

## CHAPTER 20

*The Lord reveals His purposes to Israel—Israel has been chosen in the furnace of affliction and is to go forth from Babylon—Compare Isaiah 48. About 588–570 B.C.*

1 <sup>a</sup>Hearken and hear this, O house of Jacob, who are called by the name of Israel, and are come forth out of the waters of Judah, or out of the waters of <sup>b</sup>baptism, who <sup>c</sup>swear by the name of the Lord, and make mention of the God of Israel, yet they swear <sup>d</sup>not in truth nor in righteousness.

2 Nevertheless, they call themselves of the <sup>a</sup>holy city, but they do <sup>b</sup>not stay themselves upon the God of Israel, who is the Lord of Hosts; yea, the Lord of Hosts is his name.

3 Behold, I have declared the <sup>a</sup>former things from the beginning; and they went forth out of my mouth, and I showed them. I did show them suddenly.

4 And I did it because I knew that thou art obstinate, and thy <sup>a</sup>neck is an iron sinew, and thy brow brass;

5 And I have even from the beginning declared to thee; before it came to pass I <sup>a</sup>showed them thee; and I showed them for fear lest thou shouldst say—Mine idol hath done them, and my graven image, and my molten image hath commanded them.

6 Thou hast seen and heard all this; and will ye <sup>a</sup>not declare them? And that I have showed thee new things from this time, even hidden things, and thou didst not know them.

7 They are created now, and not from the beginning, even before the day when thou heardest them not they were declared unto thee, lest thou shouldst say—Behold I knew them.

8 Yea, and thou heardest not; yea, thou knewest not; yea, from that time thine ear was not opened; for I knew that thou wouldst deal very treacherously, and wast called a <sup>a</sup>transgressor from the womb.

9 Nevertheless, for my <sup>a</sup>name's sake will I defer mine anger, and for my praise will I refrain from thee, that I cut thee not off.

10 For, behold, I have refined thee, I have chosen thee in the furnace of <sup>a</sup>affliction.

11 For mine own sake, yea, for mine own sake will I do this, for I will not suffer my <sup>a</sup>name to be polluted, and I will <sup>b</sup>not give my glory unto another.

12 Hearken unto me, O Jacob, and Israel my called, for I am he; I am the <sup>a</sup>first, and I am also the last.

13 Mine hand hath also <sup>a</sup>laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens. I <sup>b</sup>call unto them and they stand up together.

14 All ye, assemble yourselves, and hear; who among them hath declared these things unto them? The Lord hath loved him; yea, and he will <sup>a</sup>fulfil his word which he hath declared by them; and he will do his pleasure on <sup>b</sup>Babylon, and his arm shall come upon the Chaldeans.

15 Also, saith the Lord; I the Lord, yea, I have spoken; yea, I have called <sup>a</sup>him to declare, I have brought him, and he shall make his way prosperous.

16 Come ye near unto me; I have not spoken in <sup>a</sup>secret; from the beginning, from the time that it was declared have I spoken; and the Lord God, and his <sup>b</sup>Spirit, hath sent me.

17 And thus saith the Lord, thy <sup>a</sup>Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I have sent him, the Lord thy God who teacheth thee to profit, who <sup>b</sup>leadeth thee by the way thou shouldst go, hath done it.

18 O that thou hadst hearkened to my <sup>a</sup>commandments—then had thy <sup>b</sup>peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea.

19 Thy <sup>a</sup>seed also had been as the sand; the offspring of thy bowels like the gravel thereof; his name should not have been cut off nor destroyed from before me.

20 <sup>a</sup>Go ye forth of Babylon, flee ye from the <sup>b</sup>Chaldeans, with a voice of singing declare ye, tell this, utter to the end of the earth; say ye: The Lord hath redeemed his <sup>c</sup>servant Jacob.

21 And they <sup>a</sup>thirsted not; he led them through the deserts; he caused the waters to flow out of the <sup>b</sup>rock for them; he clave the rock also and the waters gushed out.

22 And notwithstanding he hath done all this, and greater also, there is no <sup>a</sup>peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked.