

ISAIAH- Lesson 54

Learn: Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be ye not therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now ye are light in the Lord: walk as children of light. (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. Ephesians 5:6-11

Read: Isaiah 47:1-15

The COMFORT of God's Promises is based on His SOVEREIGNTY. Because God has the POWER to carry out His PLAN. And, God's PLAN for Babylon is to bring her to SILENCE.

NOTE: Babylon is mentioned 186 times in the Bible; the word "Babel" is found twice in Genesis 10:10; 11:19. Most of the references are referring to the massive and beautiful city of the Neo-Babylonian period (625-539BC).

With its "hanging gardens" and massive walls Babylon has been regarded as one of the "Seven Wonders of the Ancient World." The Greek historian Herodotus (484-425 BC) reported upon visiting the site that its splendor surpassed any city of the known world.

Ancient Babylon (which was rising to power at the time of Isaiah) covered an area of 1000 acres making it the largest city of the ancient world. It had 1179 temples and a population over 100,000. The famous "Ishtar Gate" was 70 feet high and its arched opening 15 feet wide.

Babylon's most significant temple was Esagila and was supposedly the home of the god Marduk. According to cuneiform documents the temple was surrounded by an enclosure of about 1410 feet by 720 feet, and housed over 50 other temples and shrines.

1. What does Jeremiah 50:38 say about Babylon?

Over 6000 figures (idols) were uncovered in the excavations of ancient Babylon and over ten major altars. There were 180 open-air shrines for Ishtar and 200 identifiable places for other so-called deities.

The term "Chaldeans" mentioned in verses 1, 5, 14, and 20 was used of the priestly sect that ruled Babylon through its occultic practices and pagan idolatry.

COMFORT MY PEOPLE pp 306-307 Dr. David Hocking

2. What does the reference of verse 1 to “virgin daughter of Babylon” and the term “daughter of the “Chaldeans” remind us as to how Babylon is always pictured? Also see Revelation 17:1-6.
3. What is God bringing upon Babylon as seen in verses 1-5 (note verse 3)?
4. What position had Babylon thought that she had? v 1
5. What is meant by the phrase “sit in the dust”? v1 Also see Isaiah 3:26.
6. Explain a “tender and delicate” woman. Deuteronomy 28:56
7. What is it about Babylon that is uncovered by God? v 3a
8. In contrast to what will happen to Babylon; Who has a Redeemer, and Who is the Redeemer? v 4
9. After reminding His people that He is their Redeemer, God again turns His attention to Babylon, what does He say to them? v 5
10. See Revelation 18:21-23 to explain the “silence” that verse 5 is speaking of?
11. According to verse 6a, God had punished His people by giving them into the hands of Babylon, then why is God bringing revenge upon Babylon? vv 6b, 7
12. What things kept Babylon from believing that judgment would come to them? vv 8-10
13. These things that made Babylon blind to coming judgment, can also blind those who claim to be God’s children. Read the following verses in Revelation. What are things

that Jesus warns the church of, that are similar to what Babylon was involved in?

1) Revelation 2:14-15 NOTE: Nicolaitanes, these people promoted license in Christian living, as well a promoting a clerical hierarchy.

2) Revelation 2:20-23

3) Revelation 3:17-18

14. What is the solution for God's people so that they will not come under the chastisement of God for becoming worldly and thinking more like a Babylonian than a Christian?

Revelation 2:4, 5

Revelation 2:16

Revelation 2:25, 26

Revelation 3:2, 3a

Revelation 3:18, 19

15. Explain what the fruits of repentance would be in each case of the rebukes given to the churches. In other words, what changes are needed in our churches today?

16. When the punishment comes upon Babylon, what will be their response? v 11

17. What had the Babylonians relied upon? vv 12,13

18. How intense was their relationship with the occult? vv 12, 15

19. God tells Babylon to “stand” or continue on with all their occult practices, but what would be the benefit to them? vv 13-15

20. The Lord makes it very clear what the practices of these unbelievers are, and then He tells them of the failure of these practices to help. He reminds them that these very practices bring His judgment upon them. What is God’s stern warning to the people of Israel concerning the practices listed in Isaiah 47? Isaiah 8:19, 20

21. What is the warning of Ephesians 5:6-11 regarding any participation in occult (dark-hidden) practices?

22. What are we told about trying to mix Truth with what the world offers, thinking that we can accomplish something for God in that way? II Corinthians 6:14-17