# Isaiah 47-49

### The fall of Babylon

**1**“Go down, sit in the dust,  
    Virgin Daughter Babylon;  
sit on the ground without a throne,  
    queen city of the Babylonians.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2047-49&version=NIV&interface=print#fen-NIV-18601a)]  
No more will you be called  
    tender or delicate.  
**2**Take millstones and grind flour;  
    take off your veil.  
Lift up your skirts, bare your legs,  
    and wade through the streams.  
**3**Your nakedness will be exposed  
    and your shame uncovered.  
I will take vengeance;  
    I will spare no one.”

**4**Our Redeemer—the Lord Almighty is his name—  
    is the Holy One of Israel.

**5**“Sit in silence, go into darkness,  
    queen city of the Babylonians;  
no more will you be called  
    queen of kingdoms.  
**6**I was angry with my people  
    and desecrated my inheritance;  
I gave them into your hand,  
    and you showed them no mercy.  
Even on the aged  
    you laid a very heavy yoke.  
**7**You said, ‘I am forever—  
    the eternal queen!’  
But you did not consider these things  
    or reflect on what might happen.

**8**“Now then, listen, you lover of pleasure,  
    lounging in your security  
and saying to yourself,  
    ‘I am, and there is none besides me.  
I will never be a widow  
    or suffer the loss of children.’  
**9**Both of these will overtake you  
    in a moment, on a single day:  
    loss of children and widowhood.  
They will come upon you in full measure,  
    in spite of your many sorceries  
    and all your potent spells.  
**10**You have trusted in your wickedness  
    and have said, ‘No one sees me.’  
Your wisdom and knowledge mislead you  
    when you say to yourself,  
    ‘I am, and there is none besides me.’  
**11**Disaster will come upon you,  
    and you will not know how to conjure it away.  
A calamity will fall upon you  
    that you cannot ward off with a ransom;  
a catastrophe you cannot foresee  
    will suddenly come upon you.

**12**“Keep on, then, with your magic spells  
    and with your many sorceries,  
    which you have labored at since childhood.  
Perhaps you will succeed,  
    perhaps you will cause terror.  
**13**All the counsel you have received has only worn you out!  
    Let your astrologers come forward,  
those stargazers who make predictions month by month,  
    let them save you from what is coming upon you.  
**14**Surely they are like stubble;  
    the fire will burn them up.  
They cannot even save themselves  
    from the power of the flame.  
These are not coals for warmth;  
    this is not a fire to sit by.  
**15**That is all they are to you—  
    these you have dealt with  
    and labored with since childhood.  
All of them go on in their error;  
    there is not one that can save you.

### Stubborn Israel

**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.’  
**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.

### Israel Freed

**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.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2047-49&version=NIV&interface=print#fen-NIV-18629b)]  
**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.

**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.”

### The Servant of the Lord

**1**Listen to me, you islands;  
    hear this, you distant nations:  
Before I was born the Lord called me;  
    from my mother’s womb he has spoken my name.  
**2**He made my mouth like a sharpened sword,  
    in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me into a polished arrow  
    and concealed me in his quiver.  
**3**He said to me, “You are my servant,  
    Israel, in whom I will display my splendor.”  
**4**But I said, “I have labored in vain;  
    I have spent my strength for nothing at all.  
Yet what is due me is in the Lord’s hand,  
    and my reward is with my God.”

**5**And now the Lord says—  
    he who formed me in the womb to be his servant  
to bring Jacob back to him  
    and gather Israel to himself,  
for I am[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2047-49&version=NIV&interface=print#fen-NIV-18642c)] honored in the eyes of the Lord  
    and my God has been my strength—  
**6**he says:  
“It is too small a thing for you to be my servant  
    to restore the tribes of Jacob  
    and bring back those of Israel I have kept.  
I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,  
    that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

**7**This is what the Lord says—  
    the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel—  
to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation,  
    to the servant of rulers:  
“Kings will see you and stand up,  
    princes will see and bow down,  
because of the Lord, who is faithful,  
    the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

### Restoration of Israel

**8**This is what the Lord says:

“In the time of my favor I will answer you,  
    and in the day of salvation I will help you;  
I will keep you and will make you  
    to be a covenant for the people,  
to restore the land  
    and to reassign its desolate inheritances,  
**9**to say to the captives, ‘Come out,’  
    and to those in darkness, ‘Be free!’

“They will feed beside the roads  
    and find pasture on every barren hill.  
**10**They will neither hunger nor thirst,  
    nor will the desert heat or the sun beat down on them.  
He who has compassion on them will guide them  
    and lead them beside springs of water.  
**11**I will turn all my mountains into roads,  
    and my highways will be raised up.  
**12**See, they will come from afar—  
    some from the north, some from the west,  
    some from the region of Aswan.[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2047-49&version=NIV&interface=print" \l "fen-NIV-18649d" \o "See footnote d)]”

**13**Shout for joy, you heavens;  
    rejoice, you earth;  
    burst into song, you mountains!  
For the Lord comforts his people  
    and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.

**14**But Zion said, “The Lord has forsaken me,  
    the Lord has forgotten me.”

**15**“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast  
    and have no compassion on the child she has borne?  
Though she may forget,  
    I will not forget you!  
**16**See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;  
    your walls are ever before me.  
**17**Your children hasten back,  
    and those who laid you waste depart from you.  
**18**Lift up your eyes and look around;  
    all your children gather and come to you.  
As surely as I live,” declares the Lord,  
    “you will wear them all as ornaments;  
    you will put them on, like a bride.

**19**“Though you were ruined and made desolate  
    and your land laid waste,  
now you will be too small for your people,  
    and those who devoured you will be far away.  
**20**The children born during your bereavement  
    will yet say in your hearing,  
‘This place is too small for us;  
    give us more space to live in.’  
**21**Then you will say in your heart,  
    ‘Who bore me these?  
I was bereaved and barren;  
    I was exiled and rejected.  
    Who brought these up?  
I was left all alone,  
    but these—where have they come from?’”

**22**This is what the Sovereign Lord says:

“See, I will beckon to the nations,  
    I will lift up my banner to the peoples;  
they will bring your sons in their arms  
    and carry your daughters on their hips.  
**23**Kings will be your foster fathers,  
    and their queens your nursing mothers.  
They will bow down before you with their faces to the ground;  
    they will lick the dust at your feet.  
Then you will know that I am the Lord;  
    those who hope in me will not be disappointed.”

**24**Can plunder be taken from warriors,  
    or captives be rescued from the fierce[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2047-49&version=NIV&interface=print#fen-NIV-18661e)]?

**25**But this is what the Lord says:

“Yes, captives will be taken from warriors,  
    and plunder retrieved from the fierce;  
I will contend with those who contend with you,  
    and your children I will save.  
**26**I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh;  
    they will be drunk on their own blood, as with wine.  
Then all mankind will know  
    that I, the Lord, am your Savior,  
    your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.”