

Isaiah 48

Israel refined for God's glory

- 48** ¹ Hear this, O house of Jacob,
 who are called by the name of Israel,
 and who came from the waters of Judah,
who swear by the name of the LORD
 and confess the God of Israel,
 but not in truth or right.
- ² For they call themselves after the holy city,
 and stay themselves on the God of Israel;
 the LORD of hosts is his name.
- ³ “The former things I declared of old;
 they went out from my mouth, and I announced them;
 then suddenly I did them, and they came to pass.
- ⁴ Because I know that you are obstinate,
 and your neck is an iron sinew
 and your forehead brass,
- ⁵ I declared them to you from of old,
 before they came to pass I announced them to you,
lest you should say, ‘My idol did them,
 my carved image and my metal image commanded them.’
- ⁶ “You have heard; now see all this;
 and will you not declare it?
From this time forth I announce to you new things,
 hidden things that you have not known.
- ⁷ They are created now, not long ago;
 before today you have never heard of them,
 lest you should say, ‘Behold, I knew them.’
- ⁸ You have never heard, you have never known,
 from of old your ear has not been opened.
For I knew that you would surely deal treacherously,
 and that from before birth you were called a rebel.

The LORD's mercy and call to Israel

- ⁹ “For my name's sake I defer my anger;
 for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you,
 that I may not cut you off.
- ¹⁰ Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver;
 I have tried you in the furnace of affliction.
- ¹¹ For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it,
 for how should my name be profaned?
 My glory I will not give to another.
- ¹² “Listen to me, O Jacob,
 and Israel, whom I called!

I am he; I am the first,
and I am the last.

¹³ My hand laid the foundation of the earth,
and my right hand spread out the heavens;
when I call to them,
they stand forth together.

¹⁴ “Assemble, all of you, and listen!
Who among them has declared these things?
The LORD loves him;
he shall perform his purpose on Babylon,
and his arm shall be against the Chaldeans.

¹⁵ I, even I, have spoken and called him;
I have brought him, and he will prosper in his way.

¹⁶ Draw near to me, hear this:
from the beginning I have not spoken in secret,
from the time it came to be I have been there.”
And now the Lord GOD has sent me, and his Spirit.

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 in the way you should go.

¹⁸ Oh that you had paid attention to my commandments!
Then your peace would have been like a river,
and your righteousness like the waves of the sea;

¹⁹ your offspring would have been like the sand,
and your descendants like its grains;
their name would never be cut off
or destroyed from before me.”

²⁰ Go out from Babylon, flee from Chaldea,
declare this with a shout of joy, proclaim it,
send it out to the end of the earth;
say, “The LORD has redeemed his servant Jacob!”

²¹ They did not thirst when he led them through the deserts;
he made water flow for them from the rock;
he split the rock and the water gushed out.

²² “There is no peace,” says the LORD, “for the wicked.”

Cross References

Isaiah 45 v 9 to 13:

“Woe to him who strives with him who formed him,
a pot among earthen pots!
Does the clay say to him who forms it, ‘What are you making?’
or ‘Your work has no handles’?”

¹⁰ Woe to him who says to a father, ‘What are you begetting?’
or to a woman, ‘With what are you in labour?’”

¹¹ Thus says the LORD,
the Holy One of Israel, and the one who formed him:
“Ask me of things to come;
will you command me concerning my children and the work of my hands?

¹² I made the earth
and created man on it;
it was my hands that stretched out the heavens,
and I commanded all their host.

¹³ I have stirred him up in righteousness,
and I will make all his ways level;
he shall build my city
and set my exiles free,
not for price or reward,”
says the LORD of hosts

Isaiah 46 v 12, 13:

“Listen to me, you stubborn of heart,
you who are far from righteousness:
¹³ I bring near my righteousness; it is not far off,
and my salvation will not delay;
I will put salvation in Zion,
for Israel my glory.

Genesis 37 v 26, 27:

²⁶ Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷ Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.”
And his brothers listened to him.

Romans 5 v 12: ¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

Psalm 73 v 3, 16, 17:

For I was envious of the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

But when I thought how to understand this,
it seemed to me a wearisome task,
¹⁷ until I went into the sanctuary of God;
then I discerned their end.