

**Bad News for Babylon
The Future is Bleak
Isaiah 47:1 – 15**

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One of the threads that runs throughout the scriptures is the ongoing conflict between the city of God and the city of man. The city of God is referred to as Zion or Jerusalem most of the time and Babylon is the city of man.

This thread goes all the way back to Able who, we learn in Hebrews 11:13 – 14 was already looking forward to what God had for him. He was acutely aware of what it is that had become lost from talking with his parents and he was already looking forward to the restoration of all things.

The hope of the heavenly city is the first principle of the faith that pleases God. It is a faith that implies the expectation of a restored relationship between man and God and between man and man. It looks to God's work for healing. And it looks to God's salvation alone. Cain's city, built by the work of his own hands, is thus exposed as a fraudulent imitation of true faith. (Gage 2006, 38)

We know that the city of man; religious, economic and governmental Babylon, are destroyed for good in Revelation 17:1 – 13 and 18:1 – 24. This would be the ultimate end times expression of the city that Cain went and founded, Eridu prior to the flood.

This is the third time (Isaiah 13-14, 21) in Isaiah that the Lord is discussing the doom of Babylon.

The Lord has led into chapter 47 with His diatribe on the no-gods of Babylon that have to be brought out to meet their worshippers and are represented by such large idols that they fall over in their carts. We have also learned that this is not the worship of artwork, but the worship of the demons and fallen entities who are behind it. Why Babylon?

"Babylon" is a symbol of political tyranny and religious apostasy. The Bible clearly reveals that a counterpart to ancient Babylon will be on the scene at "the end-time" and that this end-time system will be made up of two elements, a civil element ("the scarlet colored beast") and a religious element ("the

whore”), Revelation, chapter 17. So, Isaiah, chapter 47, had a minor fulfillment in 538 B.C. and it will have a major and final fulfillment during the yet-future “end time.” (Gingrich 1993, 56)

The time given to this subject is remarkable in view of the fact that Babylon at this time was a very small and insignificant kingdom. It was almost a century before it would become a world power. It had been in existence since the days of the Tower of Babel and had influenced the world religiously. Babylon was the fountainhead and the mother of all idolatry. (McGee 1997, 299)

As we have learned, as time has gone by and the world “progresses,” the entities tend to change their names, but they still demand to be followed and worshipped. “Through endless transformations and disfigurements (mythological or functional) the sky-god is found to be at the base of all the systems of the great civilized religions of the classical Mediterranean and Oriental worlds. He occupies the same place in the great systems of Asia and in the semi-civilized religions of pre-Columban America.” (Foucart 1908 - 1926, 580)

America shows him in the mythologies of the Toltecs, the Mayas, and the Incas, as well as in Brazil, in the Andes, among the Caribs, in Tierra del Fuego, and at the extreme north among the Eskimo. The shamanist groups of N. Asia and the cosmogony and dualism of the Ainu show him (Pase-Kamui) similar to the sky-god (much more distinct) of the religions of China (Ti-en) and of primitive Japanese Shintō. He is related to the ancient Puluga of the Andamans, to the Varuṇa of primitive India, and, towards the west, to all the pantheons of the ancient classical East. Towards the south, Australia, Polynesia, and Melanesia sometimes present deformed characteristics, as in the myths of N. America, but comparative study soon disentangles his fundamental characteristics, which are those found long ago in Chaldæa and in the Semitic and proto-Semitic world. But nowhere does his physiognomy appear more distinctly than in Africa—whether in the pantheons of ancient Egypt or in the many savage religions of the black continent. From the great Kilima of the Bantu groups to the Negritian Mahu we recognize him as always the same under a hundred different names: Ibantzu of the Congo among the Bangala, Fidi Mukulu (‘the supreme being’) of the sky among the Basonga, Kalaga among the Warega, Uletit among the Kuku, Kabedya Mpungu and Vilye Mukulu among the Baholos and the Balubas, etc. Dzakuta, the ‘thrower of celestial stones,’ of the Yorubas is only another aspect of the same sky-god; so also Waka of the Gallas is the thunder aspect of the sky-god; and Lubari is the rain aspect of the sky-god, just like Dengdit among the Dinkas, Iankupong among the Aquapins, Ropi on the Gold Coast, Oloron in Benin, Ngangmo on the Ivory Coast, and hundreds of others (Ituri in Kilimanjaro, the Bumba of the Bushongo, the great Kongola of E. Africa, the Mutabani of the Batutsi, the Kafir Inhu-Ankulu, the M’ba of the Ababua, etc.). If we ascend to the cold regions of the Finnish races, we find him again under the names of Yumala (Lapps), Yuma (Cheremiss), Yubmel (Samoyed), Tengri (Mongol), Bonga (Tunguses), and Uklo (Esthonian). (Foucart 1908 - 1926, 581)

Today, this so-called sky god, who is the prince of the power of the air, we know him as Lucifer, continues to operate in the realm of UFO’s. Since the one who is in charge of the UFOs is a fallen cherub, “there seems to be a pattern: whenever some sort of prophetic event is about to happen with the Jewish people, there is some sort of major UFO event that concurs with the prophetic or evangelical event. We do not think that it was a coincidence that the United Nations voted in 1947 to make a homeland for the Jewish people; something that God prophesied would happen in the end of days, which concurred with the Roswell crash. Also we do not think it to be a coincidence that the Dead Sea Scrolls was found that same year; a discovery that would prove that the current Bible that we use is identical to the one used in the time of Jesus.” (Ruffino and Jordan 2010, Kindle Locations 1025 - 1030)

I am covering all of this for us to remember, what we read in the Bible, even though it was written over 2700 years ago, still is incredibly valid for us today. The supernatural players still exist and are still doing their thing. The point of origin – Babylon.

Isaiah 47:1–3

“Come down and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon; Sit on the ground without a throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans! For you shall no longer be called tender and delicate. Take the millstones and

grind meal. Remove your veil, strip off the skirt, Uncover the leg, cross the rivers. Your nakedness will be uncovered, Your shame also will be exposed; I will take vengeance and will not spare a man.” (NASB95)

This is all about the downfall of empire, the fall of Babylon. While still a small city state in Assyria, Isaiah is giving, for the third time, detail about the impending fall of Babylon. Yes, Cyrus took over the city in 538 BC, but this is looking towards a fulfillment at another point in the future other than just Cyrus.

The city and the empire are depicted as delicate and dainty, as a virgin, a young woman of fastidious and luxurious tastes, who has never had to face the harsh side of life. Now that is all ending, and no one will ever describe her in those terms again. (Oswalt 1998, 241-242)

There is a bit more to what is being described here though as this is specific to one of the practices that takes place in Babylon, that of ritual prostitution as a requirement for all women of the land. From Herodotus.

The foulest Babylonian custom is that which compels every woman of the land to sit in the temple of Aphrodite and have intercourse with some stranger once in her life. Many women who are rich and proud and disdain to mingle with the rest, drive to the temple in covered carriages drawn by teams, and stand there with a great retinue of attendants. But most sit down in the sacred plot of Aphrodite, with crowns of cord on their heads; there is a great multitude of women coming and going; passages marked by line run every way through the crowd, by which the men pass and make their choice.

Once a woman has taken her place there, she does not go away to her home before some stranger has cast money into her lap, and had intercourse with her outside the temple; but while he casts the money, he must say, “I invite you in the name of Mylitta” (that is the Assyrian name for Aphrodite). It does not matter what sum the money is; the woman will never refuse, for that would be a sin, the money being by this act made sacred. So she follows the first man who casts it and rejects no one. After their intercourse, having discharged her sacred duty to the goddess, she goes away to her home; and thereafter there is no bribe however great that will get her.

So then the women that are fair and tall are soon free to depart, but the uncomely have long to wait because they cannot fulfill the law; for some of them remain for three years, or four. (Herodotus 1975, 251-253)

What is described here in Isaiah is the practice of the Babylonian women sitting and waiting to fulfill their religious duty. The picture being drawn here though is that this is now a constant state for the women of the city. This is no longer just a duty, as a result of defeat, it is now life. Human trafficking has become the norm.

We are looking at a picture from the future here, not the future with Cyrus. “It is directed at Babylon, the city and the kingdom which conquered and razed Jerusalem and transported many of the survivors to Mesopotamia. As we noted in the preceding poem, the threats uttered here are quite unhistorical; Cyrus took Babylon without violence and destruction, and the city remained large and important under the Persian Empire.” (McKenzie 2008, 91-92)

Alexander the Great was in the process of making it his capital when he died.

Isaiah is looking forward to the fall of Babylon but one that we read about in Revelation. The description is definitely one of the fall of a city, but historically, this was not the case with Cyrus. The scenario would be one that those who would later live in Babylon would be familiar with. Proud women of the city having, because of their god, to go and sit in the dirt as a prostitute. These verses “foretell that Babylon would be humbled, and that she would be reduced from her magnificence and pride to a condition of abject wretchedness. She is therefore represented as a proud female accustomed to luxury and ease, suddenly brought to the lowest condition, and compelled to perform the most menial services.” (Barnes 1851, 172)

In the future, as part of the judgement of God during the tribulation, both religious and governmental/economic Babylon will fall. The picture in both cases resonates with what we see here in Isaiah 47. First religious Babylon.

Revelation 17:4–6 “The woman wore purple and scarlet clothes and was adorned with gold, gems, and pearls. In her hand she was holding a gold cup filled with detestable things and the impurities of her immorality. On her forehead was written a secret name: BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND DETESTABLE THINGS OF THE EARTH I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints and the blood of the witnesses to Jesus. I was very surprised when I saw her.” (ISV)

Then we see the fall of economic/governmental Babylon

Revelation 18:6–10. “Do to her as she herself has done, and give her double for her deeds. Mix a double drink for her in the cup she mixed. Just as she glorified herself and lived in luxury, inflict on her just as much torture and misery. In her heart she says, ‘I am a queen on a throne, not a widow. I will never see misery.’ For this reason, her diseases that result in death, misery, and famine will come in a single day. She will be burned up in a fire, because powerful is the Lord God who judges her. The kings of the earth, who committed sexual immorality with her and lived in luxury with her, will cry and mourn over her when they see the smoke rising from the fire that consumes her. Frightened by the torture that she experiences, they will stand far away and cry out, “How terrible, how terrible it is for that great city, the powerful city Babylon, because your judgment arrived in a single hour!”” (ISV)

Ultimately, the worthless gods of Babylon, to be embodied by the Beast during the Great Tribulation, will abandon her and allow her to be destroyed and humbled. Those from Babylon will go from being served, to being servants. They will be no better than prostitutes.

The intent in these three verses is to show that Babylon will be humbled. To the extreme point that the women of the city who used to live in luxury, will be sold naked on the auction blocks as servants, slaves and victims of human trafficking which a careful study of Revelation 18 shows will be in existence during the Great Tribulation.

Those who were living profligately and engaging in all that the flesh offers were now, suddenly, subjected to what they had been doing to others.

The picture here in Isaiah is of judgement and it is presented in harsh, brutal, to the point language. The city of man, Babylon, has lorded it over Israel and over others prior to Cyrus taking over. Alternatively, the city of man has been used by the enemy to lord it over all of mankind since the first city of man was founded by Cain. It is not out of character to see some of the incredibly unusual actions taking place these days coming out of some of the larger cities.

The judgement being depicted reflects judgement on those living in Babylon where they move from being at the top of the food chain to the absolute bottom.

Isaiah 47:3

“Your nakedness will be uncovered, Your shame also will be exposed; I will take vengeance and will not spare a man.” (NASB95)

“In biblical usage “uncovering nakedness” has, at the least, the connotation of extreme humiliation, and in some cases may connote rape. As here, it is often used figuratively of nations that have consorted with many different lovers (allies or gods, or both), but are finally humiliated by being made to appear naked (defenseless) before them all. This will be Babylon’s fate as well, says Isaiah. She may think herself in a different category from all the other nations, but she is not. Only God is truly Other.” (Oswalt 1998, 242)

God, who has already demonstrated His trustworthiness in dealing with Assyria, can also be trusted to deal with Babylon. Not only the Babylon in the near term of 150 years, but also the Babylon of the Great Tribulation.

Again, the details being discussed here did not happen when Cyrus took over Babylon. Yes, they fell and yes, they were humbled but life pretty much remained as it was with just new rulers in place. The practices they had in place for their no-gods remained in place with little change and the power players simply reported to a new boss.

God wants to make it clear who the one is that will not only bring down the Babylon that takes Israel into captivity, but also the Babylon that flourishes at the end of the age living off of the misery of the entire planet while worshipping the Beast.

Isaiah 47:4–7

“Our Redeemer, the LORD of hosts is His name, The Holy One of Israel. Sit silently, and go into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans, For you will no longer be called The queen of kingdoms. I was angry with My people, I profaned My heritage And gave them into your hand. You did not show mercy to them, On the aged you made your yoke very heavy. Yet you said, ‘I will be a queen forever.’ These things you did not consider Nor remember the outcome of them.” (NASB95)

A simple declaration of God’s name and He is the one who is going to do this to Babylon. Not Cyrus, not whoever is involved at the end of the age, but the Lord is the one who will do this.

To make it crystal clear, He is referred to as the Lord of Hosts, YAHWEH of the heavenly armies is His name. The military power of the universe is the one who will achieve this, and He will do so for His people, Israel.

In contrast to the lifestyle of the residents of Babylon is the holiness of the God of Israel. At the end of the age, Messiah will indeed return to planet earth and Holiness will be enforced on the cities of man. By the way, all of those cities have been leveled as a result of the seventh bowl (Revelation 16:17 – 21).

Babylon will disappear. The city of man, as envisioned by Cain is doomed. “Babylon loses authority (silence replaces dictating the rules to others, 5), liberty (the darkness of the dungeon, cf. 42:7) and status (queen).” (Motyer 1999, 335-336)

God uses sinful people to achieve His purposes but even as He allows them to judge His people on His behalf, there was the expectation that they would at least act humanely, which they did not.

Babylon does not observe mercy at all in their operations with captive nations. This was graphically seen in their treatment of Daniel and his friends when they, as young teenagers, were made into eunuchs and carted off to Babylon never to see their families again. They were treated as property of the King and subject to whatever he wanted to do. This was reflected in all of the dealings of Babylon with Judah.

God is the one who gave them over, but they were the ones who decided to show no mercy. This however was something that had been prophesied to the people by Moses.

Deuteronomy 28:49–50

“The LORD will raise up a distant nation against you, one from the other side of the earth as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you will not understand, a nation of stern appearance that will have no regard for the elderly or pity for the young.” (NET)

It did not take God by surprise that the Babylonian forces acted without pity, the people had already been warned about that. But there is still personal responsibility involved and even those who the Lord uses for His own purposes must also perform their work in a manner that is humane.

The Old Testament does not subscribe to the view that ‘war is war’—a situation where the moral and humanitarian restraints which ordinarily operate are in abeyance and where outrageous deeds can be done with impunity. It does not believe that national needs justify what would be criminal if done by a private individual (e.g. Amos 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 13). (Motyer 1999, 336)

The Lord will remember Judah and Israel as He judges Babylon, both at the time of Cyrus as well as at the end of the age. The primary reason for judgement – pride.

Proverbs 8:13

“The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.” (ESV)

When pride gets in the way, all thoughts of any negative future tends to disappear. It is always fun to listen to politicians say what they will do when they achieve power, especially if it sounds like it makes sense, as we know from the results we continue to see, that pride gets in the way and they never do seem to get around to doing what they said they would do. The achievement of power was paramount, and the retention of that power becomes their future goal, all generated by pride.

Babylon should have remembered (i.e. been mindful of) the latter part of the events that were transpiring. Babylon would have a future to which she should have given thought. That future would be destruction. She would be deposed from her throne, whereas the captive daughter of Zion would once more be exalted and the period of her salvation would dawn. Babylon’s latter end is the prelude to Israel’s dawn when the Dayspring from on high will visit the earth. (Young 1972, 236-237)

Isaiah 47:8–11

“Now, then, hear this, you sensual one, Who dwells securely, Who says in your heart, ‘I am, and there is no one besides me. I will not sit as a widow, Nor know loss of children.’ But these two things will come on you suddenly in one day: Loss of children and widowhood. They will come on you in full measure In spite of your many sorceries, In spite of the great power of your spells. You felt secure in your wickedness and said, ‘No one sees me,’ Your wisdom and your knowledge, they have deluded you; For you have said in your heart, ‘I am, and there is no one besides me.’ But evil will come on you Which you will not know how to charm away; And disaster will fall on you For which you cannot atone; And destruction about which you do not know Will come on you suddenly.” (NASB95)

Here comes the command, one which Isaiah has used before, the command to listen, to hear what it is he is about to relate. The problem though is the hubris used by Babylon in their statements about themselves. This is for those having a party while Cyrus moves around outside the wall as well as for those who have finally imposed their will on the planet at the end of the age.

The pride reflected in this statement sounds a lot like what we here from different nations globally. There is pride in their system of defenses, impregnable is the word that would be used. I am reminded of the Maginot Line and the Siegfried Line. Germany simply went around it.

Today we hear of arsenals of hypersonic weapons which will protect, or missiles and bombs that have been stockpiled. Yet what caused the fall of the Soviet Union? What is currently eating away at the fabric of the United States? So much for the statement of “I am, and there is no one besides me.”

Any study of history reflects that nation after nation and empire after empire that took that stand has not withstood the test of time. God still does judge pride, even that being reflected from a government.

Babylon of the time of Cyrus felt that they had everything going for them.

They had brought in all of the gods from those they had conquered for protection. They had massive walls surrounding the city and a water source that would withstand any siege, but engineering advances somehow went beyond those defenses and provided and solution to invalidate them.

The people who thought they would never be taken captive or see foreign armies ever again inside their borders, had that happen to them.

This repeats again for the Babylon of the future too. The shock of the destruction will be just as severe.

The Babylon that Cyrus conquered he did in just one day. And how will the Babylon of the future do? Revelation 18:9–10 “And the kings of the earth, who committed sexual immorality and lived in luxury with her, will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning. They will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say, “Alas! Alas! You great city, you mighty city, Babylon! For in a single hour your judgment has come.”” (ESV)

Even their reliance on occult powers, read demons and fallen entities, will not be enough to save them from the judgement of God.

Isaiah 47:10

“You felt secure in your wickedness and said, ‘No one sees me,’ Your wisdom and your knowledge, they have deluded you; For you have said in your heart, ‘I am, and there is no one besides me.’” (NASB95)

Secure in your wickedness – welcome to 2021 where entire nations fell very secure in their ongoing support of those things which God abhors.

Isaiah has already addressed this back in Isaiah 5 which when you read it, immediately brings images of various people to mind.

Isaiah 5:20–21

“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes And clever in their own sight!” (NASB95)

We now have entire political parties aligning on this and going out of their way to convince us that evil is good. They are all mad. This is now a condition we see spreading across the nation.

Deuteronomy 28:28–29

“The LORD will afflict you with insanity, blindness, and mental confusion. As a result, you’ll wander aimlessly in broad daylight just as a blind person wanders in darkness. You won’t prosper in life. Instead you’ll be oppressed and plundered all day long, with no deliverer.” (ISV)

The insanity continues to spread from the apparent center of the disease, just pick your governmental capital of choice for the source.

It always strikes me as amazing when folks reflect the opinion that the evil they do is what will protect them. For example, abortion being characterized as health care, a woman's choice and necessary for women as an option are just some of the lies that have been used to pretty up what it really is – murder.

Next up is euthanasia, initially called physician assisted suicide. From the AMA – “Euthanasia is the administration of a lethal agent by another person to a patient for the purpose of relieving the patient’s intolerable and incurable suffering.” (American Medical Association 2021)

So what is intolerable suffering? This has been expanded to include mental illness in the Netherlands. “Euthanasia advocates take every possible opportunity to identify their cause with that of the pro-choice side of the abortion debate. They believe that by coupling euthanasia as the caboose to abortion’s locomotive, they can benefit the euthanasia cause and gain the same public acceptance for euthanasia that they perceive currently exists for the right of a woman to terminate her pregnancy.” (Stewart 1998, 27-28)

The Lord continues with His assessment of Babylon, and much of the world today, when He says “Your wisdom and your knowledge, they have deluded you; for you have said in your heart I am, and there is no one besides me.”

There is no longer a no-god involved, folks have gone one further and now made themselves out to be god. They make excuses for their behavior that result in a downward spiral. Again, such as calling the deliberate murder of an unborn child, health care, in order to cover up and excuse the fact that in most cases, the one doing so is trying to cover up their personal behavior that led to the pregnancy in the first place.

Isaiah 47:11

“But evil will come on you Which you will not know how to charm away; And disaster will fall on you For which you cannot atone; And destruction about which you do not know Will come on you suddenly.” (NASB95)

For the people of Babylon, they relied on sorcery and no-gods for guidance on how to do life. Because of that, judgement is coming for the Babylon. It is interesting that sorcery is described in Revelation 18:23 as one of the leading reasons for the judgement of God on Babylon. What is sorcery?

In “sorcery,” the use of drugs, whether simple or potent, was generally accompanied by incantations and appeals to occult powers, with the provision of various charms, amulets, etc., professedly designed to keep the applicant or patient from the attention and power of demons, but actually to impress the applicant with the mysterious resources and powers of the sorcerer. (Vine, Unger and White Jr. 1996, 587)

In verse 11 the reference is to sudden disaster and the inability to have charms protect you.

Isaiah 47:12–15

“Stand fast now in your spells And in your many sorceries With which you have labored from your youth; Perhaps you will be able to profit, Perhaps you may cause trembling. You are wearied with your many counsels; Let now the astrologers, Those who prophesy by the stars, Those who predict by the new moons, Stand up and save you from what will come upon you. Behold, they have become like stubble, Fire burns them; They cannot deliver themselves from the power of the flame; There will be no coal to warm by Nor a fire to sit before! So have those become to you with whom you have labored, Who have trafficked with you from your youth; Each has wandered in his own way; There is none to save you.” (NASB95)

This is a group of people who have gone hook line and sinker into the occult world of spells, charms and sorcery. They are staking their future on the ability to use drugs and charm away the problems of the day. In reality they are calling upon demons and fallen entities to help guide them.

Interesting to see the direction our culture is moving in with the drive to legalize controlled substances. The Lord commands the sorcerers to stand in what it is they have done. After all, they have made a rather good living with their lie and made folks forget their problems with their drugs.

That would be like coming out today and telling the drug dealers to keep on doing their thing. Maybe they might make money at it and maybe it will save them. At the end it is all false security and does nothing to save anyone. Relying on the spells and drugs are not the solution.

In Babylon, there was also a reliance upon astrologers for guidance. In other words, there was not a day that they would miss reading their horoscope to see what the future holds and how they should operate today. Can demons really decipher the future? We already know the answer is a resounding no. So why keep looking to them?

The recent study done by Dr. George Barna with Arizona Christian University showed that 35% of millennials and 33% of Gen X obtain daily guidance from their horoscopes. (Barna 2021) That means 49.17 million people just from those two groups rely on horoscopes.

Proverbs 3:5–6 “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” (ESV)

Our culture has arrived in Babylon. When the counterfeit shows up in the tribulation, those who remain will embrace all it has to offer.

Recall a certain dinner party taking place while Cyrus was busy draining the swamp, literally. A hand showed up and wrote on the wall. “The king called loudly to bring in the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers. The king declared to the wise men of Babylon, “Whoever reads this writing, and shows me its interpretation, shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around his neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.” Then all the king’s wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or make known to the king the interpretation.” (Daniel 5:7–8, ESV)

The handwriting on the wall predicted the end of the Babylonian Empire and the astrologers could not figure it out. Literally Belshazzar had them stand up to save him and tell him what it meant, but only Daniel could do that. Only the servant of YAHWEH.

Belshazzar was dead the next morning.

So what good were the astrologers? They are no better than stubble ready to be burned. They were unable to save themselves, as graphically shown to us in Daniel 5. Through lies, drugs and deception this group had convinced the rulers of Babylon they could help, they couldn’t. They are doomed.

At least the wooden idols would become coals and could be used for warmth or cooking. The astrologers though would burn up so quickly that nothing would be left.

The problems with the astrologers of Babylon is they each wandered in his own way. In other words, they could not agree on anything. No wonder Belshazzar became frustrated. They could not deliver anything to save him or even themselves.

In the hour of disaster, all Babylon’s “traders” can do is to abandon their posts. In common parlance, the situation is “every man for himself.” The years of long association are meaningless in the crisis. (Oswalt 1998, 255)

For those who have misled the nations, there is none to save. They have rejected the truth and embraced the lie. There is nothing they can do for themselves.

The unfortunate thing is the numbers today who are following the same path and looking to themselves or to the stars for direction and salvation. There is only one who can save though and that is the Lord.

Babylon has no one to turn to. The no-gods can’t even stand up straight and the astrologers can’t even agree on what to say much less even provide relevant direction for the future. As has been told to us three times now, the God of Israel is the Creator God of the Universe and only He is able to save. He is still doing so today but the time is drawing short.

2 Corinthians 6:1–2

“Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” (ESV)

The hardest part of this is admitting that you belong to a class of known sinners, mankind. The great news, all He asks of us is to admit that to Him, that we are sinners, there is no pre-need cleanup required. There is nothing that has to be done except believe.

Salvation is a Gift

- Admit you are a sinner.
- Believe in your heart that Jesus died for your sins, was buried and He rose from the dead three days later.
- Call on the name of the Lord.

Romans 10:8–10

“But what does it say? “The message is near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart.” This is the message about faith that we are proclaiming: If you declare with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with his heart and is justified, and declares with his mouth and is saved.” (ISV)

His salvation is indeed near and available to all who accept it.

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