

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Isaiah Chapter 47 — The Fall of Babylon

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Isaiah Chapter 47 turns directly toward:

Babylon.

Isaiah 46 exposed:

Babylon's gods.

Bel bowed.

Nebo stooped.

The idols had to be:

Carried.

Now Isaiah 47 turns from:

The gods of Babylon.

To:

Babylon herself.

And the message is:

You will fall.

The chapter begins with Babylon pictured as:

A royal woman.

A queen.

A lady of kingdoms.

Comfortable.

Powerful.

Secure.

Accustomed to luxury.

But God commands:

“Come down and sit in the dust.”

The throne disappears.

Luxury disappears.

Dignity disappears.

Public honor disappears.

The queen becomes:

A servant.

The empire becomes:

Humiliated.

This is one of Isaiah’s most powerful reversals.

Babylon had conquered:

Others.

Now Babylon will be:

Conquered.

Babylon had carried:

Others into exile.

Now Babylon will face:

Humiliation.

Babylon had shown:

No mercy.

Now judgment will come without:

Human power being able to stop it.

The chapter explains why.

Babylon’s judgment is connected with:

Pride.

Cruelty.

False security.

Pleasure.

Wickedness.

Self-exaltation.

Sorcery.

Astrology.

False wisdom.

The misuse of power.

Babylon had been permitted to become an instrument of:

Judgment.

But being used within God's providence did not mean:

God approved Babylon's cruelty.

Verse 6 makes this especially clear.

God says:

"I was angry with My people."

And:

"I gave them into your hand."

Yet:

"You showed them no mercy."

This is a critical biblical principle.

God can use a nation as an instrument of judgment while still holding that nation accountable for:

Pride.

Violence.

Cruelty.

Motives.

Excess.

Babylon could not say:

"Because God allowed our victory, everything we did was righteous."

No.

Divine sovereignty never erases:

Human responsibility.

Babylon's pride reaches its climax in the repeated statement:

“I am, and there is no one besides me.”

This language is deliberately shocking because in the surrounding chapters God repeatedly says:

“I am the Lord, and there is no other.”

Babylon takes language belonging uniquely to:

God.

And applies it to:

Herself.

That is the heart of Babylonian pride.

The empire begins acting as though:

It is ultimate.

Permanent.

Unaccountable.

Unseen.

Unstoppable.

Babylon says:

I will be queen:

Forever.

God says:

No.

Babylon says:

No one sees me.

God says:

I see.

Babylon says:

I will never suffer loss.

God says:

Loss will come:

Suddenly.

Babylon turns to:

Sorcery.

Astrology.

Monthly predictions.

Diviners.

Counselors.

Yet none can:

Save.

The chapter repeatedly asks the real question:

Who can save?

Babylon's gods cannot.

Babylon's wisdom cannot.

Babylon's occult practices cannot.

Babylon's wealth cannot.

Babylon's merchants cannot.

Babylon's political greatness cannot.

Then, almost at the center of the chapter, comes the declaration:

“Our Redeemer—the Lord of Hosts is His name—the Holy One of Israel.”

That is the contrast.

Babylon has:

Sorcerers.

Israel has:

A Redeemer.

Babylon has:

Astrologers.

Israel has:

The Lord of Hosts.

Babylon has:

False security.

Israel has:

The Holy One.

The central truth of Isaiah 47 is:

Babylon's pride, cruelty, pleasure, false security, sorcery, and self-exaltation cannot prevent her sudden fall; although God used Babylon within His judgment against Israel, He holds Babylon accountable for merciless oppression and declares that only the Lord of Hosts, the Holy One of Israel, is the true Redeemer and Savior.

I. BABYLON COMES DOWN FROM HER THRONE

Isaiah 47:1 — “Sit in the Dust”

“Come down and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon; sit on the ground without a throne, daughter of the Chaldeans. Never again will you be called tender and delicate.”

Babylon had:

A throne.

Prestige.

Luxury.

Power.

Now:

Dust.

No throne.

No delicacy.

No royal status.

Cross References

Revelation 18:7

The later imagery of Babylon speaks of a proud power boasting in royal security and refusing to imagine mourning or loss.

Lamentations 1:1

Jerusalem is also pictured as a formerly great city reduced from royal status into grief and humiliation, showing how swiftly worldly greatness can reverse.

Jeremiah 50:2

Babylon's fall is proclaimed publicly, and her idols and national pride are exposed.

Spiritual Principle

Earthly thrones are:

Temporary.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A throne can become dust faster than pride believes possible.

II. THE QUEEN BECOMES A LABORER

Isaiah 47:2 — Grind Meal

“Take the millstones and grind meal; remove your veil, strip off your robe, bare your legs, and wade through the streams.”

Babylon moves from:

Royal privilege.

To:

Common labor.

The imagery describes:

Humiliation.

Loss of status.

Forced vulnerability.

Cross References

Matthew 24:41

Jesus uses grinding grain as imagery from ordinary labor, showing the lowly and everyday nature of the task.

Jeremiah 25:10

God warns that judgment can silence ordinary life, celebration, and the sound of millstones.

Lamentations 5:13

Young men under conquest were forced into grinding and burdensome labor.

Spiritual Principle

Pride imagines status as:

Permanent.

Judgment reveals how temporary it was.

III. BABYLON'S SHAME WILL BE EXPOSED

Isaiah 47:3 — God Takes Vengeance

“Your nakedness will be exposed and your shame uncovered. I will take vengeance; I will spare no man.”

Babylon's humiliation becomes:

Public.

The empire that covered itself in:

Glory.

Now faces:

Exposure.

Cross References

Nahum 3:5

God uses similar imagery against Nineveh, exposing the shame of an arrogant and violent empire.

Ezekiel 16:37

Public exposure becomes imagery for judgment upon spiritual unfaithfulness and shame.

Revelation 18:6

The later Babylon imagery includes repayment according to deeds and divine judgment proportionate to oppression.

Spiritual Principle

Sin hidden behind greatness does not remain:

Hidden forever.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Power can conceal shame from people.

It cannot conceal it from God.

IV. THE REDEEMER STANDS ABOVE BABYLON

Isaiah 47:4 — The Lord of Hosts

“Our Redeemer—the Lord of Hosts is His name—the Holy One of Israel.”

Suddenly Isaiah turns away from:

Babylon.

And names:

Israel’s Redeemer.

Three titles:

Redeemer.

Lord of Hosts.

Holy One of Israel.

Cross References

Isaiah 44:6

The Lord identifies Himself as Israel’s King and Redeemer, the First and the Last.

Job 19:25

Job expresses confidence that his Redeemer lives.

Isaiah 54:5

God is described as Maker, Husband, Redeemer, and Holy One whose name reaches beyond Israel.

Spiritual Principle

Babylon is:

Powerful.

Israel's Redeemer is:

Greater.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The enemy may have an empire.

God's people have a Redeemer.

V. THE LADY OF KINGDOMS IS SILENCED

Isaiah 47:5 — No More Royal Title

“Sit in silence, go into darkness, daughter of the Chaldeans. No longer will you be called the Lady of Kingdoms.”

Babylon's titles vanish.

“Lady of Kingdoms” becomes:

Silence.

Darkness.

Loss.

Cross References

Jeremiah 51:64

Babylon is pictured sinking under divine judgment and not rising again to former glory.

Revelation 18:23

The later symbolic Babylon loses light, celebration, and commerce under judgment.

Lamentations 2:10

Elders sit silently in grief and humiliation after devastation.

Spiritual Principle

Human titles do not survive:

Divine judgment.

VI. GOD USED BABYLON, BUT BABYLON ABUSED POWER

Isaiah 47:6 — “You Showed Them No Mercy”

“I was angry with My people; I desecrated My inheritance and gave them into your hand. But you showed them no mercy; even the aged you laid heavily under your yoke.”

One of the chapter’s most important verses.

God allowed:

Judgment.

Babylon became:

The instrument.

But Babylon chose:

Cruelty.

God condemns:

That cruelty.

Cross References

Zechariah 1:15

God declares anger against nations that felt secure and went beyond what He intended when they intensified Israel’s suffering.

Jeremiah 50:17

Israel is pictured as a scattered sheep attacked by foreign powers, including Babylon.

Lamentations 4:16

Judgment included severe dishonor toward elders and religious leaders.

Spiritual Principle

Being used by God does not automatically mean:

Being approved by God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Providence may explain why a nation gained power.

It does not excuse how that nation used the power.

VII. POWER WITHOUT MERCY BECOMES GUILT

Babylon could have:

Shown restraint.

Instead:

No mercy.

Even:

The elderly.

Were oppressed.

Spiritual Principle

How we treat the weak reveals:

Character.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God judges not only whether power was possessed, but how power was used.

VIII. “I WILL BE QUEEN FOREVER”

Isaiah 47:7 — Babylon Never Considered the End

“You said, ‘I will be queen forever.’ You did not take these things to heart, nor consider what would come after.”

Babylon's problem is:

Presumption.

She assumes:

Forever.

Yet never considers:

After.

Cross References

Revelation 18:7

Babylon's later symbolic portrait similarly boasts in royal security and imagines she will never mourn.

Zephaniah 2:15

A proud city boasts in self-sufficiency and says there is no one beside her, only to become desolate.

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes before destruction and arrogance before collapse.

Spiritual Principle

Pride rarely thinks seriously about:

The ending.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Arrogance loves the word "forever" when talking about temporary success.

IX. THINK ABOUT WHAT COMES AFTER

Babylon lived for:

Now.

Comfort.

Power.

Pleasure.

Spiritual Principle

Wisdom asks:

What comes after?

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A life that never considers the end will eventually be surprised by it.

X. THE LOVER OF PLEASURE FEELS SECURE

Isaiah 47:8 — “There Is No One Besides Me”

“Now then, hear this, you lover of pleasure, lounging in your security, and saying in your heart, ‘I am, and there is no one besides me. I will never be a widow or suffer the loss of children.’”

This is one of Babylon’s most arrogant statements.

“I am.”

“There is no one besides me.”

God has repeatedly said:

There is no one besides:

Me.

Babylon steals:

Divine language.

Cross References

Revelation 18:7

Babylon boasts she sits as queen and will never know mourning.

Zephaniah 2:15

A proud city declares itself unrivaled, using language strikingly similar to Babylon’s self-exaltation.

Amos 6:1

Those living in complacent security are warned against assuming comfort means safety from judgment.

Spiritual Principle

Self-sufficiency becomes idolatry when the creature begins speaking as though:

It were God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The most dangerous throne is the one the human heart builds for itself.

XI. BABYLON'S PRIDE AND SATANIC PRIDE

Babylon's language reflects the broader biblical pattern of:

Self-exaltation.

Creaturely pride.

Attempted autonomy from God.

That resembles the kind of pride associated elsewhere with:

Rebellion against God.

However, Isaiah 47 is directly speaking about:

Babylon.

We should not erase that historical meaning by turning every verse into a direct description of:

Satan.

Spiritual Principle

Human empires can display the same rebellious impulse:

To exalt self into the place belonging to God.

XII. LOSS WILL COME IN ONE DAY

Isaiah 47:9 — Sudden Reversal

“But both of these will overtake you in a single day—loss of children and widowhood. They will come upon you in full measure, despite your many sorceries and your countless enchantments.”

Babylon says:

Never.

God says:

Suddenly.

Babylon trusts:

Sorcery.

God says:

It will not help.

Cross References

Revelation 18:8

The later Babylon imagery similarly emphasizes sudden judgment coming in a short time.

Lamentations 1:20

Jerusalem's suffering includes grief, death, and sudden reversal under judgment.

Job 1:19

Job experienced the devastating sudden loss of children in a single catastrophic event.

Spiritual Principle

False security often collapses:

Suddenly.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

“Never” is a dangerous word when spoken against a judgment God has already announced.

XIII. SORCERY CANNOT CANCEL JUDGMENT

Babylon possesses:

Many.

Countless.

Long-practiced occult arts.

Still:

Powerless.

Spiritual Principle

Spiritual deception cannot manipulate:

The sovereign God.

XIV. “NO ONE SEES ME”

Isaiah 47:10 — Secret Wickedness and Misleading Wisdom

“You trusted in your wickedness and said, ‘No one sees me.’ Your wisdom and knowledge misled you when you said in your heart, ‘I am, and there is none besides me.’”

Three problems:

Wickedness.

False secrecy.

Proud wisdom.

Babylon assumes:

No one sees.

But:

God does.

Cross References

Psalms 94:7

The wicked falsely imagine that God does not see or notice their actions.

Ezekiel 8:12

People committed hidden abominations while claiming that the Lord did not see them.

Zephaniah 2:15

Self-secure arrogance leads a city to act as though it alone matters.

Spiritual Principle

Secret sin depends on the illusion:

God is absent.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

“No one sees me” is never true when God is in the room.

XV. WISDOM CAN BECOME FOOLISHNESS

Babylon had:

Knowledge.

Learning.

Astrology.

Counsel.

But it became:

Misleading.

Spiritual Principle

Knowledge without truth can increase:

Pride.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Intelligence is not wisdom when it teaches you that you do not need God.

XVI. DISASTER CANNOT BE CHARMED AWAY

Isaiah 47:11 — Destruction Comes Suddenly

“Disaster will come upon you, and you will not know how to charm it away. Calamity will fall upon you that you cannot ward off. Destruction will come upon you suddenly, and you will not know it.”

Babylon’s methods fail.

No spell.

No prediction.

No defense.

Cross References

1 Thessalonians 5:3

Paul warns that sudden destruction can overtake those boasting of peace and security.

Revelation 18:10

The later Babylon imagery again emphasizes the sudden collapse of apparent greatness.

Jeremiah 51:8

Babylon's fall is announced as sudden and devastating.

Spiritual Principle

Judgment does not become less real because people fail to:

Predict it.

XVII. “KEEP ON WITH YOUR MAGIC SPELLS”

Isaiah 47:12 — Divine Irony

“Keep on, then, with your magic spells and with your many sorceries, which you have labored at since youth—perhaps you will succeed, perhaps you will cause terror.”

The tone is:

Ironical.

Go ahead.

Try them.

See if they save:

You.

Cross References

Daniel 2:2

Babylonian kings summoned magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers for supernatural counsel.

Daniel 5:7

Belshazzar called for astrologers and diviners when confronted by the mysterious writing on the wall.

Exodus 7:11

Pharaoh likewise called magicians and sorcerers to imitate divine signs.

Spiritual Principle

Long practice does not make:

Falsehood true.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A lie does not become trustworthy because a culture has believed it for generations.

XVIII. THE COUNSELORS HAVE EXHAUSTED BABYLON

Isaiah 47:13 — “All the Advice Has Worn You Out”

“All the advice you have received has only worn you out! Let your astrologers come forward, those stargazers who make predictions month by month. Let them save you from what is coming upon you.”

So much:

Advice.

So little:

Deliverance.

The counselors create:

Exhaustion.

Not salvation.

Cross References

Daniel 5:8

Babylon’s wise men were unable to interpret the writing that announced judgment.

Jeremiah 10:2

God’s people are warned not to be terrified by astrological signs as the nations are.

Daniel 2:27

Daniel says no human wise man, astrologer, magician, or diviner could reveal what the king demanded apart from God.

Spiritual Principle

Not all spiritual advice deserves:

Trust.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A thousand counselors without truth can leave you more exhausted than one word from God.

XIX. ASTROLOGY CANNOT SAVE

Babylon studied:

Stars.

But failed to know:

The One who made them.

Spiritual Principle

Creation should point us toward:

The Creator.

Not become a substitute for:

Him.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The stars can declare God's glory.

They cannot govern your destiny as gods.

XX. THEY ARE LIKE STUBBLE

Isaiah 47:14 — The Fire Consumes Them

“Surely they are like stubble; the fire will burn them up. They cannot even save themselves from the power of the flame. These are not coals for warmth; this is no fire to sit by.”

The advisers cannot:

Save Babylon.

They cannot even:

Save themselves.

Cross References

Malachi 4:1

The coming day of judgment is pictured as a furnace consuming the arrogant like stubble.

Nahum 1:10

God's enemies are compared to dry stubble consumed under judgment.

Revelation 18:8

The later Babylon imagery includes fiery judgment and sudden destruction.

Spiritual Principle

The false savior eventually needs:

Saving.

XXI. THIS IS NOT A COMFORTABLE FIRE

Isaiah says:

Not warmth.

Not cooking.

Not comfort.

This is:

Judgment.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The same imagery can mean comfort in one context and judgment in another; context determines the meaning.

XXII. BABYLON'S PARTNERS ABANDON HER

Isaiah 47:15 — “There Is No One Left to Save You”

“That is all they can do for you—those you have trafficked with and labored with since youth. Each wanders off in his own direction; there is no one left to save you.”

The chapter ends:

Alone.

Merchants:

Gone.

Counselors:

Gone.

Sorcerers:

Gone.

Astrologers:

Gone.

No:

Savior.

Cross References

Revelation 18:9

Kings and merchants associated with Babylon mourn her fall from a distance but cannot rescue her.

Jeremiah 51:29

Babylon trembles under God's announced purpose and cannot reverse the judgment.

Isaiah 44:9

Idols and those who value them are shown to be worthless and unable to save.

Spiritual Principle

False alliances disappear when:

Salvation is actually needed.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

If everyone you trust walks away when judgment arrives, you never had a savior—you had associates.

XXIII. THE GREAT QUESTION: WHO CAN SAVE?

Babylon's chapter ends:

“There is no one left to save you.”

Isaiah 45 said:

“Turn to Me and be saved.”

Isaiah 46 said:

Idols cannot save.

Isaiah 47 says:

Babylon's entire system cannot save.

Key Truth

The fall of Babylon is ultimately a salvation test: everything Babylon trusted fails when confronted by the judgment of the one true God.

XXIV. WHAT ISAIAH 47 TEACHES ABOUT PRIDE

Babylon says:

I will be queen forever.

There is none besides me.

I will never suffer loss.

Spiritual Principle

Pride converts:

Temporary blessing.

Into:

Imagined permanence.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Pride takes today's success and writes "forever" across it.

XXV. WHAT ISAIAH 47 TEACHES ABOUT SELF-DEIFICATION

Babylon echoes language that belongs to:

God.

"There is none besides me."

Spiritual Principle

The highest form of pride is trying to occupy:

God's place.

XXVI. WHAT ISAIAH 47 TEACHES ABOUT CRUELTY

God condemns Babylon because:

It showed no mercy.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Power without mercy becomes evidence in the courtroom of God.

XXVII. WHAT ISAIAH 47 TEACHES ABOUT PROVIDENCE

God says:

I gave Israel into your hand.

Yet:

Babylon is judged.

Spiritual Principle

Sovereignty and responsibility operate:

Together.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's control of history never transforms human cruelty into innocence.

XXVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 47 TEACHES ABOUT FALSE SECURITY

Babylon lounges:

Comfortably.

Confidently.

Blindly.

Spiritual Principle

Comfort can become dangerous when it produces:

Spiritual sleep.

XXIX. WHAT ISAIAH 47 TEACHES ABOUT PLEASURE

Pleasure itself is not automatically:

Sin.

But Babylon became:

A lover of pleasure.

Secure in luxury.

Forgetful of:

God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Pleasure becomes spiritually dangerous when comfort trains the heart to believe accountability will never come.

XXX. WHAT ISAIAH 47 TEACHES ABOUT SECRET SIN

Babylon says:

“No one sees me.”

Spiritual Principle

Secret wickedness grows beneath the false theology:

God does not notice.

XXXI. WHAT ISAIAH 47 TEACHES ABOUT WORLDLY WISDOM

Babylon's wisdom:

Misled.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Knowledge becomes dangerous when it makes a person more confident in self and less conscious of God.

XXXII. WHAT ISAIAH 47 TEACHES ABOUT THE OCCULT

Sorcery.

Magic.

Astrology.

Enchantments.

All fail.

Spiritual Principle

Forbidden spiritual substitutes promise:

Control.

But cannot provide:

Salvation.

XXXIII. WHAT ISAIAH 47 TEACHES ABOUT ASTROLOGY

Babylon studied:

Heavenly movements.

To predict:

Human destiny.

God says:

They cannot save.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The stars were created to display God's glory, not to replace His guidance.

XXXIV. WHAT ISAIAH 47 TEACHES ABOUT SUDDEN JUDGMENT

One day.

Suddenly.

Unexpectedly.

Spiritual Principle

Delayed judgment should not be interpreted as:

Cancelled judgment.

XXXV. WHAT ISAIAH 47 TEACHES ABOUT THE REDEEMER

Verse 4 interrupts the judgment oracle with:

“Our Redeemer.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

In a chapter filled with false saviors, God makes sure His people remember the true one.

XXXVI. THE FALL FROM THRONE TO DUST

Babylon begins:

Royal.

Ends:

Unable to save itself.

Spiritual Principle

Human glory can:

Reverse.

XXXVII. THE DELICATE DAUGHTER BECOMES A LABORER

Luxury:

Ends.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Comfort should never be mistaken for covenant with permanence.

XXXVIII. THE EXPOSED SHAME

What was hidden becomes:

Seen.

Spiritual Principle

Public greatness cannot permanently cover:

Private wickedness.

XXXIX. VENGEANCE BELONGS TO GOD

God says:

“I will take vengeance.”

This is important.

Biblical vengeance belongs properly to:

God.

Because His judgment is:

Perfect.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Leave final vengeance to the Judge who knows every fact, every motive, and every heart.

XL. THE LORD OF HOSTS

Babylon commands:

Armies.

God is:

Lord of Hosts.

Spiritual Principle

Military power does not make an empire:

Ultimate.

XLI. SILENCE AND DARKNESS

The proud voice becomes:

Silent.

The glorious empire enters:

Darkness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The loudest boast becomes quiet when God speaks the final verdict.

XLII. NO LONGER “LADY OF KINGDOMS”

Titles disappear.

Spiritual Principle

Reputation has:

No eternal guarantee.

XLIII. GOD’S PEOPLE WERE DISCIPLINED

God says:

I was angry with:

My people.

Spiritual Principle

Israel’s suffering was not evidence that:

Babylon was morally superior.

XLIV. BABYLON ABUSED THE ASSIGNMENT

No mercy.

Heavy yoke.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Having permission to act within providence is not permission to sin.

XLV. EVEN THE AGED WERE OPPRESSED

The vulnerable suffered.

Spiritual Principle

God notices:

How societies treat those with less power.

XLVI. “FOREVER”

Babylon assumed:

Continuity.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Only God can use “forever” without presumption.

XLVII. FAILURE TO CONSIDER THE END

Babylon did not ask:

Where does this lead?

Spiritual Principle

Wisdom lives today with:

Tomorrow in view.

XLVIII. “I AM”

The phrase reflects:

Self-exaltation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Whenever the creature begins speaking as though it is self-existent and ultimate, pride has become worship of self.

XLIX. “NO ONE BESIDES ME”

God says this truthfully.

Babylon says it:

Falsely.

Spiritual Principle

The same sentence can be worship when spoken of God and blasphemous pride when spoken of self.

L. WIDOWHOOD AND LOSS

Babylon says:

Never.

God says:

Both.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

False confidence predicts the future without possessing authority over it.

LI. MANY SORCERIES

Quantity does not produce:

Truth.

Spiritual Principle

A thousand false practices remain:

False.

LII. COUNTLESS ENCHANTMENTS

Babylon had:

Experience.

History.

Tradition.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Ancient error is still error.

LIII. “NO ONE SEES”

God’s answer is:

I do.

Spiritual Principle

The hidden life is lived before:

God.

LIV. WISDOM THAT MISLEADS

Babylon’s intellect became:

Self-deception.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The smartest person in the room can still be spiritually blind.

LV. DISASTER WITHOUT A SPELL

There will be no:

Escape formula.

Spiritual Principle

God cannot be manipulated by:
Techniques.

LVI. CALAMITY CANNOT BE WARDED OFF

The empire discovers:
Limits.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Human control ends exactly where divine judgment begins.

LVII. SUDDEN DESTRUCTION

Preparedness matters.

Spiritual Principle

A person can feel safest immediately before:
Collapse.

LVIII. “KEEP ON”

Divine irony exposes:
Futility.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sometimes God’s judgment allows people to discover how powerless their idols really are.

LIX. LABORED SINCE YOUTH

Babylon had long practiced:

Occult arts.

Spiritual Principle

Length of practice does not equal:

Legitimacy.

LX. WORN OUT BY ADVICE

The counselors did not produce:

Peace.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Counsel that never reaches truth eventually produces exhaustion.

LXI. STARGAZERS

Created heavens became:

Objects of divination.

Spiritual Principle

Worshiping creation always misses:

The Creator.

LXII. MONTH-BY-MONTH PREDICTIONS

Babylon wants:

Control of tomorrow.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The desire to know the future can become idolatrous when it replaces trust in the God who owns the future.

LXIII. “LET THEM SAVE YOU”

That is the test.

Spiritual Principle

Any spiritual system should be measured against:

Truth.

And:

Its ability to point to the true Savior.

LXIV. STUBBLE BEFORE FIRE

Apparent wisdom becomes:

Fuel.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

What looks sophisticated may become weightless under divine judgment.

LXV. THEY CANNOT SAVE THEMSELVES

Like the idols in Isaiah 46.

Spiritual Principle

A savior who needs saving is:

No savior.

LXVI. THIS IS NO FIRE FOR WARMTH

A dramatic clarification.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not confuse judgment with ordinary hardship when Scripture clearly presents it as divine reckoning.

LXVII. MERCHANTS WANDER AWAY

Commercial relationships fail.

Spiritual Principle

Money can attract partners.

It cannot guarantee:

Loyalty.

LXVIII. NO ONE LEFT TO SAVE

The chapter ends with:

Emptiness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When every substitute leaves, the question becomes unavoidable:

Why did you not trust the true Redeemer?

LXIX. ISAIAH 46 AND ISAIAH 47

Isaiah 46

Babylon's gods fall.

Isaiah 47

Babylon herself falls.

Key Truth

A civilization cannot be more secure than the gods in which it ultimately places its trust.

LXX. ISAIAH 45–47

Isaiah 45

God says:

“There is no other.”

Isaiah 46

Idols cannot:

Carry or save.

Isaiah 47

Babylon says:

“There is no one besides me.”

And falls.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The tragedy of Babylon is that she takes God’s exclusive claim and applies it to herself.

LXXI. BABYLON IN ISAIAH AND REVELATION

Revelation later uses:

Babylon.

As a symbolic picture of:

Worldly arrogance.

Luxury.

False religion.

Oppressive economic power.

Hostility to God.

Isaiah 47 provides important Old Testament background for that imagery.

However:

Isaiah 47 first concerns the historical Babylonian empire.

Spiritual Principle

Historical Babylon becomes a biblical pattern of:

Proud human civilization organized in opposition to God.

LXXII. BABYLON AND SATANIC PRIDE

There is a broader biblical resemblance between Babylon's self-exaltation and:

Creaturely rebellion.

But this chapter's direct subject remains:

Babylon.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Good interpretation begins with what the passage directly says before drawing wider theological parallels.

LXXIII. TEN GREAT LESSONS FROM ISAIAH 47

1. Pride Leads to Humiliation

Principle:

The empire that says "forever" can be brought into the dust.

2. God Judges Cruelty

Principle:

Power never excuses merciless treatment of the weak.

3. Providence Does Not Erase Responsibility

Principle:

Babylon was used by God yet still judged for its sinful motives and excesses.

4. False Security Is Dangerous

Principle:

Comfort can hide coming accountability.

5. Secret Sin Is Seen by God

Principle:

“No one sees” is always false before the all-knowing Lord.

6. Human Wisdom Can Mislead

Principle:

Knowledge detached from God can produce arrogance rather than truth.

7. Sorcery Cannot Save

Principle:

Occult power cannot overturn divine judgment.

8. Astrology Cannot Control the Future

Principle:

The Creator, not the stars, governs history.

9. Sudden Judgment Is Possible

Principle:

Delay should never be mistaken for immunity.

10. Only God Is Redeemer

Principle:

When every substitute fails, the Lord of Hosts remains the true Savior.

LXXIV. TWELVE GREAT CONTRASTS IN ISAIAH 47

- 1. Throne → Dust**
- 2. Queen → Laborer**
- 3. Luxury → Humiliation**
- 4. Lady of Kingdoms → Silence**
- 5. Power → Accountability**
- 6. Cruelty → Judgment**
- 7. “Forever” → Sudden Fall**
- 8. “No One Sees” → God Sees**
- 9. Wisdom → Deception**
- 10. Sorcery → Powerlessness**
- 11. Astrologers → Stubble**
- 12. False Saviors → True Redeemer**

Key Truth

Babylon loses everything she treated as permanent because she mistook temporary power for ultimate sovereignty.

LXXV. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

What happens to Babylon at the beginning of the chapter?

She is commanded to come down from royal status and sit in the dust.

Question 2

What does the absence of a throne represent?

The loss of political power, dignity, and royal status.

Question 3

What does grinding meal symbolize?

A fall from luxury and privilege into humiliating servitude.

Question 4

What will happen to Babylon's hidden shame?

It will be exposed.

Question 5

Who is identified as Israel's Redeemer?

The Lord of Hosts, the Holy One of Israel.

Question 6

Why did God give His people into Babylon's hand?

As part of discipline because of Israel's sin.

Question 7

Did this excuse Babylon's cruelty?

No.

God condemns Babylon because it showed no mercy.

Question 8

Whom did Babylon especially oppress?

Even the aged were heavily burdened.

Question 9

What arrogant claim did Babylon make?

“I will be queen forever.”

Question 10

What had Babylon failed to consider?

What would happen afterward.

Question 11

What other arrogant statement did Babylon make?

“I am, and there is no one besides me.”

Question 12

Why is that statement especially serious?

Because surrounding chapters reserve that kind of exclusive claim for the Lord alone.

Question 13

What losses did Babylon say would never happen?

Widowhood and loss of children.

Question 14

What does God say?

Both would come suddenly.

Question 15

Could sorcery prevent the judgment?

No.

Question 16

What secret thought encouraged Babylon's wickedness?

"No one sees me."

Question 17

What misled Babylon?

Its own wisdom and knowledge.

Question 18

Could Babylon charm disaster away?

No.

Question 19

Who did Babylon rely upon for supernatural counsel?

Magicians, sorcerers, astrologers, and stargazers.

Question 20

Could the astrologers save Babylon?

No.

Question 21

What happened to them under judgment?

They became like stubble before fire.

Question 22

Could they even save themselves?

No.

Question 23

What happened to Babylon's commercial partners?

They scattered in different directions.

Question 24

How does the chapter end?

“There is no one left to save you.”

Question 25

What is the central contrast?

Every false source of security fails, while the Lord alone remains the true Redeemer.

LXXVI. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 47 asks several searching questions.

Have I Become Too Comfortable?

Does comfort make me assume:

Nothing can change?

Have I Written “Forever” Across Something Temporary?

Career?

Health?

Money?

Influence?

Position?

Government?

Success?

Am I Using Power Mercifully?

How do I treat:

The elderly?

Weak?

Poor?

Dependent?

Those with less influence?

Have I Mistaken God's Permission for His Approval?

Do I assume:

"No one sees"?

Is there anything in my private life I would live differently if I consciously remembered:

God sees?

Has my knowledge made me:

Humble?

Or:

Proud?

Am I trying to control the future through:

Superstition?

Astrology?

Occult practices?

Signs?

Predictions?

Do I seek God's Word for guidance?

What false security would collapse if:

Trouble came suddenly?

Who do I expect to:

Save me?

When every substitute fails, is the Lord truly:

My Redeemer?

LXXVII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

**“Pride Writes ‘Forever’ Across Things God Has Already
Marked ‘Temporary’”**

Babylon says:

“I will be queen forever.”

God says:

Come down.

Sit in:

Dust.

Principle:

The safest response to success is humility, because everything we possess remains under the authority of the God who gave it, allows it, and can remove it.

LXXVIII. THE THRONE IS NOT PERMANENT

Babylon believed:

Royal status.

Could not end.

Spiritual Principle

Every earthly throne is:

Borrowed.

LXXIX. DUST IS A GREAT EQUALIZER

Kings.

Queens.

Poor.

Rich.

All remain:

Mortal.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Dust eventually reminds every human being that no one was born divine.

LXXX. THE MILLSTONE

Royal hands become:

Working hands.

Spiritual Principle

Status can disappear before ability does.

LXXXI. SHAME EXPOSED

Reputation cannot hide:

Reality.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

What matters most is not what people call us, but what God knows us to be.

LXXXII. “OUR REDEEMER”

A sudden word of:

Hope.

Spiritual Principle

God’s people should define themselves by:

Their Redeemer.

Not:

Their oppressor.

LXXXIII. LORD OF HOSTS

Babylon had:

Armies.

God commands:

Hosts.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never confuse military superiority with ultimate sovereignty.

LXXXIV. HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL

God's judgment is:

Holy.

Spiritual Principle

Divine justice is never:

Corrupt revenge.

LXXXV. DARKNESS AFTER GLORY

Babylon goes from:

Spotlight.

To:

Darkness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Fame is a poor substitute for faithfulness because public visibility can vanish overnight.

LXXXVI. GOD'S ANGER WITH ISRAEL

Israel was:

Responsible.

Spiritual Principle

Election does not eliminate:

Discipline.

LXXXVII. BABYLON'S CRUELTY

Babylon was:

Also responsible.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Two parties can both be morally accountable within the same historical event.

LXXXVIII. THE AGED UNDER THE YOKE

God mentions them:

Specifically.

Spiritual Principle

God notices the suffering of:

The vulnerable.

LXXXIX. "QUEEN FOREVER"

Arrogance makes:

Predictions.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Pride is often a false prophet about its own future.

XC. “YOU DID NOT TAKE IT TO HEART”

Babylon had facts.

But lacked:

Reflection.

Spiritual Principle

Failure to think morally about power can become part of:

Judgment.

XCI. “WHAT WOULD COME AFTER”

A vital question.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Wisdom studies consequences before consequences arrive.

XCII. LOVER OF PLEASURE

Pleasure became:

Identity.

Spiritual Principle

Pleasure is a gift when received under God.

It becomes an idol when it becomes:

Master.

XCIII. LOUNGING IN SECURITY

Comfort can anesthetize:

Conscience.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The most dangerous sleep may happen while everything feels safe.

XCIV. THE FALSE “I AM”

Babylon copies:

Divine language.

Spiritual Principle

Self-exaltation reaches its peak when the human heart becomes its own:

God.

XCV. LOSS IN ONE DAY

Human confidence:

Collapses.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Speed of judgment is not limited by length of prosperity.

XCVI. MANY SORCERIES, NO DELIVERANCE

Babylon has:

Many practices.

No Savior.

Spiritual Principle

Spiritual activity is not proof of:

Spiritual truth.

XCVII. “NO ONE SEES”

The theology of secret sin.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Every hidden sin depends on temporarily forgetting the omniscience of God.

XCVIII. KNOWLEDGE MISLED HER

Education without:

Humility.

Spiritual Principle

Knowledge can illuminate.

Or inflate.

XCIX. DISASTER WITHOUT WARNING

Babylon is:

Unprepared.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The person most confident there will be no judgment may be the least prepared for it.

C. SPELLS FROM YOUTH

Tradition can reinforce:

Error.

Spiritual Principle

Inherited beliefs still require:

Truth-testing.

CI. ADVICE THAT WEARIES

More voices.

Less clarity.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Noise is not wisdom.

CII. ASTROLOGERS AND STARGAZERS

They observe:

Creation.

But miss:

Creator.

Spiritual Principle

Knowledge about the heavens is not the same as knowing:

The God of heaven.

CIII. MONTHLY PREDICTIONS

A continual attempt to:

Control uncertainty.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Faith entrusts the unknown future to God rather than seeking forbidden ways to master it.

CIV. STUBBLE BEFORE FIRE

The sophisticated advisers become:

Fragile.

Spiritual Principle

Intellectual reputation cannot shield anyone from:
Truth.

CV. NO COALS FOR WARMTH

Judgment is not:
Comfort.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not domesticate divine judgment into something harmless.

CVI. COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIPS FAIL

Babylon's network:
Disperses.

Spiritual Principle

A marketplace cannot become:
A redeemer.

CVII. “NO ONE LEFT TO SAVE”

The final line destroys:
Every substitute.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Anything less than God will eventually prove too small for the burden of salvation.

CVIII. ISAIAH 44–47

Isaiah 44

Idols are:

Made.

Isaiah 45

God alone is:

Savior.

Isaiah 46

Idols must be:

Carried.

Isaiah 47

The civilization trusting those idols:

Falls.

Key Truth

Isaiah does not merely dismantle false gods intellectually; he shows the historical consequences of building a society on false security.

CIX. ISAIAH 47 AND REVELATION 18

Both contain themes of:

Pride.

Luxury.

Queenly boasting.

Sudden judgment.

Commerce.

Sorcery.

Loss.

Mourning.

The later biblical use of Babylon builds upon:

This prophetic background.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Scripture often turns historical places into theological patterns without erasing their original historical meaning.

CX. TEN GREAT MOVEMENTS IN ISAIAH 47

1. Babylon Is Brought Down

The royal city sits in dust.

2. Babylon Is Humiliated

Luxury gives way to labor and exposure.

3. Israel's Redeemer Is Declared

The Lord of Hosts stands above Babylon.

4. Babylon's Cruelty Is Exposed

She abused the power God permitted her to wield.

5. Babylon's Pride Is Condemned

She imagined herself queen forever.

6. Babylon Claims Divine-Like Self-Sufficiency

"I am, and there is none besides me."

7. Sudden Judgment Is Announced

Loss comes despite sorcery.

8. False Wisdom Is Exposed

Babylon's knowledge misled her.

9. Occult Counsel Fails

Astrologers, magicians, and sorcerers cannot save.

10. Babylon Ends Without a Savior

Every substitute abandons her.

Key Truth

Isaiah 47 moves from royal arrogance to total helplessness, exposing the collapse of every false security and demonstrating that only the Lord is Redeemer.

CXI. FINAL APPLICATION

Isaiah Chapter 47 begins with a queen:

On a throne.

And ends with:

No one left to save her.

That is the movement of:

Pride.

Babylon thought:

Her position was permanent.

God says:

“Come down.”

Babylon thought:

Her luxury was secure.

God says:

Take the:

Millstones.

Babylon thought:

Her honor could never disappear.

God says:

Your shame will be:

Exposed.

Then comes one of the most important verses:

“Our Redeemer—the Lord of Hosts is His name.”

That is where hope stands.

Not in:

Babylon.

Not in:

Politics.

Not in:

Military power.

Not in:

Economic strength.

Not in:

Astrology.

Not in:

Sorcery.

Not in:

Human wisdom.

In:

The Redeemer.

Then God explains Babylon’s guilt.

Yes:

I gave My people into your hand.

But:

You showed no mercy.

That matters.

Never assume:

“God allowed me to succeed, therefore everything I did must have been right.”

Babylon had:

Providential success.

And:

Moral guilt.

Those can exist:

Together.

Then Babylon says:

“I will be queen forever.”

How many people live as though:

Health will last forever.

Money will last forever.

Influence will last forever.

Comfort will last forever.

Life itself will last forever.

Isaiah says:

Consider what comes:

After.

Then Babylon says:

“I am, and there is no one besides me.”

That is no longer ordinary confidence.

That is:

Self-deification.

God alone can truthfully say:

There is no other.

Babylon takes God’s words and gives them to:

Herself.

That is what pride ultimately does.

It places:

Self.

Where:

God.

Belongs.

Then Babylon says:

“No one sees me.”

Maybe those are the four most dangerous words in:

Secret sin.

No one sees.

But:

God sees.

Then Babylon turns to:

Sorcery.

Magic.

Astrology.

Predictions.

Why?

Because people desperately want:

Control.

They want to know:

Tomorrow.

Manage:

Tomorrow.

Manipulate:

Tomorrow.

God says:

None of it can:

Save.

Then the astrologers become:

Stubble.

The counselors:

Scatter.

The merchants:

Leave.

The final sentence:

“There is no one left to save you.”

What a contrast with the chapter’s center:

“Our Redeemer—the Lord of Hosts is His name.”

That is the choice.

False saviors:

Leave.

The Redeemer:

Remains.

So:

Do not trust your throne.

Do not worship your success.

Do not write “forever” across temporary blessings.

Do not use power without mercy.

Do not believe hidden sin is unseen.

Do not let knowledge turn into pride.

Do not seek forbidden spiritual shortcuts to control the future.

Do not confuse prosperity with immunity from accountability.

Instead:

Remember your Redeemer.

When worldly kingdoms rise:

God remains.

When worldly kingdoms fall:

God remains.

When human wisdom fails:

God remains.

When false spiritual systems collapse:

God remains.

When everyone else walks away:

The Lord of Hosts is still:

Redeemer.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

You alone are:

God.

You alone are:

Redeemer.

You alone deserve:

Glory.

Father, protect us from:

Pride.

Keep us from looking at temporary blessings and saying:

“Forever.”

Teach us to remember:

Everything we possess is:

Temporary.

Except what is rooted in:

You.

Father, forgive us for every way we have misused:

Power.

Influence.

Authority.

Opportunity.

Teach us to show:

Mercy.

Especially to:

The weak.

The vulnerable.

The elderly.

Those who cannot repay us.

Father, keep us from the pride of Babylon.

Do not let us say in our hearts:

“I need no one.”

“I answer to no one.”

“No one sees me.”

Remind us:

You see.

You know.

You judge:

Righteously.

Father, deliver us from:

False wisdom.

Sorcery.

Occult practices.

Astrology.

Superstition.

Any attempt to control the future apart from:

Trusting You.

Teach us to seek:

Your Word.

Your wisdom.

Your guidance.

Father, when human counsel becomes confusing:

Lead us into truth.

When false security collapses:

Be our Rock.

When worldly strength disappears:

Be our strength.

When every substitute fails:

Remind us:

You remain.

Thank You for the declaration:

“Our Redeemer—the Lord of Hosts is His name—the Holy One of Israel.”

Be:

Our Redeemer.

Our hope.

Our security.

Our salvation.

May our confidence never rest in:

Wealth.

Comfort.

Government.

Human wisdom.

Success.

But in:

You.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Key Verse

“Our Redeemer—the Lord of Hosts is His name—the Holy One of Israel.” — Isaiah 47:4

Central Truth

Babylon’s fall demonstrates that pride, cruelty, luxury, secret wickedness, worldly wisdom, sorcery, astrology, wealth, and political power cannot provide lasting security or salvation; although God sovereignly used Babylon in the discipline of His people, He judged Babylon’s merciless arrogance and revealed that the Lord of Hosts, the Holy One of Israel, alone is the true Redeemer.

Isaiah 47 in One Sentence

Isaiah announces the humiliation and fall of proud Babylon, exposing her cruelty toward God’s people, her boast of permanent supremacy, her belief that no one saw her wickedness, and her reliance upon sorcery, astrology, wisdom, and commerce, all of which fail under sudden divine judgment, while declaring that Israel’s true hope is the Lord of Hosts, the Holy One of Israel, the only Redeemer who can truly save.