

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 untended. 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 handmaid) <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.

- 7 You said, "I shall be mistress forever,"  
so that you did not lay these things to heart  
or remember their end.
- 8 Now therefore hear this, you lover of pleasures,  
who sit securely,  
who say in your heart,  
"I am, and there is no one besides me;  
I shall not sit as a widow  
or know the loss of children":
- 9 These two things shall come to you  
in a moment, in one day;  
the loss of children and widowhood  
shall come upon you in full measure,  
in spite of your many sorceries  
and the great power of your enchantments.
- 10 You felt secure in your wickedness;  
you said, "No one sees me";  
your wisdom and your knowledge led you  
astray,  
and you said in your heart,  
"I am, and there is no one besides me."
- 11 But evil shall come upon you,  
which you will not know how to charm  
away;  
disaster shall fall upon you,  
for which you will not be able to atone;  
and ruin shall come upon you suddenly,  
of which you know nothing. (A new experience for them  
to be the defeated ones)

7) Here God wants them to see that they were never the ones in charge. They only thought this, seeing themselves as invincible. They had not seen themselves as servants doing God's will but masters over all the earth. IF THEY had paid attention they would have humbled themselves before  $\rightarrow$  the one true God of verse 4 who had promised to redeem or deliver Jacob/Israel.

8) This declaration is aimed at those full of pride & conceit. THEY see themselves in luxury w/out fear. Confident that their children shall follow them is this ruling of the world.

9) Their sudden defeat by Cyrus is pictured here as a moment, a day. There is no prolonged battle here. Defeat will come quickly and with its defeat widows of  $\rightarrow$  the soldiers and the death of their children. This full measure is about getting what they deserve for their sins. This will happen in spite or because of their worship of idols and gods.

10) Here is the hubris of a sinful person. They thought the gods served them, and their wickedness was allowed and could not be held against them. Their self-righteousness and disregard for any possible judgment was based on their own wisdom, knowledge, and belief God, the supreme God, did not exist. Much of their wisdom was based on sorcery, astrology, and pagan worship which had (has) no moral values. Their national pride did not include any notion of a greater power they were subject to.

11) In contrast to the evil of Babylon is the evil that came against them. Evil is a cruel master. The very power of evil eats its victims. They will not be able to use their gods to escape this evil. The gods they thought had given them victory were only idols that had no power to deliver them. This will be a new experience for them. Having always been the victor they will find being on the other end devastating. It will, as stated before, happen suddenly w/out warning. It shall be utter and complete.

- 12 Stand fast in your enchantments  
and your many sorceries,  
with which you have labored from your  
youth;  
perhaps you may be able to succeed;  
perhaps you may inspire terror.
- 13 You are wearied with your many counsels;  
let them stand forth and save you,  
those who divide the heavens,  
who gaze at the stars,  
who at the new moons make known  
what shall come upon you.
- 14 **Behold**, they are like stubble;  
the fire consumes them;  
they cannot deliver themselves  
from the power of the flame.  
No coal for warming oneself is this,  
no fire to sit before!
- 15 Such to you are those with whom you have  
labored,  
who have done business with you from your  
youth;  
they wander about, each in his own direction;  
there is no one to save you.

Israel Refined for God's Glory

**48** Hear this, O house of Jacob,  
who are called by the name of Israel,  
and who came from the waters of Judah,

(12-15) THE BABYLONIANS are told to call on their gods, sorcers, knowledge  
to deliver them. This taunt is to show there is no hope in any of these.

- (12) They are told to keep calling on their potions and sorcers as they  
all ways have. This 'perhaps' is just pouring salt on the wound. It  
is designed to make defeat and the silence of their idols hurt all the more.
- (13) Here all the advice cannot save them, but go ahead gather a  
committee to figure it out. All the opinions of all their wise men will  
not change the fact of what is happening. Sorcery, Astrology, fortune  
tellers ask them to show you the answers. See if they will say  
something different than the God of ISRAEL.

(14) **Behold** is used like looking behind the magic trick to see what  
is really happening. When examined all their wisdom, knowledge, religions  
are nothing. Consumed easily by flames. Leaving nothing. These  
false teachers disappear quickly when confronted by others who  
are not restrained by false beliefs. Nothing will be left to hold  
on to or warm them. THE picture of fire here is about destruction.  
Isaiah often uses fire to demonstrate judgment and destruction.  
(cf. 34:9ff; 50:11; 66:16, 24) Jesus also uses fire as a picture  
of judgment (see Mt 8:18 & 25:41 see also Jude 17).

- (15) Though they have always relied on Astrologers, Sorcerers and the  
such those will be of no value now. There is no one, no god,  
no idol, no prophecy, no sign, no sacrifice they can make that will  
stop the coming judgment of the God of JACOB/ISRAEL. HE is  
their Redeemer and He has spoken of what will happen to  
BABYLON.

AGAIN speaks to His people. He clearly identifies them. THE 1st  
line is a play on word showing how they are seen by God. THEY  
are the "house of Jacob." Jacob was the deceiver/lister who always  
was in trouble. THESE people call themselves 'Israel' or 'God  
prosper or serves.' Judah is seen as the primary TRIBE in the  
O.T. King David was from Bethlehem in Judah, as was Jesus the  
promised Messiah. This coming from or birth is symbolic of  
the beginning & later w/Jesus a new (covenant) beginning.