

## Isaiah 48 -- Yes, I have called him

**1** "Listen to this, you descendants of Jacob, you who are called by the name of Israel and come from the line of Judah, you who take oaths in the name of the Lord and invoke the God of Israel— but not in truth or righteousness—  
**2** you who call yourselves citizens of the holy city and claim to rely on the God of Israel— the Lord Almighty is his name: This chapter is not for atheists, it is not even for agnostics. This chapter is for those who say they are believers, say they are sons of Abraham by faith, they invoke the name of God, but not in truth. **3** I foretold the former things long ago, my mouth announced them and I made them known; then suddenly I acted, and they came to pass. For example, the Lord said that when we saw the fig tree sprout we knew summer was near, well in the same way when we see Israel sprout again we would know the end of the age was near. This happened suddenly in 1948. What people seem to have forgotten were all the "Christians" explaining that this is not what that prophecy meant just a few years prior. Even right before it happened there were those trying to say this is not what the Lord meant just because it seemed impossible. Even today there are those who claim to be "Christians" but don't believe the story concerning Noah's ark. Two thousand years ago the Lord said that the end of this age would be like the days of Noah. Imagine how impossible that would be if Noah never happened in the first place. Never mind that in the last 50 years the archaeological evidence has piled up to where it is overwhelmingly supports this story. How stupid do you have to appear to be a "Christian" saying it never happened when even scientists and atheists are telling you it did. **4** For I knew how stubborn you were; your neck muscles were iron, your forehead was bronze. **5** Therefore I told you these things long ago; before they happened I announced them to you so that you could not say, 'My images brought them about; my wooden image and metal god ordained them.' I have heard "Christians" saying that the prophecies are not important, whether you believe them or not, whether you understand them or not, whether you know them or not, it doesn't matter. All that matters is that you are born again. **6** You have heard these things; look at them all. Will you not admit them? Yes, all that matters is that you have faith in Jesus Christ, Lord of all, the omnipotent and omniscient God. Stop making excuses for your unbelief. "From now on I will tell you of new things, of hidden things unknown to you. **7** They are created now, and not long ago; you have not heard of them before today. One of my favorite examples is this: **Joel 2:6** At the sight of them, nations are in anguish; every

face turns pale. **7** They charge like warriors; they scale walls like soldiers. They all march in line, not swerving from their course. **8** They do not jostle each other; each marches straight ahead. They plunge through defenses without breaking ranks. Very hard, even impossible to know what this could refer to until Covid19. It was a pandemic, that means all the nations were in anguish. Not just a local war or battle. The virus is able to "charge like warriors" striking suddenly in some place like Italy or NY. They also scale walls, seemingly able to get everywhere, even into the houses of kings and prime ministers. What was our defense against this army? Well we all marched in a line, no one jostled each other. That is a perfect description of social distancing. Our defense was to not break ranks, yet the Corona virus has plunged on through. So you cannot say, 'Yes, I knew of them.' **8** You have neither heard nor understood; from of old your ears have not been open. It is very easy to read the commentaries and see that no one knew what he was talking about. Well do I know how treacherous you are; you were called a rebel from birth. **9** For my own name's sake I delay my wrath; for the sake of my praise I hold it back from you, so as not to destroy you completely. Every knee is going to bow, every tongue is going to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Every verse sings His praise. **10** See, I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. We are refined in the trial of affliction, poverty, hard times. We are children of the king but were not born with a silver spoon. Being poor is not a curse, it is the way in which God refines the unbelief out of us. **11** For my own sake, for my own sake, I do this. You know how your dad says "this is gonna hurt me more than you"? Imagine being the Lord of the universe and having these poor children who don't even realize who they are. The real poverty is their unbelief. They are poor in faith. You think you are suffering, think of the suffering God is going through. How can I let myself be defamed? I will not yield my glory to another. **12** "Listen to me, Jacob, Israel, whom I have called: I am he; I am the first and I am the last. **13** My own hand laid the foundations of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens; when I summon them, they all stand up together. We are about to see God do glorious things, astounding things. He will put to shame all those who have defamed Him. **14** "Come together, all of you, and listen: Which of the idols has foretold these things? Has anyone noticed how silent it has gotten? Every year prophets will predict the coming year. Did anyone of them foretell this year? The funniest one is with the Governor of Florida. He is boasting that they told him if he reopened the state in two weeks he would have a crisis on his hand. Well two weeks later he is

crowing that there is no crisis. Of course after three weeks there was. **The Lord's chosen ally will carry out his purpose against Babylon; his arm will be against the Babylonians.** The book of revelation gives us two different pictures of Babylon, like two sides to the same coin. On one side in Revelation 18 Babylon would be the world's stock markets. On the other hand it is the world's "one religion". Apparently in the UAE the Catholics, Christians and Muslims are building a worship center called "Abraham's house" to house all three. This is the motivation for them to sign the Abraham peace accord with Israel. It is all about business development. It has become abundantly clear, the "one religion" of the world is to worship the "almighty dollar". The Almighty God is not going to yield his glory to some wooden idol or molten image. You will see the world's economy collapse and the dollar crash with it. **15 I, even I, have spoken; yes, I have called him. I will bring him, and he will succeed in his mission.** When Trump said he was going to negotiate peace in the Middle East we thought that was a joke. Yes God foretold this 2,000 years ago but no one saw this coming, no one thought he had a prayer. But what is even more unbelievable, God called Trump to succeed in his mission? It is unbelievable and yet He says "yes, I have called him". How many people assured us that "Trump would not be President". So you can't say now "yes, I knew of him". **16 "Come near me and listen to this: "From the first announcement I have not spoken in secret; at the time it happens, I am there."** These are some of the most famous prophecies in the world. Every Christian knows them. This wasn't done in secret and yet no one saw it coming and they are shocked when it happens. **And now the Sovereign Lord has sent me, endowed with his Spirit.** There are other prophecies that are very well known, there are other witnesses that will be sent. You were told, it wasn't in secret, and yet you will not be able to say "yes, I knew him". The Lord is not going to share His glory with anyone. **17 This is what the Lord says— your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go. 18 If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your well-being like the waves of the sea. 19 Your descendants would have been like the sand, your children like its numberless grains; their name would never be blotted out nor destroyed from before me."** We have a history of making mistakes, making the wrong choices. Seeing these prophecies fulfilled should help you realize that mistake and have faith in the Lord. He knows which way we should go. **20 Leave Babylon, flee from the Babylonians! Announce this with shouts of joy and proclaim it. Send it out to**

the ends of the earth; say, "The Lord has redeemed his servant Jacob." **21**  
They did not thirst when he led them through the deserts; he made water  
flow for them from the rock; he split the rock and water gushed out. He is  
going to lead us through the desert. In contrast Babylon sits on many  
waters. But God has done it before and we didn't thirst then either. **22**  
"There is no peace," says the Lord, "for the wicked." No justice, no peace.