

Sunday School Lesson – Tuesday, May 31st & Sunday, June 5, 2022
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Summer Quarter's Theme: "Partners in a New Creation" (June, July, August)

- The *Death, Burial and Resurrection* of **JESUS CHRIST our LORD**, opens the door to a "New Creation (**GOD-Act**)," "New Life," "New World."
"What this means is that those who become **CHRISTIANS** become *new* persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A *new* life has begun."
(2 Corinthians 5: 17--NLT)

Lessons will focus on, *how* we as members of **CHRIST'S BODY (The CHURCH)** have the *privilege*, the *grand opportunity*, the *COMmission* with **The Ever-Abiding SPIRIT of GOD**, in *reconciling* (*re-storing* relationship(s), *re-creating* (not a makeover, but making 'new') all things in **The Eternal Reign (Rule) of GOD**.

Unit 1 theme, "**GOD Delivers and Restores.**" 4 lessons from the Old Testament Book of Isaiah.

Unit 2 theme, "**The WORD: The Agent of Creation.**" 5 lessons from John's account of **The Gospel**.

Unit 3 theme, "**The Great Hope of the Saints.**" 4 Lessons from the Book of Revelation.

Lesson Subject: "Nowhere to Run"

SCRIPTURE Lesson Text: Isaiah 47: 10-15

Key Words:

Trusted, v. 10, the Hebrew word, *batach* (bawtak'h'), meaning had confidence in, was confident about. [Babylon dwelt in *careless security*. V. 8, she was *given to pleasures*, and said in her heart that her vast crowd of astrologers, magicians, and priests would certainly *warn* her of impending evil and *deliver* her.]

Wisdom, v. 10, the Hebrew word, *chokmah*, (khokmaw), principally two parts: **GOD knowledge** and the knowledge of ourselves. The ability to see something from **GOD'S** viewpoint. But in this text, its used as "wisdom or shrewdness of magicians." [For centuries Babylon had been buried under mounds of desolation (complete emptiness, misery, loneliness), while the children of **GOD**, whom they cruelly oppressed, were the monument of **GOD'S** preserving **Mercy**. Babylon succeeded her duty. Babylon was *used by GOD* to as a chastening rod upon Israel, but merciless, and for the excess, she suffered.]

Lesson Background...

The Truth of a Prophet, is that "His Words come True!" The description of the 8th Century Prophet Isaiah. He's also described as "the Prophet of doom" – He prophesied that Cyrus King of Persia, would conquer nations, one of which is Babylon, led by King Nebuchadnezzar. He held the Jews for 70 years. Nebuchadnezzar considered himself a *god*. In our lesson **GOD** uses the mouth of Isaiah to speak punishment on Nebuchadnezzar and his people, expresses the vengeful behavior of **GOD** when anyone oversteps their bounds.

Topics...

- *Pride Comes before a Fall.* (Isaiah 47: 10, 11)

“Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall.” (Proverbs 16: 18)

In verse 1 of Isaiah 47, Isaiah captures a conversation **GOD** has with Babylon, who’s referred as “O virgin daughter.” Prior, Babylon was beautiful but not now. Called “tender and delicate, but now naked and brought to shame. Reasons, “polluted mine inheritance, said **The LORD.**” (V. 6)

Babylon showed no ‘mercy’ to **GOD’S** people. Not only was Nebuchadnezzar hand of oppression was heavy on the children of **GOD**, but he set himself as a *god* before them “And thou saidest, I shall be a lady *for ever.*” (V. 7)

So, **GOD** says to Babylon “For thou has trusted in thy wickedness.” (v. 10)

Result, “it hath perverted (caused to turn aside or away from what is good or true or morally right) thee.” Puff them up! It went to the very heart of the Nation, so much so that it said,

“I am.” “*Therefore*” (v. 11) the *verb*, expresses, “for that reason, “bad things shall come.

Isaiah said, “evil” shall come upon Babylon. They want know from whence, nor will they be able to withstand it. It will come suddenly and its whereabouts they want know.

- Trusting a False Religion (Isaiah 47: 12-13)

The LORD GOD challenges Babylon’s magic men to exercise their talents to see if they can deliver them from peril. This once powerful nation flaunted itself and its *wisdom*. There were *wise men, sorcerers, enchanter to idols, astrologers* and *stargazers* who wrote their horoscopes, forecasting men destiny. BUT **GOD** had spoken. Babylon’s doon was sealed.

“**The WORD of GOD** had gone out and will not/cannot return to **HIM** void.” (Isaiah 55: 11)

- Total Destruction shall come upon The Land and None will be able to Stand.
(Isaiah 47: 14-15)

All, the people of the Land, the *magicians, the astrologers, prognosticators... all*, will be as stubble, straw, that will be burned with fire. There shall be none to deliver them.

Pointers...

Beware of *Pride*—the standards you have for yourself, that is you might have to much *pride* to ask for help when you need it.

Proverbs 18: 13, “To fear **The LORD** is to hate evil; I hate *pride* and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.”

Proverbs 11: 2, “When *pride* comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.”

Proverbs 16: 5, “**The LORD** detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.”

-- “The best things in life aren’t “things!” (Matthew 6: 33)

--Avoid being ‘materialistic’ because life is not about the newest possessions, jewelry, and money. (Luke 12: 15)

-- “Our **GOD** is a consuming fire. **HE** consumes *pride*, lust, materialism, and other sin.”

-- “**The GRACE** that has freed us from bondage to *sin* is desperately needed to free us from our bondage to materialism.”