



# ShalomAZ Ministries

*In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption*

## “Unchanging Purposes. Unorthodox Methods

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### Devotion and Discussion Questions

**Key Texts (TLV):** **Is 46:8-13**; *Gen. 15:13-16; Is. 39:5-7; Deut. 28:49-52; Jer. 29:10-11; Jn 14:27-29; Heb. 6:17*

Isaiah has just contrasted the gods of Babylon with the God of Israel. The idols have to be carried. They fall over. They cannot answer. They cannot rescue from *mitzrato*—from distress, from bondage, from “his Egypt.” Meanwhile, Adonai says, “I have carried you—from the womb until you are gray” (Is. 46:3-4). The false gods are burdens for the weary. But the true God carries His people. And yet, there comes a moment—especially in exile—when it feels like God isn’t answering. Babylon is flourishing. Egypt once flourished. The world’s systems look strong. Meanwhile, you’re praying. You’re waiting. You’re wondering. Could someone say, “Why isn’t your God rescuing you?”

But that’s the thing. He told Abraham the exile in Egypt was coming before Isaac was even born (Gen. 15:13-16). He told Judah Babylon was coming (Is. 39:5-7). He warned in Deut. 28 what rebellion would bring. He told them seventy years (Jer. 29:10-11). Yeshua said, “*I have told you now before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe*” (John 14:29). He speaks ahead of time—not so we can control the plan—but so we won’t collapse when it unfolds. Now in **Is. 46:8-13**, the Lord calls His people to anchor themselves in three realities.

#### 1. REMEMBER WHO HE IS (IS. 46:8-9)

*“Remember this, and take courage... Return, you rebels, to heart. Remember the former things of old, for I am God—there is no other. I am God, and there is none like Me”* (Is. 46:8-9). The first command is simple: remember. *Zikru zot*. Call this to mind. And not just mentally—*hashivu... al-lev*—let there be a turning upon your heart. This remembering is meant to produce repentance. It’s not nostalgia. It’s transformation.

He says, “Remember the *rishonot me’olam*—the former things from eternity.” Go all the way back. Before Egypt. Before Babylon. Before your present crisis. Remember who I have always been. I alone am God. There is no other. When exile dulls your thinking, when culture pressures your convictions, when circumstances whisper that maybe there are other options—remember who He is. The issue is not first your situation. The issue is your memory of God.

#### 2. TRUST HIS UNCHANGING PURPOSE (IS. 46:10)

*“Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times what is yet to come, saying, ‘My purpose will stand, and I will accomplish all that I please’”* (Is. 46:10). Here is the anchor: He reveals the end from the beginning. He discloses from the start what will unfold at the finish. History is not random. It is not improvised. It is not reactionary. His *atzati*—His counsel, His plan—*taqum*—will stand.

And He doesn’t say, “I’ll accomplish some of what I desire.” He says, “*All that I please.*” His purposes are not the product of whim. They flow from His will—His good pleasure. Hebrews 6:17 says God guaranteed the unchanging nature of His purpose with an oath. He is not making

it up as He goes. So when you're in exile and it feels like heaven is silent, the silence is not confusion. When the pressure rises and the world looks like it's winning, His purposes have not shifted. He declared the end long before you stepped into the middle. The call is not to understand every detail. The call is to trust that His purpose still stands.

### **3. RECEIVE HIS NEAR SALVATION (IS. 46:11-13)**

*"From the east I am calling a bird of prey... Truly I have spoken; I will bring it to pass. I have planned it; surely I will do it"* (Is. 46:11). Here's where the method gets unorthodox. A "bird of prey." A man from a distant land. Cyrus. A Gentile king. Not the Davidic hero they were expecting. Not the restoration package they had imagined. But the Lord repeats it with certainty: I have spoken. I will bring it. I have formed it. I will do it.

Then He confronts their hearts: *"Listen to Me, you stubborn-hearted, who are far from righteousness"* (Is. 46:12). You're far from righteousness—but I'm not far from you. *"I bring My righteousness near—it is not far off. My salvation will not delay. I will grant salvation in Zion—My glory in Israel"* (Is. 46:13). The word (קָרַב) *Qarav-ti*—"I bring near"—carries the sense of bringing something close, even like an offering. You are distant from righteousness? I will bring My righteousness near. You are remote? My salvation will not be remote. Ultimately, He brings His righteousness and salvation near in Yeshua. His beauty—*tifarti*—His splendor, is revealed not as the world defines beauty, but as He defines it. His purpose never changed. His method surprised everyone.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Remember who He is. Trust His unchanging purpose. Receive His near salvation—even when the method surprises you. If you are in a season where it feels like Babylon is flourishing and your prayers are unanswered, remember: He told you there would be seasons like this. He declares the end from the beginning. He brings righteousness near. Today, if your heart has grown stubborn—return upon your heart. If you've been trying to carry what cannot carry you—lay it down. If you've been demanding that God work according to your expectations—surrender your blueprint. His purposes are unchanging. His methods may be unorthodox. But He is trustworthy. Hold firm to the end.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What does it practically mean to "remember" in a way that affects your heart?
2. How does believing that God declares the end from the beginning change how you face uncertainty?
3. Why do we struggle when God's methods don't match our expectations?
4. In what ways might we be "far from righteousness," yet resistant to receiving what He brings near?
5. Where is God asking you to trust His purpose rather than demand your preferred outcome?

### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

*ADONAI*, You are God and there is no other. When our hearts grow stubborn, turn us. When our memory grows dull, awaken us. Teach us to remember Your eternal faithfulness. Help us trust that Your purposes stand, even when Your methods surprise us. Bring Your righteousness near in our lives. Let Your salvation be seen in us, and may Your beauty be revealed through Your people.

*B'Shem Yeshua*, In the name of Yeshua, amen.