6) Here is the process of making an idol. Someone must want the idol. They pay for the materials, then pay to have the idol formed, finally he can worship his god.
- 7) This god he has made can be moved, placed, and left but on its own it cannot move. It just sits there unable to hear their prayer or answer. Their god cannot help or deliver them in times of trouble.

8-11) In contrast to idols God is unique there is none like Him. He not only makes plans but he carries them out. He is able to answer questions and give directions. He is God over nature who can call a bird and it comes, and the God over man who He can call to come to Him. What God says happens. What God wants to do there is no one to stop Him.

- 8) People are reminded of their sinfulness compared to God's holiness.
- 9) There is no one or thing that comes close to comparing to God.
- 10) God knows all things past, present & future.
- 11) When God calls both nature and man responds. What God wants to happen He can make happen, unlike the idols that can do nothing and can be taken captive.
- 12) This is the reason God keeps repeating over and over His call to repent. Their hearts are so hard that they are a great distance from Him & righteous living.

13) Even as men reject Him God's plan is in place and cannot be stopped. When God speaks of near it is on God's time and distance. It will be 700 years before righteousness and salvation will be revealed through Christ. Nothing stops God, not even time. He lives outside of time and space so He need not hurry to get it right. Moving history, nations, people to do His will is what God does. Nothing stops Him.

I will put salvation in Zion,  
for Israel my glory."

The Humiliation of Babylon (also see 13.1-14:27; 43.14-21)

- 47** 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 more be called  
tender and delicate.
- <sup>2</sup> Take the millstones and grind flour,  
put off your veil,  
strip off your robe, uncover your legs,  
pass through the rivers.
- <sup>3</sup> Your nakedness shall be uncovered,  
and your disgrace shall be seen.  
I will take vengeance,  
and I will spare no one.
- <sup>4</sup> Our Redeemer—the LORD of hosts is his name—  
is the Holy One of Israel.
- <sup>5</sup> Sit in silence, and go into darkness,  
O daughter of the Chaldeans;  
for you shall no more be called  
the mistress of kingdoms.
- <sup>6</sup> I was angry with my people;  
I profaned my heritage;  
I gave them into your hand;  
you showed them no mercy;  
on the aged you made your yoke exceedingly heavy.

(13b) This is a picture of Salvation offer to all. This is salvation by the Christ. Heb 12.22 where Christ Jesus sat in the Heavenly Jerusalem Zion and all who called on Him are saved. The Jews hearing this in 700 B.C. could not have perceived the everlasting heavenly Zion. Their hope of salvation was temporal and immediate. God's salvation is planned as eternal and worth waiting for.

- ① Here the city represents the nation. She is pictured as a virgin or untouched. Her throne is removed. Her position of power among the nations is lost. Twice she is told to sit. This is her humiliation, she must obey. Her status is lost, she is exposed and defeated.
- ② "Six feminine imperatives are used to show the total fall & her complete humiliation. (+ mudves the work of the slave handmaiden) <sup>232</sup> ~~young~~. The picture is of complete subjugation of the nation. From master to turning a grindstone w/out robes or covering, like a slave animal.
- ③ Nakedness is about revealing that which is hidden. All treachery and sin are exposed. God has acted and w/all His might exposed them to be seen as a defeated people.
- ④ Here the defeat of Babylon meet the God who delivers and "Redeems" Israel. The purpose of His judgment is clear.
- ⑤ Here the defeated cannot speak, they are held captive in darkness. Babylon has gone from terrorizing the world to being held captive.
- ⑥ Isaiah retells how this all came to be. The only reason the Babylonians succeeded. The term Chaldeans may refer to an elite class - the developed in the Babylonian Empire with ethnic ties to a small nomadic people who were assimilated by conquest. Several Babylonian Kings were Chaldeans. The picture is of those in power & with absolute authority being defeated. They had served God's purpose in punishing His people now He was dealing w/their wickedness.