

# The Assurance of God's Deliverance

Text: Isaiah 48

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**Truth:** God now reassures His people in captivity that He will keep His word and they will be delivered from Babylon. We find in this chapter God's merciful love to His people even as they suffer under the tyrannical hand of their enemies. For the person who trusts God, the blessings will flow both now and for eternity.

## I. The rightful reasons for captivity (Isa. 48:1-8)

### **\*\*Hypocrisy (vs. 1-3)**

The people were living hypocritical lives for their oath was neither in firmness nor certainty nor according to the standard of right.

Before men even realize what has happened, God acts suddenly and performs all that He announced. The only One who can do this is God and the only way is by His power. All the promises God speaks are bound in His wisdom, and unlike those soothsayers and idols who only give vain utterances, God's actions back up His words.

### **\*\*Stubbornness and a refusal to change their ways (v. 4)**

### **\*\*Affection for idolatry (v. 5)**

Now we know why God had made the challenge in the prior chapters to the heathen and their gods. We can clearly see why God spent so much time demonstrating His power, goodness, love, and proof of His exclusivity. The people were without excuse.

### **\*\* Failure to hear and heed God's word (v. 8)**

## II. The merciful hand of God in the midst of His wrath (Isa. 48:9-11)

God's mercy becomes clearly evident in that He does not wipe out all of His people. He remains committed first to His word and promises and second to His people and their purposes. He defers or delays the full fury of His anger on account of His name, praise, and glory.

God had promised to bring a Redeemer to this world and nothing, even His people's wickedness, would prevent God from fulfilling His word. What grace! What long-suffering! What mercy! What a God! Eventually, once the Servant suffered, God did cut His people off.

In the end the captivity would severely test them but it would not destroy them.

God would keep His word for if He did not and went back on His word, His reputation among the heathen, idols, and His own people would be defamed.

His name will not be defiled, dishonored, or desecrated for He will not destroy the nation even though they deserve His full judgment. God defers His anger on account of His own sake and not because the people themselves deserved less.

## III. God's faithfulness towards His people (Isa. 48:12-16)

These verses serve as the foundation and reasons for proof that God's will be done and His plan enacted to bring His people back to the land.

**Verse 12:** \*\*The nation is God's chosen and called people – In case anyone questions His plan, power, or passion.

\*\*Jehovah is the eternal God – He has always been there and always will be. He never ceases to be in control.

**Verse 13:** \*\*God is the Creator – If God can create, He can surely work this plan out to return the people back to Jerusalem.

**Verse 14:** \*\*God keeps His word \*\*God loves His people \*\*God will perform His purpose on Babylon

**Verse 15:** \*\*God could foretell the future for He would call Cyrus, bring him forth, and make his way prosperous. No other god could have done this. His success will be based on God's word.

#### **IV. What might have been and what will be (Isa. 48:17-22)**

God was the One who desired to teach them success and how they should live their lives. If they had only listened and obeyed they would have experienced overwhelming peace and waves of righteousness. Psalm 119:172. Isaiah laments over what would have been and cries out over their sin-filled history. Because of their sinfulness, punishment would come instead of peace.

Whereas the nation should have grown to countless numbers, because of their sin, they had failed to become the nation God wanted them to be both spiritually and physically. This does not mean the Jews are no longer God's people nor does it mean that the promise of the Abrahamic covenant will go unfulfilled. In the future, God will regather His people. God will deliver all of those who trust in Him and will save them from the bondage of guilt and sin through the blood of Jesus Christ.