

August 26th, 2018
"My Glory I Will Not Give to Another"
Isaiah 48:1-11, 17-19

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

Aug 19 Jeremiah 26-29 Aug 23 Jeremiah 38-41
Aug 20 Jeremiah 30-31 Aug 24 Jeremiah 42-45
Aug 21 Jeremiah 32-34 Aug 25 Jeremiah 46-48
Aug 22 Jeremiah 35-37 Aug 26 Jeremiah 49-50

Lesson Introduction: Our lesson this week focuses on the Lord's words to His people once again, concerning their salvation from the Babylonian exile. We will see in this chapter the rebellion of God's people. When reading the early verses of our passage today, one might wonder, "why would God deliver such a nation?" The answer to that question will be found in **verses 9-11**, where we will see that the Lord is at work for the sake of His glory. Lastly, we will consider how true rest and peace comes when we walk in obedience to the Lord's commandments.

Key Memory Verses: Isaiah 48:9

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:

- We are rebellious, stiff necked people (V. 1-8).
- The Lord is gracious and merciful for the sake of His glory (V. 9-11).
- There is rest and peace in obeying the commandments of the Lord (V. 17-19).

Isaiah 48

1 Hear this, O house of Jacob,
who are called by the name of Israel,
and who came from the waters of Judah,
who swear by the name of the Lord
and confess the God of Israel,
but not in truth or right.
2 For they call themselves after the holy city,
and stay themselves on the God of Israel;
the Lord of hosts is his name.
3 "The former things I declared of old;
they went out from my mouth, and I announced them;
then suddenly I did them, and they came to pass.
4 Because I know that you are obstinate,
and your neck is an iron sinew
and your forehead brass,

5 I declared them to you from of old,
before they came to pass I announced them to you,
lest you should say, 'My idol did them,
my carved image and my metal image commanded
them.'

6 "You have heard; now see all this;
and will you not declare it?

From this time forth I announce to you new things,
hidden things that you have not known.

7 They are created now, not long ago;
before today you have never heard of them,
lest you should say, 'Behold, I knew them.'

8 You have never heard, you have never known,
from of old your ear has not been opened.
For I knew that you would surely deal treacherously,
and that from before birth you were called a rebel.

9 "For my name's sake I defer my anger;
for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you,
that I may not cut you off.

10 Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver;
I have tried you in the furnace of affliction.

11 For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it,
for how should my name be profaned?
My glory I will not give to another.

17 Thus says the Lord,
your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:
"I am the Lord your God,
who teaches you to profit,
who leads you in the way you should go.

18 Oh that you had paid attention to my
commandments!

Then your peace would have been like a river,
and your righteousness like the waves of the sea;
19 your offspring would have been like the sand,
and your descendants like its grains;
their name would never be cut off
or destroyed from before me."

Discussion Section 1: Rebellious Hearts (V. 1-8)

-What sin is Israel accused of in **verse 1**?

-What normally comes to mind when we consider the commandment, "**You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain**" (**Exodus 20:17**)? How might this passage give us a fuller picture of what it means to take the Lord's name in vain?

-How does the Lord go about dealing with these stiff-necked people in **verses 3-8**?

Note: In the early verses of our passage, we see the Lord speaking harshly of Israel's rebellion. Even after He finally delivers them from the Babylonians, many from Israel would continue to reject God, and cling to pagan practices. We see that they are a people who swear by the name of the Lord, and confess Him as the God of Israel, "**but not in truth or right**" (**V. 1**). This is one way we take the Lord's name in vain regularly. So often we associate using the Lord's name as a curse word (which is blatantly wrong, and certainly a way we can take His name in vain) as the primary way we break this commandment. But how often do we proclaim that the Lord is God, and celebrate His works by the words of our mouth, and yet the actions of our lives prove that we are not truly seeking Him (**Isaiah 29:13**)? When this is true of us, we take the Lord's name in vain. We simply relegate His name to a claim that might benefit us for a moment, rather than truly honoring Him as the Lord of our lives.

We see that the Lord is greatly displeased by the rebellion of His people, and yet He is still merciful to them, prophesying future events, and bringing those things to pass. We should consider in our lives how often the Lord has been patient with us, continually showing us through His word, through circumstances, through the testimony of others, that we desperately need Him (**2 Peter 3:9, Exodus 34:6, Nehemiah 9:16-17**). Many of us even today may be walking as stiff-necked people, who honor Him with our lips, but take His name in vain by our actions. May hearts be softened and repentance be granted as we dwell on His incredible mercy and patience with us.

Discussion Section 2: For His Name's Sake (V. 9-11)

-What is primary reason for the mercy God shows to rebellious sinners?

-What does God mean when He says, "**For my name's sake I defer my anger**" (**V. 9**)?

-Why is it a good thing that God has such zeal for His own Glory?

Note: When we consider why God shows grace and mercy towards rebellious sinners, we often default to considering the fact that He is love (**1 John 4:8**), or that He is compassionate and kind (**Psalms 78:38**). These

things are absolutely true about God, and such characteristics certainly have to do with God's incredible mercy towards us. However, our passage today shows us that God's primary reason for showing mercy, and love, and patience, is for the sake of His own name! In fact, He says it four times in three verses. The fact that He is so adamant about making this point should tell us that there is great significance in it.

Ultimately, our salvation is for God's glory (**Ephesians 1:6, Ezekiel 36:22-32, Isaiah 43:7**). God has seen fit to save us so that the world might know that He is God, and there is none like Him. There is no greater display of God's glory than in His saving grace. What is important for us to bear in mind, is the fact that God's glory and our joy are not mutually exclusive! In fact, for those who are in Christ, nothing should bring us more joy than knowing God through Christ, and making Him known (**Philippians 1:21, 3:8-10**)! Indeed, salvation **IS** the giving of "**the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ**" (**2 Corinthians 4:6**), and it is in beholding the glory of God that transformation happens daily in the life of a Christian (**2 Corinthians 3:18**). God work to bring glory to Himself is simultaneously a work to bring us transformation and complete joy in Him!

Discussion Section 3: The Blessings of Obedience (V. 17-19)

-What does **V. 17** tell us about Lord's commandments?

-What things are listed in **verses 18-19** as blessings of obedience to the commands of God?

Note: These last few verses speak once again to the easy yoke of the Lord (**Matthew 11:28-30**). God's commandments to us are not meant to weigh us down, but to give us rest (**1 John 5:2-4**). When we are saved by the grace of God, He calls us into fullness of life as we live (by the power of the Spirit) in obedience to all that He has said (**Matthew 28:20, Romans 6:1-4**). When we are saved by Christ, it should no longer feel burdensome to us to be obedient, but rather, we should take great joy in knowing that abundant life is found in obedience to Him (**John 10:10**)!