
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. ISAIAH

CHAPTERS 40-66

Lesson 5: 46:1-48:21 - Woe to those who oppose the Lord!

Introduction

Those who reject the Lord our God will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire, otherwise known as Hell. Does this fact bring you joy or sadness? Choose a side and defend it.

Lesson Goal: To feel comforted by the confidence of your standing with God as opposed to the condemnation of those who reject him

Idols judged (46:1-13)

In verses 1 and 2, Isaiah is either referencing the practice of idols being taken in the victory of battle or the Akitu festival of the Babylonians. Either way, what is Isaiah saying about the idols?

The idols need to be lifted up. They are dead weight. This is the imagery that is set up in verses 6 and 7. Compare this to how God lifts people up. Read Psalm 27:5, 18:48, 40:2, and, 113:7.

God calls them to remember the former things that took place. The former things are the salvation that he provided for his people. Yet, he calls the Israelites 'the rebellious sons.' What does this make you consider:

- a. Israel rejected God's salvation.
- b. God doesn't offer salvation to people that deserve it.
- c. There is a stark difference between salvation and condemnation.

God knows the final outcome from the beginning. What does this mean for God's statements about the following things:

- a. Promise of eternal life in heaven
- b. Condemnation of eternal death in hell

Agree or Disagree: Because God does what he wants to do, when a person goes to hell this is because God wanted that to happen. (Cf. 46:10)

The bird of prey called from the east or man from faraway is Cyrus of Persia. Since God fulfilled the promise to deliver his people. How confident can you be that God will fulfill his other promises?

Although we know there is judgment for the unrighteous. What promise does God continue to hold out? (Cf. 46:13)

Babylon judged (47:1-15)

In speaking about the fall of Babylon, Babylon is personified as a woman who is put to shame. This may seem shocking. Yet, if you read Psalm 137:8-9, you would be even more shocked by the language of the judgment of Babylon. Considering these statements, address the following questions:

Why would the Scriptures use such strong language here?

Who is speaking these curses?

Did the Babylonians deserve it?

The destruction of the Babylonians is a picture of Judgment Day. How can this strong judgment of Babylon serve us today?

Of what sins were the Babylonians guilty according to this section?

Israel judged (48:1-22)

Israel swore upon and invoked the name of God, yet they did not do so in truth and righteousness. In connection to this verse, consider Matthew 7:21-23 and Romans 9:1-6.

What (or who) makes someone's calling out to God legitimate?

The things that God announced have come true. What things does this include?

In connection to what the LORD says in verse 9, read Exodus 34:6-7. Does God's change in tone in this section surprise you? Why or why not?

Who is speaking in verse 16?

Verse 22 is a strong statement of the law. How does this statement sit with you?

Something big is coming up. Israel, the Lord's servant, failed. The true Servant of the Lord is coming next chapter!

Conclusion

With a knowledge of the condemnation of those who oppose the Lord, what are you led to _____ do?