

# Isaiah Chapter 48 – Israel Refined for God’s Glory: God’s Ancient Plan to Redeem Israel!

## OBSERVATION

## INTERPRETATION

## APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – [Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com); email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com) Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

**IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL** – Bliss/Stafford – Billy Graham Crusade Choir 2:36  
*When peace like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll  
 Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say. It is well, it is well, with my soul  
 Refrain: It is well (it is well) With my soul (with my soul) It is well, it is well with my soul  
 And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
 The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend, Even so, it is well with my soul. (Refrain)*

**GENERAL OUTLINE OF ISAIAH:** Referred to as the “Fifth Gospel” since the third century!  
*Possible date of kings reign” - Uzziah, - 792-740; Jotham, - 750-736; Ahaz, - 735-720 Northern Kingdom of Israel falls to Assyria in 722BC; Hezekiah, - 715-699/686; Manasseh – 687-642  
 Isaiah’s time of prophecy - About a minimum of 40 years and possibly more than 60 years!  
 In the tenth year of Nabopolassar (616 BC) the Babylonians defeated the Assyrian army.  
 Cyrus takes Babylon. In October (539 BC), the Persian king Cyrus took Babylon.*

**ISAIAH 40:1-66:24**  
*The prophecies of chapters 1-39 addressed Judah in her situation during Isaiah's ministry (739 B.C. until c. 686 B.C.). The prophecies of chapters 40-66 address Judah as though the prophesied Babylonian captivity (Isa 39:5-7) were already a present reality, though that captivity did not begin until 605-586 B.C. The words "'There is no peace,' says the Lord, 'for the wicked'" (Isa 48:22; Isa 57:21) signal the divisions of this section into three parts: chapters 40-48 (Comfort of Jehovah), chapters 49-57 (Salvation of Jehovah) and chapters 58-66 (Glory of Jehovah).*

*Four Messianic Prophecies-Songs of the Suffering Servant: #1 Chapter 42:1-9 -Servant of Jehovah-Jesus; #2 Chapter 49:1-13-Servant of God; Savior of the World; #3 Chapter 50:4-9-Jehovah Adonai-Humility of Rejected Prophet; #4 Chapter 52:13-53:12-Suffering Servant-Jehovah’s Servant-Sin Bearer.*

**ISAIAH 40-48**  
*The broad section of Isaiah 40 through 48 focused on the promise of God’s deliverance of His people from their captivity in Babylon, and the specific prediction of Cyrus, the Gentile king who would deliver them. Through the section, God shows that His desire to deliver His people proves His love, His ability to deliver His people proves His power, and His prophetic knowledge of the deliverer proves His uniqueness among all gods. Starting with Isaiah chapter 49, there is no longer a mention of Cyrus, now the focus is on the ultimate deliverer, the Messiah. Though there is still reference to the deliverance from Babylon’s captivity, the real focus is on the ultimate deliverance the Messiah will bring.*

### Isaiah – Bible Timeline

739 BC	Isaiah Complains of Zion's Corruption	<a href="#">Isaiah 1 - 5</a>
739 BC	Isaiah's Vision and Commission	<a href="#">Isaiah 6</a>
735 BC	Isaiah's Prophecy of Immanuel	<a href="#">Isaiah 7</a>
734 BC	Uriah/Zechariah Verification	<a href="#">Isaiah 8</a>
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies a Child Is Born	<a href="#">Isaiah 9</a>
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Judgments Upon Israel	<a href="#">Isaiah 9:8</a>
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Judgment on Assyria	<a href="#">Isaiah 10</a>
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies The Root of Jesse	<a href="#">Isaiah 11</a>
730 BC	Isaiah's Joyful Thanksgiving	<a href="#">Isaiah 12</a>
725 BC	Isaiah Prophecies against the Nations	<a href="#">Isaiah 13 - 22</a>
725 BC	Isaiah's Valley of Vision	<a href="#">Isaiah 22</a>
725 BC	Isaiah's Burden of Tyre	<a href="#">Isaiah 23</a>
725 BC	Devastation on the Earth	<a href="#">Isaiah 24</a>
725 BC	Isaiah's Songs of Praise	<a href="#">Isaiah 25 - 27</a>
725 BC	Isaiah's Further Warnings	<a href="#">Isaiah 28 - 32</a>
725 BC	Isaiah Prophecies a King Shall Reign	<a href="#">Isaiah 32</a>
725 BC	Isaiah Declares God's Judgments	<a href="#">Isaiah 33, 34</a>
725 BC	Isaiah Declares the Joyful Will Flourish in Zion	<a href="#">Isaiah 35</a>
712 BC	Hezekiah's Illness and Healing	<a href="#">2 Kings 20, Isaiah 38</a>
711 BC	Hezekiah Shows Treasures	<a href="#">2 Kings 20:12, Isaiah 39</a>
711 BC	<b>Isaiah Prophecies Captivity and Restoration</b>	<b><a href="#">Isaiah 40 - 66</a></b>
701 BC	Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem	<a href="#">2 Kings 18, Isaiah 36, 2 Chron. 32</a>
701 BC	Hezekiah's Prayer	<a href="#">2 Kings 19, Isaiah 37</a>

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*Israel Refined for God's Glory*  
*Isa 48:1 "Hear this, O house of Jacob, Who are called by the name of Israel, And have come forth from the wellsprings of Judah; Who swear by the name of the LORD, And make mention of the God of Israel, But not in truth or in righteousness;*  
*Isa 48:2 For they call themselves after the holy city, And lean on the God of Israel; The LORD of hosts is His name:*

*Isa 48:3 "I have declared the former things from the beginning; They went forth from My mouth, and I caused them to hear it. Suddenly I did them, and they came to pass.*  
*Isa 48:4 Because I knew that you were obstinate, And your neck was an iron sinew, And your brow bronze,*  
*Isa 48:5 Even from the beginning I have declared it to you; Before it came to pass I proclaimed it to you, Lest you should say, 'My idol has done them, And my carved image and my molded image Have commanded them.'*

### **CHASTENING AND MERCY FOR JUDAH**

*vs. 1-2* The LORD clearly sees the hard hearts of His people. *House of Jacob, who are called by the name of Israel:* Judah should take notice at this opening statement. God identifies His people as the *house of Jacob* - the name *Jacob* essentially meaning “deceiver, cheater” - and says they only have *the name of Israel*, not the character of *Israel*, which means “governed by God.” *And have come forth from the wellsprings of Judah:* The second statement of Isaiah 48 isn’t any more complimentary to the southern kingdom of Judah. God reminds them of their tribal ancestor, *Judah*, who was noted for his immorality (*Genesis 38*). The LORD speaks to His people and says, “You come from your father *Judah*.” It’s hardly a compliment. *Who swear by the name of the LORD . . . but not in truth or in righteousness (cf. Rom. 1:18,21,25):* God exposes the sin of His people. They take His name, and identify with *the holy city*, and give appearance that they *lean on the God of Israel*. Yet it is only image, not reality, and God sees through the image to the reality. Judah had much in that he had a privileged citizenship and a mighty God to rely on - but it is all unreal, but there was no genuineness (*truth*) in it, nor does it satisfy the standards of God (*righteousness*).

*vs. 3-5* The LORD sees that Judah has no excuse. *I have declared the former things from the beginning . . . Suddenly I did them, and they came to pass:* The LORD has shown Israel His power to declare the future in predictive prophecy. He did this *because I knew that you were obstinate*, knowing Israel’s love of idolatry, He gave them irrefutable evidence. This means that Judah was without excuse. They knew the greatness and power of God, yet they still lived with only a religious image, without a spiritual reality.

*vs. 1-2* As we see here with Judah, it is possible to hold the truth of God, but to hold it in unrighteousness. They still held to the truth of God, but in unrighteousness. Because they did not submit to God. As we read in *Romans 1*, Paul said, For when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were they thankful.... but professing themselves to be wise, they become fools, because they worship and serve the creature, more than the Creator. It’s still the same with many today. Are we engaged in any professing and pretending rather than observing and living our lives in accordance with His word? How Christ-like are we?

*vs. 3-5* God is a God who speaks! He is the only One who can say “I told you so”! I told you things before they came to pass, *Lest you should say, 'My idol has done them, And my carved image and my molded image Have commanded them.'* How careful are we not to give credit to anyone other than God for all things, especially good things that we see happening now and will happen in the future?

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*Isa 48:6 "You have heard; See all this. And will you not declare it? I have made you hear new things from this time, Even hidden things, and you did not know them.*

*Isa 48:7 They are created now and not from the beginning; And before this day you have not heard them, Lest you should say, 'Of course I knew them.'*

*Isa 48:8 Surely you did not hear, Surely you did not know; Surely from long ago your ear was not opened. For I knew that you would deal very treacherously, And were called a transgressor from the womb.*

*Isa 48:9 "For My name's sake I will defer My anger, And for My praise I will restrain it from you, So that I do not cut you off.*

*Isa 48:10 Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.*

*Isa 48:11 For My own sake, for My own sake, I will do it; For how should My name be profaned? And I will not give My glory to another.*

*vs. 6-8* The LORD sees how deep the sinfulness of Judah is. *You have heard; see all this. And will you not declare it? (cf. Col. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 15:51-52)* It is as if the LORD is amazed that His people have seen all of His great power and glory, yet they still stand in obstinate rebellion against Him. *For I knew that you would deal very treacherously, and were called a transgressor from the womb:* The LORD states the reason why His people are so deeply sinful. They are sinners *from the womb*, so their sinfulness is deeply entrenched. It's a difficult concept for our individualistic ears, but the Bible teaches that we are sinners *from the womb*, and that we inherited a sin nature because we descend from Adam and sinned in Adam (*Rom 5:12*). It isn't our individual acts of sin that make us sinners; it is our descent from Adam. Our individual acts of sin merely prove that each of us is a *transgressor from the womb*.

*vs. 9-11* The LORD's mercy and the reason to His undeserving people. *For My name's sake I will defer My anger:* Knowing how deeply sinful His people are, why would the LORD ever show mercy to His people? He does it for His *name's sake*. It isn't because Israel *deserves* mercy; indeed, mercy can never be deserved. God gives it to glorify Himself and to further His eternal purpose. *I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. For My own sake, for My own sake, I will do it:* Why has a disobedient Israel felt refining fires from the LORD? Again, it is for the *sake* and honor and glory of the LORD. Does it bother us to know that God allows trials and His refining fires in our lives for His *own sake*? We should remember that we are not at the center of the universe, but God is. Everything He does and allows furthers His eternal purpose

*vs. 6-8* It is as if the LORD is amazed that His people have seen all of His great power and glory, yet they still stand in obstinate rebellion against Him. How true that remains for many today. Is there still rebellion in our hearts and actions against Him?

*vs. 9-11 the furnace of affliction.* How many times has God had to put us in the furnace of affliction to refine us? There were impurities in our lives, things were there that were not acceptable or pleasing unto God. So many times, God uses afflictions just to get us on track, Next time you're in the furnace, rejoice! *I will not give My glory to another.* It is a very serious thing being God's representative of Jesus Christ before the world. Many times, we misrepresent Jesus Christ to the world. God doesn't like to be misrepresented. How well are we representing Jesus Christ? We are being well warned – God will not share His glory with another!

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### INTERPRETATION

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#### *The Lord's Call to Israel –*

*Isa 48:12 "Listen to Me, O Jacob, And Israel, My called: I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last.*

*Isa 48:13 Indeed My hand has laid the foundation of the earth, And My right hand has stretched out the heavens (about 20 billion light years wide!); When I call to them, They stand up together. (No Gap Theory!)*

*Isa 48:14 "All of you, assemble yourselves, and hear! Who among them has declared these things? The LORD loves him; He shall do His pleasure on Babylon, And His arm shall be against the Chaldeans. (150+ years before it happened!)*

*Isa 48:15 I, even I, have spoken; Yes, I have called him, I have brought him, and his way will prosper.*

*Isa 48:16 "Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; From the time that it was, I was there. And now the Lord GOD and His Spirit Have sent Me."*

*Isa 48:17 Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, The Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, Who teaches you to profit, Who leads you by the way you should go.*

*Isa 48:18 Oh, that you had heeded My commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, And your righteousness like the waves of the sea.*

*Isa 48:19 Your descendants also would have been like the sand, And the offspring of your body like the grains of sand; His name would not have been cut off Nor destroyed from before Me."*

*vs. 12-15 I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last . . . My right hand has stretched out the heavens: To answer any resentment among His people, God reminds them why He allows things for His glory and to further His praise. He can do it because of who He is - the only True God, the God of all glory, the God of all eternity, the God of all Creation. *The LORD loves him:* Though the LORD is the God of all glory and power, He is motivated by *love* for His people. It is the LORD's *love* for us that makes Him want us to obey and praise Him. Love desires, quite properly, that things work according to their design and purpose. Just as much as it is the love of the LORD for His people that *shall do His pleasure on Babylon* - punishing this nation that set itself against His people - so it is the love of the LORD that allows the refining fires to touch His people.*

*v. 16 Come near to Me, hear this . . . now the Lord GOD and His Spirit have sent Me: This is the Servant of the LORD, the Messiah Himself speaking. Only He was *from the beginning*. The Messiah is pleading with His people!*

*vs. 17-19 Oh, that you had heeded My commandments! In light of His power and love for Israel, God laments their unfulfilled potential, unfulfilled because of their disobedience. If they had only obeyed, *then your peace would have been like a river-* (cf. Is.66:12). Peace as flowing, bountiful, and life giving as *a river!* If they had only obeyed, then *your righteousness* would have been *like the waves of the sea*. Righteousness as certain, as unending, as reliable as *the sea!* If they had only obeyed, then *your descendants would have been like the sand*. Descendants as numerous and as dense in population as *the sand!* Anytime one of His children strays away, He is saying, come near, I want to draw near to you. I want you to come back! Hopefully you're broken, because you've received a good whipping!*

*vs. 12-15* How big is your God? "*My right hand has spanned the heavens.*" As we have mentioned, the span is the distance between your thumb and your little finger when stretched out. God's spanned, or measured the heavens, He said, with His span! We were designed and purposed to obey and praise our Creator. God can call us to submit to Him, and honor Him, for *our good*, not to satisfy some need in God.

*v. 16* Hear this! I have given you the rules for the good life, I have led you by the way that you should go. O that you have listened to Me! I didn't want it this way! Then you would've had *peace like a river!* "If you would only have listened! How well are we listening to Him? Here is His heart, "*Come near to Me!*"

*vs. 17-19* Our Lord continues, I didn't want it this way, for you to go into captivity in Babylon! I am *The Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, Who teaches you to profit, Who leads you by the way you should go. Oh, that you had heeded My commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, And your righteousness like the waves of the sea."* Do we really see the extent of His love for Israel here? How about the extent of His love for us, His children? He chastens the sons and daughters that He loves!

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*Isa 48:20 **Go forth from Babylon! Flee from the Chaldeans! With a voice of singing, Declare, proclaim this, Utter it to the end of the earth; Say, "The LORD has redeemed His servant Jacob!"***

*Isa 48:21 **And they did not thirst When He led them through the deserts; He caused the waters to flow from the rock for them; He also split the rock, and the waters gushed out.***

*Isa 48:22 **"There is no peace," says the LORD, "for the wicked."***

*vs. 20-21 Praise for the LORD’s redemption - and a warning. **Go forth from Babylon! Flee from the Chaldees! With a voice of singing:** Despite Israel’s disobedience and unfulfilled potential, the LORD still loves them and will still free them from their captivity in Babylon. When you do come out of the captivity. When you are finally released after the seventy years, then go and proclaim what God has done for you, He set you free! When they leave Babylon, they are to forth **with a voice of singing. Declare, proclaim this, utter it even to the end of the earth; say, "The LORD has redeemed His servant Jacob!"** God tells His people to declare His praises **even to the end of the earth**. The whole world should know how great and merciful God is!*

*v. 22 - **"There is no peace," says the LORD, "for the wicked."** Hand in hand with praise for the greatness of the LORD is a **contrast** - the destined misery **for the wicked**. Although it may seem that the way of the **wicked** is peaceful. As the Psalmist spoke in Psalms 73; yet when he saw the end of the wicked, and gained perspective in the house of the LORD, he knew that ultimately, **there is no peace . . . for the wicked.** (cf. Is. 57:21; 66:24)*

*v. 20-21 **Go forth from Babylon! Flee from the Chaldeans!** We make a mess of our lives, because we don’t listen to God, or follow God, and we get into this furnace of affliction, and our lives get totally messed up. We can make such a mess of our lives when we do our own thing, go our own way, following after the flesh. It can lead to such captivity and such bondage! The bondage of corruption. You’ve come to God bound by the powers of darkness, captive to sin, and God sets you free! Then you should go out and declare to the ends of the earth that the Lord has redeemed you, He set you free. You had destroyed your life, you were at the bottom of the pit, Yet the Lord delivered you, and set you free.*

*v. 22 God will take care of you, He took care of your fathers, He’ll take care of you! If you’d only, only had listened, you could’ve had peace like a river. "What a with having peace like a river, when living righteously, is it that of living a life of the wicked! Notice the repeating of this contrast in each of the three section of the final 27 verses of Isaiah! All three end with the fact there is no peace for the wicked!:*

*Isa 48:22 **"There is no peace," says the LORD, "for the wicked."** Isa 57:21 **"There is no peace," Says my God, "for the wicked."** Isa 66:24 **"And they shall go forth and look Upon the corpses of the men Who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, And their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.***