

Set Free by God's Plan of Redemption:
The Hope of Being Delivered from God's Judgment and Wrath
Isaiah 48:01–22

1. God's indictment: His people were hypocritical and stubborn

a. Their hypocrisy

1) They made four claims

- Were of Israel and Judah:
The right race and tribe
- Took oaths in the LORD's Name
- Esteemed the Holy City
- Relied on God

2) They were untruthful:

Did not live righteously, v. 1

b. Their stubbornness

- 1) God had foretold certain events in their history and brought them about because they were an obstinate, stiff-necked people

- His purpose:
To keep them from claiming that their idols or false gods had delivered or helped them

- His charge:
To hear, see and confess Him as the only true God

2) God revealed new things:

To keep them from claiming that it was their own efforts that delivered them

1 “Listen to this, you descendants of Jacob, you who are called by the name of Israel and come from the line of Judah, you who take oaths in the name of the LORD and invoke the God of Israel — but not in truth or righteousness

2 you who call yourselves citizens of the holy city and claim to rely on the God of Israel — the LORD Almighty is his name:

3 I foretold the former things long ago, my mouth announced them and I made them known; then suddenly I acted, and they came to pass.

4 For I knew how stubborn you were; your neck muscles were iron, your forehead was bronze.

5 Therefore I told you these things long ago; before they happened I announced them to you so that you could not say, ‘My images brought them about; my wooden image and metal god ordained them.’

6 You have heard these things; look at them all. Will you not admit them? “From now on I will tell you of new things, of hidden things unknown to you.

7 They are created now, and not long ago; you have not heard of them before today. So you cannot say, ‘Yes, I knew of them.’

- Because they had never heard nor understood His prophecies
- Because they were rebels, transgressors from birth

2. *God's patience: He delayed His wrath to deliver His people*

- To stir praise for His name:
Due to His mercy,
not cutting His people off
- To refine His people
in the furnace of affliction
- To honour His name and
keep it from being defamed
- To protect His glory

3. *God's plan: He controlled all events in order to redeem His people*

- The surety of redemption
 - His person: "I am..." v. 12
 - His power:
Created the universe
- The promise of redemption, deliverance from captivity
 - His knowledge foretold this
 - His power would raise up Cyrus to destroy Babylon
 - His Word guaranteed the prophecy: Cyrus would succeed against Babylon
 - His promise should be heeded: The LORD Himself had clearly predicted the destruction of Babylon and the redemption (deliverance) of His people from captivity

8 You have neither heard nor understood; from of old your ears have not been open. Well do I know how treacherous you are; you were called a rebel from birth.

9 For my own name's sake I delay my wrath; for the sake of my praise I hold it back from you, so as not to destroy you completely.

10 See, I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

11 For my own sake, for my own sake, I do this. How can I let myself be defamed? I will not yield my glory to another.

12 "Listen to me, Jacob, Israel, whom I have called: I am he; I am the first and I am the last.

13 My own hand laid the foundations of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens; when I summon them, they all stand up together.

14 "Come together, all of you, and listen: Which of the idols has foretold these things? The LORD's chosen ally will carry out his purpose against Babylon; his arm will be against the Babylonians.

15 I, even I, have spoken; yes, I have called him. I will bring him, and he will succeed in his mission.

16 "Come near me and listen to this: "From the first announcement I have not spoken in secret; at the time it happens, I am there." And now the Sovereign LORD has sent me, endowed with his Spirit.

- c. The reassurance of their redemption, deliverance
- 1) He was their Redeemer, the Holy One
 - 2) He was the LORD their God who taught and led them
- d. The blessings of redemption God desired for His people
- 1) Peace like a river
 - 2) Righteousness that rolls on like the waves of the sea
 - 3) Population growth
 - 4) A name never cut off nor removed from God's presence
- e. The great imperative shout of redemption: Flee Babylon (the influence of the world and its unbelievers)
- 1) Proclaim redemption to the whole earth
 - The LORD has redeemed His people
 - The LORD will guide His people to the promised land and meet their needs — just as He did in the wilderness journey, Exo 17:1-7; Num 20:11
 - 2) Issue a warning: There is no peace for the wicked

17 This is what the LORD says — your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:
 “I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go.

18 If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your well-being like the waves of the sea.

19 Your descendants would have been like the sand, your children like its numberless grains; their name would never be blotted out nor destroyed from before me.”

20 Leave Babylon, flee from the Babylonians! Announce this with shouts of joy and proclaim it. Send it out to the ends of the earth; say, “The LORD has redeemed his servant Jacob.”

21 They did not thirst when he led them through the deserts; he made water flow for them from the rock; he split the rock and water gushed out.

22 “There is no peace,” says the LORD, “for the wicked.”