

TOPIC: “I DIDN’T CUT YOU OFF FOR MY NAME’S SAKE!”**Isaiah 48:1-11(vs.9)****Rev. Alice Tamrie, Teacher****I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Notice the basic principle of God’s method of operation: First He declares things; then He does them (Isaiah 48:3). Isaiah 40-66 is divided into 3 parts of 9 chapters (3x9=27) summarizes (the first 2 parts of 9 chapters) **ended with the same statement of no peace for the wicked** (48:22; 57:20-21) the last part ends with a statement explaining why there will **never be any peace to the wicked** will be punished in eternal hell (66:22-24). This should give us eternal hope; thus, it is an eternal warning! These are all choice morsels for us to consider our ways and do the right thing!

This basic principle explains why God sent the prophets. They spoke God-inspired, God-instructed words that brought forth God’s will from the spiritual realm into the natural realm. Jesus did not come to earth until first the prophets had spoken about Him for hundreds of years. God operates on spiritual laws He had set in place, and we cannot ignore them.

“Sowing and reaping” is an example of a law that operates in the natural realm, but it also operates in the spiritual realm. We sow material seeds, and we reap material blessings of all kinds. Words are also seeds. We sow word seeds and reap according to what we have sown. God wanted stubborn Israel to know that it was He Who was doing great works in their lives, so He announced them ahead of time. What was the result? The things God declared came to pass. His Word is always true, and He always does what He says He will do.

II. BIBLICAL CONTEXT

It appears the Lord is saying to, “Israel, for heaven’s sake, how many times do I have to tell you to the prophetic Word!” Hear, listen is recurring over and over again, they swear by the Name of the Lord, and invoke the God of Israel, but not in truth (sincerity) nor in righteousness (with moral and spiritual integrity...this is the appeal.) We, the reader is continuously reminded in our study today from Chapter Isaiah 48:1-11 to know “God is with us”. The Lord Our God is saying don’t forget the miraculous supply He has provided for His people. This is astoundingly abundant when we think how the Lord has supplied even us with his grace repeatedly/constantly! We are witnesses to his abundant supply of salvation – speaking of God’s work on behalf of His people. The expression “the God of my

salvation” is more private in nature, referring to the deliverance of an individual emphasizing that **“I DIDN’T CUT YOU OFF FOR MY NAME’S SAKE!” Chapter 48 shows how Israel was refined for God’s glory; God controls the future and we are tested in the furnace of affliction.**

III. THE LESSON: “I Didn’t Cut You Off for My Name’s Sake!” (vs. 9)

1. **vv. 1-2.** Clearly there is a controversy between God and Israel as He is reminding Israel to listen to the Prophet Israel in an urgent appeal to “deaf Israel” due to their disobedient ways of the past. God has delivered them from bondage, oppression and captivity so many times! Now they are being accused of hypocrisy and commanded to hear God’s case against them in these 22 verses. These Factual statements inform us about how Israel did experience hypocrisy in days of Isaiah and still called themselves the holy city of Jerusalem in times of trouble. How can you say one thing and do another/opposite! These acts informs how God declares, goes ahead of you, shows and knows you because of His Sovereignty! He demonstrates with clarity that He is God!

2. **vv. 3-4. 12 fold Omnipotence and Omniscience of God (Isaiah 48:3)**

- a) I have **declared** the former things from the beginning (v 3,5)
- b) They **went forth** out of My mouth (v 3)
- c) I **showed** them to you
- d) I **did them suddenly** and they came to pass
- e) I **knew** you were obstinate
- f) I **knew** your neck was an iron sinew (4)
- g) I **knew** your brow was brass
- h) **Before it came to pass**, I showed you (v 5)
- i) I have **shown** you new and hidden things
- j) These new things **I have created now and not from the beginning** (v 7)
- k) I **knew** you would deal very treacherously (v 8)
- l) I **knew** you were a transgressor from the womb

3. **Verse 5. Ninefold rebellion of Judah (Isaiah 48:4)**

- a) You are obstinate/unyielding/hard (v 4)
- b) Stiff-necked
- c) Mean and hard as brass
- d) Worshippers of idols (v 5)
- e) You trust in idols (v 6)
- f) You are ignorant (v 6, 8)
- g) You would not hear (v 8)
- h) You are very treacherous
- i) You are a transgressor from birth

Iron necks and brass brows are good pictures of stubbornness and rebellion. There are other traits: rebellious/perverse/crooked/faithless/hardhearted/blind/self-willed/adamant.

The hypocrite is one who acts a false part, one who makes a false/untrue/fake profession; a cheat; deceiver; dissembler; imposter/phony; pretender. The hypocrite assumes a character other than the real and tries to give false impressions regarding himself. He seeks to cover up his devices, and to gain credit for his virtues. He hopes to prosper through deceit. His hope is destined to wither and fall!

4. **vv. 6-7.** God wanted stubborn Israel to be mindful because He has announced them before, so that they could not say **‘my idol has done them and my carved image, and my cast image have commanded them.’** It has been fulfilled, and you would not declare it. I proclaim said the Lord to you specifically, even hidden things which you have not known. This is so that you will not say, ‘Oh yes! I knew them.’ They are created now (called) into being by the prophetic word) and not long ago, and before today you have not heard of them!
5. **v. 8.** “You have not heard, you have not known; even from long ago your ear has not been open. For I, the Lord knew that you (Israel) would act very treacherously. You have been called a transgressor and a rebel from birth. You have all this evidence confirmed by your own eyes and ears. Shouldn’t you be talking about it? And that was just the beginning. I have a lot more to tell you. This isn’t a variation on the same old thing. This is a brand-new thing, something you’d never guess or dream up. You’ve never been a good listener to me. You have a history of ignoring me!
6. **v. 9.** **“for the sake of My Name I refrain from My wrath/anger, and for My praise I restrain Myself from you, so that I do not cut you off. In other words, out of the sheer goodness of my heart (said the Lord), because of who I am, I keep a tight rein on my anger and hold my temper. I don’t wash my hands of you! You eventually will relent! I am God! The Lord always works out everything for/to His praise!**
7. **vv. 10-11.** Do you see what I’ve done? I’ve refined you, but not without fire. I’ve tested you like silver in the furnace of affliction. Out of myself, simply because of who I am, I do what I do. I have my reputation to keep up. I’m not playing second fiddle to either gods or people. My name will not be profaned, and I will not give My glory to another. I have purified you by giving you trouble. I do this for myself, for my own sake. I will not let people speak evil against me, and I will not let some god take my glory!

“For my own sake: This means The Lord shows His settled will to maintain the integrity of His great name (vs 9). God’s acts of mercy are His own initiative, springing

from the depths of His mercy. This expression ‘my glory’, ‘my praise will not be given to anyone else’.

IV. CONCLUSION: PRAYERFUL AND AFFIRMATIONS

We Thank you, Lord, that you are a God of purpose, and that when He purposes something, It will come to past! God has an individual plan for each person. If you go to Him and submit to Him, He will come into your heart and commune with you. He will teach you and guide you in the way you should go. Do not try to be someone else. Do not try to do what someone else does. Just allow the Lord to show you how to fellowship with Him. Then follow Him step-by-step as He directs your life.

“I DIDN’T CUT YOU OFF FOR MY NAME’S SAKE!”

SCRIPTURE AFFIRMATIONS FOR MEDITATION WHEN SUFFERING:

“For your own sake, for your sake, I will do it, thank you for not completely destroying me” (vs. 9)!

(Isa. 12:2: Behold, God, my salvation! I will trust and not be afraid. For the Lord God is my strength and song; Yes. He has become my salvation!

Isa. 52:10: The Lord has revealed His holy arm (His infinite power). Before the eyes of all the nations (revealing Himself as the One by whom Israel is redeemed from captivity), that all the ends of the earth may see the salvation of our God.

Ex. 14:13,14: Then Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid! Take your stand (be firm and confident and undismayed) and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today; for those Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you while you (only need to) keep silent and remain calm.

2 Chr. 20:17: You need not fight in this battle; take your positions, stand and witness the salvation of the Lord who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the Lord is with you.”

Psalms 88:1: O Lord, the God of my salvation, I have cried out (for help) by day and in the night before You.

Psalms 98:3: He has (graciously) remembered His lovingkindness and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have witnessed the salvation of our God.