

Isaiah 46–48

Lesson 19

Isaiah 46–48

Listen (46:3, 12; 47:8; 48:1, 12, 14, 16, 17–18)

Remember (46:8–9; 47:7)

Declare (48:6, 20)

Questions

1. What is the difference between the God of 46:4 and the god of 46:7?
 - One carries; the other is carried. One answers; the other cannot. One can save; the other cannot.
 - Bel (“lord,” or “possessor”) was the title given to the Babylonian god Marduk, the chief god. Nebo (“interpreter”) was worshipped as the son of Marduk.
 - Foretelling the destruction of Babylon, and these gods’ inability to stop it.
 - Lesson for Israel: 46:3–7.

Questions

2. When does God declare the end?

- 46:8–11 gives the full context.
- Obviously something idols could **not** do. Note the challenge issued in 48:14–15.
- Look at the admonition in 46:12–13.

Questions

3. What will Babylon **no longer** be called?

- No longer called tender and delicate (47:1), or the Lady of Kingdoms (47:5).
- This queen or virgin will be violated (47:1–3).

Questions

4. What did Babylon **say to herself** in the time of prosperity?
 - 47:7–8, 10.
 - “I am, and there is no one else besides me” (47:8, 10).
From whom have we heard this before?
 - Won’t be prosperous much longer (47:9).

Questions

5. What was said to have **perverted** (warped, deluded) Babylon?

- “Your wisdom and knowledge have warped you” (47:10).
- And if that’s not enough...
 - Showed no mercy, particularly toward elderly (47:6).
 - “Given to pleasures” (47:8).
 - “Trusted in your wickedness...no one sees me” (47:10).
 - Did not “remember the latter end” of their actions (47:7).

Questions

6. To whom would Babylon look to save her from destruction?

- Enchantments, sorceries, counsels, astrologers, stargazers, prognosticators (47:12–13).
- “They shall be as stubble, the fire shall burn them” (47:14). This won’t be a fire to warm you; it will be a fire to destroy you.
- The merchants with whom you’ve done business, they won’t be any help either (47:15).

Questions

7. Though Israel swore by the name of the LORD, it was **not** in what?
- 48:1–2.
 - “Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me...” (29:13).
 - “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46).

Questions

8. **Why** had God declared this to Israel from the beginning?

- 48:3–7 gives the full thought.

Questions

9. How had God chosen to “refine” Israel?

- “I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction” (48:10).
- Captivity would be painful, but serve a good purpose.
- Psalms 66:8–12.

Questions

10. If Israel had hearkened to God's commandments, what would be the result?

- 48:17–19.
- For whom is there no peace? (48:22).