

Life Group Discussion Guide

Isaiah: Yahweh Alone Is God
Week 8: The Fall of Empire • Isaiah 47

Read Isaiah 47 together. Focus on recurring themes, words, and phrases. As you reflect on this passage and Pastor Jon's message, what are your initial impressions or takeaways? What stood out to you most?

Doomed

Isaiah 47:1-4 Babylon's imminent fall is depicted as it is brought down from its throne. The city is described as being stripped of its power and dignity, and forced into labor and shame. The city's former glory and pride are contrasted with its impending humiliation and desolation.

- How does **Isaiah 47:1-4** describe the transformation of Babylon from a powerful city to one of disgrace?
- Pastor Jon said that Babylon's pride led to its downfall. How do you see pride affecting individuals, cultures, and societies today?
- How does the imagery of Babylon sitting in the dust reflect the consequences of pride? Have you seen similar outcomes in your own experiences? How has God worked through those circumstances?

Defiant

Isaiah 47:5-9 Babylon's arrogance and sense of invulnerability are on full display. The city believed in its eternal dominion, showing no mercy to those it oppressed. Despite God's anger towards his people, he holds Babylon accountable for its cruelty and pride. Babylon's defiance is characterized by a false sense of permanence and self-sufficiency.

- Why is it significant that Babylon, once a queen, is now portrayed as a slave? How does this reversal speak to God's justice?
- How does Babylon's attitude illustrate the dangers of defiance against God?
- Pastor Jon talked about the intoxicating effects of power. He said, "*A perennial problem for powerful people is that they feel indestructible and unaccountable.*" Yet God says that no empire, nation, or individual is unaccountable. How does relying on things other than God lead to a false sense of security? Share an example from your life or observations.

Deceived

Isaiah 47:10-15 Babylon's reliance on sorcery and wisdom is mocked. The city's false sense of security and belief in its permanence are shattered by God's judgment. The futility of Babylon's efforts to avert disaster through magic and astrology is exposed. No human power can stand against God's will. The prophet sarcastically challenges Babylon to use its magic to prevent its inevitable fall.

- In what ways does Babylon's story illustrate the pervasive nature of sin in our world?
- What does God's response to Babylon's sense of invulnerability teach us about the nature of divine judgment? What aspects of God's character are highlighted through his judgment of Babylon?
- Pastor Jon shared this week's **big idea—there is only room for one king**. He emphasized that our allegiance should be to Jesus and God's kingdom above all. How does this align with or challenge your current view of national loyalty?
- Share an area where you want to grow in humility and reliance on God. Spend some time in prayer, asking God to reveal any areas of deception or defiance in your life. Pray for a deeper trust in his sovereignty and wisdom.

