

<u>Isaiah 1-5</u> Introduction How can one be spared judgement and live happily ever after?	<u>Isaiah 6-39</u> New Creation God will rule over a new, perfect and eternal creation	<u>Isaiah 40-55</u> New relationship God will restore his people from exile to a permanent relationship	<u>Isaiah 56-66</u> Who God will choose the humble and reject the proud
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Isaiah 40-55 explained in under 60 seconds:
youtu.be/z-S3q76crLM

<u>Isaiah 40-48</u> 'I'm coming to get you!' YHWH tells his people he will act to fix their relationship	<u>Isaiah 49-55</u> 'Here's the plan!' YHWH's suffering servant will bear the penalty for sin, permanently fixing their relationship
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Isaiah 48:1-49:13 (NIVUK)

Sunday 1 March 2026

48 'Listen to this, you descendants of Jacob, you who are called by the name of Israel and come from the line of Judah, you who take oaths in the name of the LORD and invoke the God of Israel – but not in truth or righteousness –
² you who call yourselves citizens of the holy city and claim to rely on the God of Israel – the LORD Almighty is his name:
³ I foretold the former things long ago, my mouth announced them and I made them known; then suddenly I acted, and they came to pass.
⁴ For I knew how stubborn you were; your neck muscles were iron, your forehead was bronze.
⁵ Therefore I told you these things long ago; before they happened I announced them to you so that you could not say, "My images brought them about; my wooden image and metal god ordained them."
⁶ You have heard these things; look at them all. Will you not admit them?
 'From now on I will tell you of new things, of hidden things unknown to you.
⁷ They are created now, and not long ago; you have not heard of them before today. So you cannot say, "Yes, I knew of them."
⁸ You have neither heard nor understood; from of old your ears have not been open. Well do I know how treacherous you are; you were called a rebel from birth.
⁹ For my own name's sake I delay my wrath; for the sake of my praise I hold it back from you, so as not to destroy you completely.

1. 'Despite your stubbornness, I'll rescue you from Babylon!' (48:1-22)

- 'listen up, those *called* my people!'

- 'I predicted and did my former works'

- 'I now predict a new thing'

- 'I'll show you mercy, but not because of you!'



Andover Bible Church

45:15-25 'You feel my absence, but all will feel my presence!'	46:1-13 'Babylon's idols will end up in captivity'	47:1-15 'I'll humiliate Queen Babylon'	48:1-22 'Despite your stubbornness, I'll rescue you from Babylon!'	Isaiah 40-48 'I'm coming to get you!' YHWH tells his people he intends to fix their relationship
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- 'I will use my creator-level power...'

- '...to rescue you from Babylon'

(Cyrus, King of Persia)

- 'you should have listened *then*, you should listen *now*!'

No peace for the wicked
Which of these possible interpretations of 48:22 is the most likely? Why?
1. **Enemies destroyed:** Babylon will be destroyed, like Egypt were in the past
2. **Reader beware:** if you don't repent of your sin, you will never get peace!
3. **Rescue incomplete:** God will bring Judah back from Babylon, but the problem of sin remains unsolved...!

- 'you'll be released from Babylon!'

¹⁰ See, I have refined you, though not as silver;

I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

¹¹ For my own sake, for my own sake, I do this.

How can I let myself be defamed?

I will not yield my glory to another.

¹² 'Listen to me, Jacob,

Israel, whom I have called:

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

¹³ My own hand laid the foundations of the earth,

and my right hand spread out the heavens;

when I summon them, they all stand up together.

¹⁴ 'Come together, all of you, and listen:

which of the idols has foretold these things?

The LORD's chosen ally

will carry out his purpose against Babylon;

his arm will be against the Babylonians.^a

¹⁵ I, even I, have spoken; yes, I have called him.

I will bring him, and he will succeed in his mission.

¹⁶ 'Come near me and listen to this:

'From the first announcement I have not spoken in secret;

at the time it happens, I am there.'

And now the Sovereign LORD has sent me,

endowed with his Spirit.

¹⁷ This is what the LORD says –

your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:

'I am the LORD your God,

who teaches you what is best for you,

who directs you in the way you should go.

¹⁸ If only you had paid attention to my commands,

your peace would have been like a river,

your well-being like the waves of the sea.

¹⁹ Your descendants would have been like the sand,

your children like its numberless grains;

their name would never be blotted out

nor destroyed from before me.'

²⁰ Leave Babylon, flee from the Babylonians!

Announce this with shouts of joy and proclaim it.

Send it out to the ends of the earth;

^a Or *Chaldeans*; also in verse 20

Isaiah 49-55 **'Here's the plan!'**
 YHWH appoints JC who will bear the penalty for sin,
 permanently fixing their relationship
 (JC = Jacob's Champion = Jesus Christ)

49:1-13
 JC will accomplish
 God's global
 salvation

49:14-50:3
 'I haven't
 forgotten you – I
 will restore you!'

50:4-11
 JC will suffer but
 will ultimately be
 vindicated

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 water gushed out.

- 'trust me, I've got a great track record!'

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

49 Listen to me, you islands;
 hear this, you distant nations:
 before I was born the LORD called me;
 from my mother's womb he has spoken my name.

2. JC will accomplish God's global salvation (49:1-13)

- 'listen up, globe!'

² He made my mouth like a sharpened sword,
 in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
 he made me into a polished arrow
 and concealed me in his quiver.

- 'I'm super chosen'

³ He said to me, 'You are my servant,
 Israel, in whom I will display my splendour.'

⁴ But I said, 'I have laboured in vain;
 I have spent my strength for nothing at all.
 Yet what is due to me is in the LORD's hand,
 and my reward is with my God.'

- 'I appear to have failed...'

- '...yet God will vindicate me...'

⁵ And now the LORD says –
 he who formed me in the womb to be his servant
 to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself,
 for I am^b honoured in the eyes of the LORD
 and my God has been my strength –

⁶ he says: 'It is too small a thing for you to be my servant
 to restore the tribes of Jacob
 and bring back those of Israel I have kept.
 I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,
 that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

- '...by using me for a global salvation!'

⁷ This is what the LORD says –
 the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel –
 to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation,
 to the servant of rulers:

- 'I will be hated by many...'

'Kings will see you and stand up,
 princes will see and bow down,
 because of the LORD, who is faithful,
 the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

- '...yet God will vindicate me...'

^b Or *him*, / *but Israel would not be gathered*; / *yet I will be*

- ‘...by using me for a global salvation!’

⁸ This is what the LORD says:

‘In the time of my favour I will answer you,
and in the day of salvation I will help you;

I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people,
to restore the land and to reassign its desolate inheritances,

⁹ to say to the captives, “Come out,”

and to those in darkness, “Be free!”

‘They will feed beside the roads

and find pasture on every barren hill.

¹⁰ They will neither hunger nor thirst,

nor will the desert heat or the sun beat down on them.

He who has compassion on them will guide them

and lead them beside springs of water.

¹¹ I will turn all my mountains into roads,

and my highways will be raised up.

¹² See, they will come from afar –

some from the north, some from the west,

some from the region of Aswan.^c

¹³ Shout for joy, you heavens;

rejoice, you earth;

burst into song, you mountains!

For the LORD comforts his people

and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.

2nd Exodus references

Wilderness transformed (35:1–7)

Highway prepared (35:8)

Redeemed return (35:9–10)

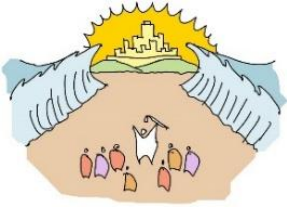
Everlasting joy (35:10)

Intensifications

Accomplished by JC (49:1-8)

Prisoners released (49:9)

People from all nations (49:6, 12)



Return from Babylon & 2nd Exodus

To what extent do you now think that the return from Babylon in 538BC is the start of God’s promised 2nd Exodus? If not, how are the two events related, if at all?

For reflection on Isaiah 48:1-49:13

- 48:1-7 1. What’s your reaction to God saying he predicted former works, then did them, then predicts new works (Babylon rescue)?
- 48:8-11 2. How do you feel about God showing mercy because of his own reputations’ sake rather than because of his people having earned it?
- 48:12-22 3. Reading these verses requires some mental gymnastics, akin to (a) to (c) below. Are your gymnastics different? And what helps you navigate these jumps?
- a. God promises to defeat Babylon *again*;
 - b. I know that Babylon got destroyed in 538BC;
 - c. It gives me confidence that God will complete his 2nd Exodus (eternal life) promises
- 49:1-13 4. How does this passage stretch your view of Jesus?
5. What do you make of Jesus’ *global* salvation?
6. Jesus’ *appear to have failed/hated by many* → *vindication* pattern: what practical differences might this make in your life if you actively thought about this more?

Next Sunday (8 March) | Isaiah 49:14-51:8 | No car parking restrictions

^c Dead Sea Scrolls; Masoretic Text *Sinim*