

Series: Isaiah 2024
Title: Babylon's Vain Confidence
Text: Isaiah 47: 7-15
Date: Aug 24, 2024
Place: SGBC, NJ

Subject: Babylon's Vain Confidence

Proposition: Babylon is false religion, as well as all who are irreligious--God declares in our text Babylon's problem is pride. Pride makes sinners have vain confidence in self or in other sinners.

Isaiah 47: 7: And thou saidst, I shall be a lady for ever: so that thou didst not lay these *things* to thy heart, neither didst remember the latter end of it.

God warns men before he sends judgment. He warns his enemies, as well as his elect. God sent Isaiah declaring this 160 years before God destroyed Babylon. He sent Jeremiah 50 years before. Then the Lord sent Daniel when judgment was on their doorstep. Yet, Babylon would not hear and heed God's warning.

God has sent his warning to us today. Christ is coming to judge mystery Babylon. Will we heed God's word? Or will we be like the nation Babylon?

May the grace and power of God humble us to see our need to be found in Christ alone. May God makes us never trust in any works we have done but seek to be found in the righteousness of Christ alone. May Christ be our teacher this hour.

PRESUMPTION FROM PROSPERITY

Isaiah 47: 7: And thou saidst, I shall be a lady for ever: so that thou didst not lay these *things* to thy heart, neither didst remember the latter end of it.

Prosperity made Babylon presumptuous. She thought she would reign forever. "Lady" is a metaphor for pride. She thinks herself superior to all others and that she would be superior forever. Notice, verse 5,

Isaiah 47:5: Sit thou silent, and get thee into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called, The lady of kingdoms.

In 2008, I was talking with a city worker at the end of my driveway. He said, "The USA is the greatest nation that has ever been. Just look at how how prosperous and wealthy our nation is. No nation will ever conquer us." He was saying, "The USA shall be a lady forever!" I said to him, "That is what Babylon said. Where is that nation now?" A week later the bubble burst and wall street bankers were jumping out of windows.

Prosperity by riches and honor, especially when had for a long time, leads to false security. It makes men and women give no thought to the end of their lives, no thought that they shall stand before the righteous Judge in the latter end.

Psalm 49: 6: They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; 7: None *of them* can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: 8: (For the redemption of their soul *is* precious, and it ceaseth for ever:) 9: That he should still live for ever, *and* not see corruption. 10: For he seeth *that* wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others. 11: Their inward thought *is*, *that* their houses *shall continue* for ever, *and* their dwelling places to all generations; they call *their* lands after their own names. 12: Nevertheless man *being* in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts *that* perish. 13: This their way *is* their folly: yet their posterity approve their sayings. Selah.

Only the Lord Jesus Christ is able to create a contrite heart in a sinner. He humbles his child, making us seek him today while he may be found. The Lord keeps his saints humbled, trusting him alone. Christ alone makes his bride to be a true lady, perfect in his righteousness

2 Corinthians 11:2...I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ.

Beholding ourselves, we often think we might, personally, fall away. It is not by our power and wisdom nor by our might but by God's grace alone, by Christ's keeping-power alone, those Christ dwells in shall reign with him forever.

2 Timothy 2:12: If we suffer, we shall also reign with *him*: if we deny *him*, he also will deny us:

Revelation 5:10: And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Hear the word of the Lord. Consider your latter end now. Seek Christ now!

Ecclesiastes 11: 9 Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these *things* God will bring thee into judgment. 10 Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth *are* vanity. 12: 1: Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

SELF-EXALTATION FROM PRIDE

Isaiah 47: 8:Therefore hear now this, *thou that art* given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, *I am*, and none else beside me; I shall not sit *as* a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children:

The pride of Babylon made her think herself to be as God. She said, "*I am, and none else beside me.*" God alone is the great I AM! There is none beside him!

Isaiah 45:6: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that *there is* none beside me. *I am* the LORD, and *there is* none else...21: Tell ye, and bring *them* near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? *who* hath told it from that time? *have* not I the LORD? and *there is* no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; *there is* none beside me.

You do not want to meet God as the just God with you trusting in yourself. It is because every son of Adam is a guilty sinner. None shall stand in the day of judgment. We need God to reveal in our hearts that he is a just God AND a Savior. By Christ being made sin for his elect and being made a curse for us, God is a just God to save his elect. But if you meet God without Christ's righteousness then you will find God only to be just God!

Malachi 3: 5: And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in *his* wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger *from his right*, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.

HAUGHTY FROM CARNAL KNOWLEDGE

Isaiah 47: 10 For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, *I am*, and none else beside me.

Knowledge acquired by man, by himself, perverts a man. It makes men lean to their own understanding rather than Christ.

God knows all. But sinners who make up Babylon trust in their own wickedness and say, "*None seeth me!*" Make no mistake, even if the works be good works and no matter how good the works, without Christ God says she is trusting in wickedness.

1 Corinthians 8: 1...Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth. 2: And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know. 3: But if any man love God, the same is known of him. [that is how we love God, Christ knows us and makes us know him.]

Only Christ is Wisdom and Power. God is love. Christ is Charity. He alone edifieth his people when he is formed in the heart. Only Christ makes men wise unto salvation by his Power. But true wisdom humbles us in heart. It is only by Christ knowing us in power in the new birth that he gives us an understanding. Then because he first loved us, we love God. Then we have that charity that edifieth. Then we edify only by speaking this good news of the gospel of Christ to perishing sinners, urging sinners to trust Christ for all!

But man's wisdom and knowledge, acquired by his own skill, even if it be religious knowledge, only lifts men in pride. It perverts men so that *"Thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me."*

THE FALL DUE TO PRIDE

Isaiah 47: 9: But these two *things* shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, *and* for the great abundance of thine enchantments...12 Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail. 13: Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from *these things* that shall come upon thee. 14: Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: *there shall not be* a coal to warm at, *nor* fire to sit before it. 15: Thus shall they be unto thee with whom thou hast laboured, *even* thy merchants, from thy youth: they shall wander every one to his quarter; none shall save thee.

We know the scripture concerning pride:

Pride 16:18: Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Babylon says, verse 8, *"I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children."* Each time the gospel goes forth, there are always some who hear but due to the pride of the sinful heart, they think that very thing.

Psalm 10: 4: The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek *after God*: God *is* not in all his thoughts. 5: His ways are always grievous; thy judgments *are* far above out of his sight: *as for* all his enemies, he puffeth at them. 6: He hath said in his heart, I shall not be moved: for *I shall* never *be* in adversity.

But God says, *"these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments."* The sinner outside of Christ is always one heartbeat away from sudden destruction.

Psalm 73: 19 How are they *brought* into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.

Christ could return at any moment and judge all sinners who refused to believe on him.

1 Thessalonians 5:3: For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

Revelation 18:8: Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong *is* the Lord God who judgeth her.

Christ is the Husband of his church. Therefore, indeed, Christ's bride shall never be a widow. Christ alone makes his bride, his church, to have many children. He produces his children, not through sorcery and enchantments of false religion, but through the preaching of Christ and him crucified.

Christ producing children through the Word declaring it is by grace that God our Father chose whom he would in Christ before the foundation of the world. It is by grace that Christ accomplished the redemption of his elect by his one offering on the cross. It is by grace that the Holy Spirit of God creates a new man within each of his people in the new birth. Our peace is Christ alone! Our security is Christ alone! We have no confidence in self, only in Christ our Lord.

But none of man's false religion can save. The moment the sinner meets God without Christ, none of his vain religion shall help him. *“Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail. Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee.”*

The religion of man, be it in organized religion or out, is vanity. It is the religion of man's works. Therefore, it is the religion of confusion. I do not need to labor the point of how vain it is to trust in astrologers and horoscopes. But what most do not understand is that man's best, moral religion--without Christ alone, through faith alone, by grace alone, without salvation being by our triune God alone, apart from man's works--is the same as trusting in astrologers, stargazers, monthly prognosticators. Babylon trusts in a multitude of vain counselors and not one can save. Will-works preachers with whom religious sinners labor are merchants profiting off men bound for hell. Freewill works religion is all enchantments and sorceries. When the Galatians were being turned back to mingle God's grace with their own works, Paul said,

Galatians 3: 1: O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

Christ alone is the Counselor of his people. Christ makes his preacher preach Christ as all in salvation. Christ alone saves. The sorcerers preaching will-works religion cannot save themselves, much less other sinners. God declares, *“none shall save thee.”* The Spirit of God used Paul to declare the same about vain preachers who preach salvation by the works of the law.

Galatians 6: 12: As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. 13: For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh. 14: But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. 15: For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. 16: And as many as walk according to this rule, peace *be* on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

Let me say again what I've tried to declare to you. *Salvation is of the Lord!* May God give us each grace today to believe on Christ. Pray for God's grace to make us continue walking by faith. Beg God for grace to be found in Christ in that day with his righteousness alone!

Amen!