



# ShalomAZ Ministries

*In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption*

## **“Babylon Has An Expiration Date”**

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### **Devotion and Discussion Questions**

**Key Texts (TLV):** *Is. 47:1-15; Is. 46:8-13; Dan. 4:26-30; 5:18-23, 30; Rev. 18:2, 4-5, 7-8*

**Isaiah 47 makes this clear: Babylon has an expiration date.** But before we ever step into the judgment of Babylon, the Lord ends Is. 46 by telling His people to remember, to take courage, and to let repentance land on the heart (Is. 46:8–13). He’s reminding them that history isn’t random—He declares the end from the beginning, His counsel stands, and what He has spoken He will do.

That matters because Isaiah is speaking on the front end of exile—Babylon is still “down the road.” Yet God is already telling His people what to hold onto when captivity comes: you may *feel* defeated for seventy years, you may live surrounded by a culture that boasts and mocks, but God already told you the exile was coming, and God already promised rescue on the other side (Is. 46:8–13). Is. 47 is the Lord dealing with Babylon in advance—so His people can stay steady when it looks like Babylon is winning.

#### **1. BABYLON WILL BE BROUGHT DOWN (Is. 47:1–4)**

Is. 47 opens with abrupt commands: Babylon is told to come down from her imagined throne and sit in the dust (Is. 47:1). The point is humiliation. The empire that thinks it’s untouchable, delicate, and destined to rule is pictured like a pampered daughter being stripped of luxury and lowered into mourning. God is saying, “You’re not above the consequences. You’re not exempt from judgment.”

Then the imagery pushes further: the “delicate” woman is forced into hard labor and exposure—grinding flour, wading through rivers, losing the protections she assumed were permanent (Is. 47:2–3). Babylon will be uncovered and shamed, not because history randomly shifted, but because the Lord Himself is acting in fitting justice. And right in the middle of that, God marks the reason: Israel’s hope is in their Redeemer—ADONAI-Tzva’ot, the Holy One of Israel (Is. 47:4).

#### **2. PRIDE ALWAYS OVERREACHES, AND GOD HOLDS IT ACCOUNTABLE (Is. 47:5–11)**

The Lord repeats the verdict: Babylon will move from language about a “queen” to silence and darkness (Is. 47:5). And then He explains the heart issue: yes, God handed His people over in judgment, but Babylon sinned in how she carried it out—pitilessness, cruelty, and a heavy yoke, even on the aged (Is. 47:6). God is not indifferent to how power treats the vulnerable.

At the core, Babylon believed she would rule forever and never be held accountable (Is. 47:7). That blindness grows into self-deification—Babylon speaks as if she is ultimate, as if no one sees, as if she will never taste loss (Is. 47:8–10). God’s answer is sobering: the very losses she denies will come suddenly, and the disaster will be beyond her ability to “cover” or avert (Is. 47:9–11). Pride always thinks it can manage consequences; God says judgment will arrive on His timetable.

### **3. FALSE RESCUE FAILS; ONLY THE LORD SAVES (Is. 47:12–15)**

God exposes Babylon’s spiritual system by almost challenging it: “Go ahead—stand in your enchantments, your sorceries, your efforts to control outcomes” (Is. 47:12). Babylon labored at these things for years, but when the Lord says “enough,” none of it can hold. Then God calls out all the counselors and predictors—every voice Babylon trusted to forecast, interpret, and secure the future (Is. 47:13).

But the verdict is final: what they trusted becomes fuel for their destruction, and there will be no deliverer found in that system (Is. 47:14–15). That’s why Scripture later echoes the same warning and mercy: God calls His people to come out of Babylon—to detach from her sins and her judgment-bound ways (Rev. 18:4–5). Babylon always promises safety, but it cannot save.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

Here’s the comfort: Babylon never feels temporary while you’re living under it—but God says it has an expiration date. He speaks that in advance so His people can hold onto truth when the atmosphere screams the opposite: God is still in control, and His salvation is not far off (Is. 46:8–13). Exile is real, but it is not final.

So the call today is simple: **come out of her**. If Babylon has disciplined your heart—through pride, greed, indulgence, control, compromise, or the need to be “untouchable”—repent and return with your whole heart to the Redeemer (Is. 46:8–13; Rev. 18:4–5). And if you’ve felt crushed by the world’s weight, hear this: the Holy One sees, He measures rightly, and He rescues faithfully. Put your trust in Him again—because ultimately, Babylon falls, but the Lord stands.

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What does God emphasize in Is. 46:8–13 that helps you stay steady when circumstances feel overwhelming?
2. In Is. 47:1–3, what parts of the imagery show Babylon’s fall as humiliation and exposure—not just defeat?
3. How do you see Babylon’s “forever” mindset show up in modern culture (Is. 47:7–8)?
4. What are modern versions of “consultations” people run to for control, and why do they leave people weary (Is. 47:12–13)?
5. What would it look like, practically, for you to “come out of her” this week (Rev. 18:4–5)?

#### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

*ADONAI*, remind us that You alone are God and there is no other. Forgive us for the places where Babylon has shaped our desires and decisions. Put repentance on our hearts, and strengthen us to come out of compromise and into wholehearted trust. For those who feel like they’re living in exile, give endurance and hope. For those who have trusted false securities, open their eyes and draw them back. Be our Redeemer in the middle of the pressure, and make Your beauty visible through our lives.

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