

## POWER OF GOD – JUDGMENT ON BABYLON

**TEXT:** Isaiah Chapters 46-48

**THEME:** The Incomparable Power of God

The absurdity of idols  
Judgment on Babylon  
Controversy with Israel

1. How does Isaiah 46:1-4 show the difference between idols such as Nebo and Bel, and the Lord God?

*Isaiah 46:1-4:*

*<sup>1</sup> Bel boweth down, Nebo stooped, their idols were upon the beasts, and upon the cattle: your carriages were heavy loaden: they are a burden to the weary beast.*

*<sup>2</sup> They stoop, they bow down together; they could not deliver the burden, but themselves are gone into captivity.*

*<sup>3</sup> Hearken unto me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the House of Israel, which are borne by Me from the belly, which are carried from the womb:*

*<sup>4</sup> And even to your old age I AM He; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.*

2. Compare the absurdity of idols (Isaiah 46:6-7) with the omnipotence of God (Isaiah 46:9-13)

*Isaiah 46:6-7:*

*<sup>6</sup> They lavish gold out of the bag, and weigh silver in the balance, and hire a goldsmith; and he maketh a god: they fall down, yea, they worship.*

*<sup>7</sup> They bear him upon the shoulder, they carry him, and set him in his place, and he standeth; from his place shall he not remove: yea, one shall cry unto him, yet he not answer, nor save him out of his trouble.*

**Isaiah 46:9-13:**

***9 Remember the former things of old: for I AM God, and there is none else; I AM God, and there is none like Me,***

***10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure:***

***11 Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth My counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.***

***12 Harken unto Me, ye stouthearted, that are far from righteousness:***

***13 I bring near My righteousness; it shall not be far off, and My salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel My Glory.***

3. What effect should it have on our disposition to have so great a God? What effect should it have even in our facial expression?
4. What do we do with our knowledge of Him? How do we use it? How do we share it?
5. Imagine the words of Isaiah 47:1-5 as they would have been heard by the Jews in captivity in Babylon! Would the singing of verses 5 and 6 require faith or courage, or both, and more?

**Isaiah 47:1-5:**

***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.***

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

***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.***

***4 As for our Redeemer, the LORD of Hosts is His Name, the Holy One of Israel.***

***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.***

6. What description of Babylon do we get from Isaiah 47:6-10? What special

claim is in Babylon's heart? (verse 8).

**Isaiah 47:6-10:**

***<sup>6</sup> I was wroth with My people, I have polluted Mine inheritance, and given them into thine hand: thou didst show them no mercy; upon the ancient hast thou very heavily laid the yoke.***

***<sup>7</sup> 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.***

***<sup>8</sup> Therefore here now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that thou 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:***

***<sup>9</sup> 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.***

***<sup>10</sup> For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hast perverted thee; and thee hath said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me.***

7. Note the forms of idolatry mentioned in Isaiah 47:13. How can we make people of the 21st century U.S.A. aware of God's attitude toward all this?

***Isaiah 47:13: Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the star gazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee.***

8. What sin is God denouncing in Isaiah 48:1-2 which was prevalent among those of the House of Jacob? Is there any of this sin in the Church?

**Isaiah 48:1-2:**

***<sup>1</sup> Hear ye this, O house of Jacob, which are called by the name of Israel, and are come forth out of the waters of Judah, which swear by the Name of the LORD, and make mention of the God of Israel, but not in truth nor in righteousness.***

***<sup>2</sup> For they call themselves of the Holy City, and stay themselves upon***

*the God of Israel; the LORD of Hosts is His Name.*

9. Do I share in lost peace and prosperity (Isaiah 48:17)? Do I share in spiritual immaturity (Isaiah 48:18)? What is the remedy?

*Isaiah 48:17-18:*

*<sup>17</sup> Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I AM the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.*

*<sup>18</sup> O that thou hadst hearkened to My commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea.*

10. Does God give us the option of deciding which of His laws we must obey and on which to seek His guidance? Do we sometimes act as if He grants us this inconsistency?

Akron Shalom Bible Learning Center  
[www.AkronShalomMinistries.org](http://www.AkronShalomMinistries.org)