

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
Pastor: Pastor Dwight Benoit
Superintendent: Ordained Minister Samuel O. Simon
Lesson # 7 January 10, 2023 – January 15, 2023

Unit II: GOD'S Promises

Subject: Not by Our Own Devices

Text: Isaiah 48: 3-8a, 17

Key Verse: Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord your GOD which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go (Isaiah 43: 1, KJV).

Lesson Pointers:

- 1) Deliberate (Isaiah 48: 3-5)**
- 2) Divine (Isaiah 48: 6-8a, 17)**

Introduction

Have you ever made an regrettable and unnecessary decision in your life that brought you to be sorrowful for that decision. You see, sin leaves us with that similar feeling of regret. Sin robs us of the best things that GOD has for us, sin separates us from GOD, and keeps us missing the target, and the target is to be with GOD. When we miss the target, we forfeit GOD'S blessings because we run ahead of GOD rather than waiting and trusting on HIM (GOD). We miss GOD'S peace when we place more confidence in our own wisdom than in the WORD of GOD. Being hardheaded type people we often learn our lesson the hard way, while those who obey and trust GOD'S WORD spare themselves a world of headaches and heartaches. So, let, us be mindful of GOD'S WORD and remember that it is not our own Devices that we should follow but rather the WORD of GOD.

Lesson Pointer # 1

- Deliberate (Isaiah 48: 3-5)**

The people of Israel deliberately declared that the GOD of Israel is their GOD but not in truth, nor in righteousness, and not understanding that GOD knows their hearts, and that HE (GOD) sees their sense of pride and their spiritual heritage, which causes GOD who is the True and Living GOD to respond to their ways and to remind them of what HE (GOD) declared unto them, that which was to come, and GOD consistently brought to pass the things that HE had spoken (Isaiah 48: 3). GOD knowing the stubbornness, of the people, GOD told them exactly what would happen unto them so that they would be without excuse. Those who ignores GOD'S WORD faces consequences, and they often feel as if their punishment came upon them abruptly (Isaiah 48: 4). GOD did not want the people of Israel to think that their circumstances were the work of any false god, GOD speaks, and it is done, GOD declared that it was from no other source but of GOD HIMSELF (Isaiah 48: 5). You, see, GOD in one way are another will get the people to acknowledge and honor HIS (GOD'S) power and wisdom.

Not by Our Own Devices!

Lesson Pointer # 2

- **Divine (Isaiah 48: 6-8a, 17)**

Is it not, surprising, that GOD'S own people, those who had witness HIS (GOD'S) great power and glorious acts, would become stubborn and rebellious, and remain stubborn and rebellious against HIM (GOD). GOD said unto HIS people, look back on your history, and GOD challenged them to admit to what they saw. GOD who is longsuffering, gave them every warning to save them, they were without excuse, but they (the people of Israel) refused to hear GOD. GOD did not hold their sin against them, HE forgive them, GOD vowed to tell them of other "new things" things that were hidden and unknown to them (Isaiah 48: 6). GOD was now about to speak a Word that no ear had heard, and no heart had understood. 1 Corinthians 2: 9 says, "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which GOD hath prepared for them that love him." No one would be able to boast in their religious arrogance of knowing what GOD had in store (Isaiah 48: 7). GOD said to the people of Israel that they heard not, and that they knew not, for from their time their ears were not opened (Isaiah 48: 8a). There was nothing that the people of Israel could do to compel GOD to save them. You see, GOD is a faithful GOD, and HE is faithful not because of our (human) goodness but because of HIS (GOS'S) unfailing love and mercy. As a loving and patient GOD Our Father, HE (GOD) guides us and leads us in the path of righteousness for HIS name's sake, in order for us to go the right way (Isaiah 48: 17). Surely as a loving GOD, our Father, lament the unnecessary suffering we, HIS people endure because of our rebellion and disobedience. It is very difficult for human minds to understand the missed blessings and unnecessary pitfalls that we go through simply for choosing to pull away from GOD our Father like an unruly and spoiled child. **FORGIVE US LORD, AS WE REPENT OF OUR SINS, AND TURN TO YOU, WITH EVIDENTS, AND ORDER OUR STEPS, O, LORD OUR FATHER, ACCORDING TO YOUR WELL.**

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