### Isaiah

## Chapter 48

[Editor Note: The text says that much of the following is not being spoken by God, but by ‘the Lord,’ who communicated God’s words. So, we have not capitalized the personal pronouns where we think he was speaking.]   
  
1‘So, pay attention, O house of Jacob…  
 Yes, you who are called by IsraEl’s name…  
 You who’ve come from the waters of Judah…  
 You who swear oaths by IsraEl’s God…  
 2You who’ve forgotten justice and truth…  
 You who view your city as holy  
 And lean upon IsraEl’s God,  
 Whose Name is Jehovah of Armies!  
  
 3‘For I’m saying the same things that I’ve said before…  
 I’m saying the same things that came from my mouth…  
 The things that you heard and then happened…  
 The things that I spoke and then came to be!  
  
 4‘I know that you’re a hard [people]…  
 That the nerves in your necks are like iron  
 And your heads are [as solid as] bronze.  
  
 5‘I told you in the past what would happen  
 Long before it all came to be.  
 I shouted it loudly, so you couldn’t say:  
  
 ‘This was done by my idols;  
 Yes, my carved idols foretold it!’  
  
 6‘But, although you heard it, you didn’t understand,  
 And now that I’m telling you new things;  
 You’ve not spoken a word in reply.  
  
 7‘For the things that I’ve said will happen to you  
 Won’t be the same as were done in the past…  
 They’ll not be the same as they were long ago  
 Or the same as I told you before,  
 So you cannot say that you already knew.  
  
 8‘Yes, these are things that you haven’t known  
 Since the time that I opened your ears long ago,  
 And which I already knew that you’d disregard.  
 For, since you were called from the belly,  
 You’ve continued in your lawless ways.  
  
 9‘[For Jehovah says]:  
  
 ‘Because of My Name, I’m sending My rage…  
 My noble deeds, I’ll be bringing upon you…  
 Yet, I won’t completely wipe you away.  
  
 10‘{Look!} With silver, I’ve never bartered for you,  
 But I saved you from poverty’s furnace.  
 11And now, because of Myself, I will act…  
 Because My Name is being profaned,  
 And My glory I’ll not give to others!  
  
 12‘So, hear Me, O Jacob, O IsraEl…  
 Yes you, the ones whom I’ve called…  
 I’m from the beginning and into the ages!  
  
 13‘The foundation of the earth, I laid with my hands,  
 And with my right hand, I fixed the skies.  
 So I’ll call to them and they’ll gather…  
 14They’ll assemble and listen together!  
  
 ‘But now, I’ll also speak of the things  
 That I’m bringing against Babylon  
 Because of my love for you…  
 For I’ll lift away the offspring of Chaldea!  
  
 15‘I’m the one who spoke and called out to you…  
 I’m the one who prospered your ways.  
 16So, turn your ears and hear what I’m saying!  
 What I said long ago wasn’t a secret,  
 For I was there when it happened.’  
  
 ‘But now, I’ve been sent by Jehovah, the Lord  
 Along with His [Holy] Breath.  
 17And thus says Jehovah, your Savior…  
 IsraEl’s Most Holy One:  
  
 ‘I am Jehovah your God,  
 I’m the One who showed you the right ways to go.  
 18And if you’d obeyed My Commandments,  
 Your peace would have flowed like a river,  
 And your righteous ways as the waves of the seas.  
  
 19‘Your offspring would have been like the sands…  
 Those from your bellies, as the dust on the ground.  
 You would never have met with destruction,  
 And your names would not be erased.’  
  
 20‘But, after all of this has happened to you,  
 You’ll get up and leave Babylon…  
 Yes, you will flee from Chaldea!  
 Thus, in joy, announce this out loud  
 So that all will know what will happen!  
 Yes, send the report to the ends of the earth  
 That Jehovah will save Jacob, His servant!  
 21And when they get thirsty in their trek through the desert,  
 He’ll bring them water out of a rock!  
  
 ‘For I’ll split the rock and water will flow,  
 And then, My people will drink it…  
 22But the godless will not rejoice over this,  
 Says Jehovah, [your God].’