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**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**THY NAKEDNESS SHALL BE UNCOVERED**

**Isaiah 47:1-15**

***Isaiah 47:1 "Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: [there is] no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate."***

This chapter is speaking of the downfall of Babylon. Babylon had been thought of as one of the greatest cities and now it will be in ruin. Those who had been so mighty have now been brought down by the God of Israel. The virgin daughter is speaking of Babylon, who had been ruler. The thrones are all destroyed now, and there are no longer thrones to sit on. Babylon had been a city of great luxury. Now it is fallen. The luxurious life is gone. They will have to work hard now for everything they get. Literal Babylon has never been rebuilt to the greatness it knew. There are many Babylons speaking from the spiritual. Babylon has come to mean evil city.

***Isaiah 47:2 "Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover the thigh, pass over the rivers."***

Female slaves usually did the work of grinding the meal. This shows the severity of their fall from greatness. Now their women will work as slaves. They would pass over rivers to their land of captivity. They would, possibly, need to remove their shoes and wade over.

***Isaiah 47:3 "Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet [thee as] a man."***

Even the men of Babylon will be shamed to the extent of slave women. The truth of the matter is, these idol worshippers will be totally humiliated by God. God's fury will be upon them.

***Isaiah 47:4 "[As for] our redeemer, the LORD of hosts [is] his name, the Holy One of Israel."***

Israel is redeemed from the bondage of Babylon. They, as Christians today, have a Redeemer. He is Jesus Christ the Lord. He is Jehovah to the Jewish people.

***Isaiah 47:5 "Sit thou silent, and get thee into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called, The lady of kingdoms."***

Babylon will never be restored to its former greatness. These people have fallen so far, they will want to hide in the darkness to keep their shame from being more apparent to the world. They sat like a lady in their greatness, but this will be no more.

***Isaiah 47:6 "I was wroth with my people, I have polluted mine inheritance, and given them into thine hand: thou didst shew them no mercy; upon the ancient hast thou very heavily laid thy yoke."***

We will find in the following Scripture that God blesses those who bless His people, but He brings great curses on those who oppress His people.

***Genesis 12:3 "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."***

Babylon did not capture Israel. God put them in the hands of the Babylonians because of Israel’s disobedience. He was using the Babylonians to correct not punish Israel. However, the Babylonians had been extra cruel to God's people, and God does not soon forget.

***Jeremiah 29:10-11***

***10“For thus saith the Lord: That after seventy years are accomplished at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, causing you to return to this place.***

***11For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you an expected end.***

***Isaiah 47:7 "And thou saidst, I shall be a lady for ever: [so] that thou didst not lay these [things] to thy heart, neither didst remember the latter end of it."***

Babylonians had thought themselves to be so great, there was nothing that could bring them down. It appears they had their chance to have a change of heart about God, because it says, "thou didst not lay these things to thy heart". They did not change and judgment came upon them. They could have looked back at God's dealings with other nations regarding Israel. They did not look back at history.

***Isaiah 47:8 "Therefore hear now this, [thou that art] given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I [am], and none else beside me; I shall not sit [as] a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children:"***

Worldly pleasures lead to ruin. When Cyrus occupied the city, they did not believe it was serious, and they went right on dancing and revelling. They felt they were above the judgment of God. They felt that they were so great, they would not lose any of their children.

***Isaiah 47:9 "But these two [things] shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, [and] for the great abundance of thine enchantments."***

The suddenness of the destruction was so, that it seemed all of the destruction came in one day. Their husbands were killed, and they lost their children, as well. We see 2 of the reasons for their destruction was sorceries and enchantments. "Sorceries", here means magic and witchcraft. Enchantments means charmings are anything to do with the occult. The saddest thing we see in these Scriptures, is a similar condition that is in our society today.

***Isaiah 47:10 "For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I [am], and none else beside me."***

"I am, and none else beside me" shows a person filled with conceit, or self-worth. They are so proud of themselves, they do not see the need for God. They were depending on fortune telling, and horoscopes, and things like that to guide them. All of this worldly wisdom had led them into perversion.

***Isaiah 47:11 "Therefore shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off: and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, [which] thou shalt not know."***

God will send this evil upon them, because of their sin. When God sends His wrath, there is no one to go to for help. There is no one above Him. It will be so sudden, they will have no idea where it came from.

***Isaiah 47:12 "Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail."***

This is a challenge from God to them to get help from these things they had put their trust in. If you think they can help you, it is time to call upon them now. Of course, they cannot help them, because idols are nothings. Sorceries and enchantments are from Satan himself. Satan has no power at all against God.

***Isaiah 47:13 "Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from [these things] that shall come upon thee."***

We can easily see from this verse, many of the things we are doing in our society today that are displeasing to God. How sad it would be, to think being born a certain month of the year determined your life. That would mean that you have no control over your behavior. We can see that these things are very worldly and, also, displeasing to God. Many of the false gods they had been worshipping had been connected to stargazing. "Monthly prognosticators" means horoscope readers. Astrological forecasting is prominent today but is a terrible sin in the sight of God.

***Isaiah 47:14 "Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: [there shall] not [be] a coal to warm at, [nor] fire to sit before it."***

All of these things mentioned are of the world, and they will be destroyed, and the people who look to these worthless things for help will be disappointed. They cannot help anyone, and they bring the wrath of God down on those who depend upon them.

***Isaiah 47:15 "Thus shall they be unto thee with whom thou hast laboured, [even] thy merchants, from thy youth: they shall wander very one to his quarter; none shall save thee."***

The foreigners who sided in with all of this evil of Babylon will suffer the same punishment as Babylon. These false gods cannot save, they just destroy those who look to them for help. God saves.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Where does verse 1 say for them to come and sit?
2. Who was this spoken to?
3. What is the downfall speaking of?
4. Babylon had been a city of great \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. Has Babylon ever been rebuilt?
6. Who usually did the grinding at the mill?
7. How would they cross the rivers to their captivity?
8. What would the men of Babylon be like?
9. Who is the Redeemer?
10. Where will they go to hide their shame?
11. Why were God's people captured by Babylon?
12. How had the Babylonians treated Israel?
13. What do we learn from the statement, "thou didst not lay these things to thy heart"?
14. How does verse 8 describe their condition?
15. Worldly pleasures lead to \_\_\_\_\_\_.
16. The suddenness of the judgment makes it appear to happen in \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_.
17. What does "sorceries" mean?
18. What is the saddest thing about verse 9?
19. Their wisdom and their knowledge did what to them?
20. They are so proud of themselves, they do not see their need for \_\_\_\_.
21. Who sends the evil upon the Babylonians?
22. What does God challenge them to do in verse 12?
23. What evils, from verse 13, are in our society today?
24. What does monthly prognosticators mean?
25. What happens to them in verse 14?
26. These false gods cannot save, they just \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ destroy those who look to them for help.