

#### 4 Ezra 15.46-63

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And you, **Asia, who share in the glamour of Babylon** and the glory of her person -- <sup>47</sup> woe to you, miserable wretch! For **you have made yourself like her**; you have decked out your daughters in harlotry to please and glory in your lovers, who have always lusted after you. <sup>48</sup> **You have imitated that hateful harlot** in all her deeds and devices; therefore **God says, <sup>49</sup> "I will send evils upon you, widowhood, poverty, famine, sword, and pestilence, to lay waste your houses and bring you to destruction and death.** <sup>50</sup> And the glory of your power shall wither like a flower, when the heat rises that is sent upon you. <sup>51</sup> You shall be weakened like a wretched woman who is beaten and wounded, so that you cannot receive your mighty lovers. <sup>52</sup> **Would I have dealt with you so violently," says the Lord, <sup>53</sup> "If you had not always killed my chosen people, exulting and clapping your hands and talking about their death when you were drunk? <sup>54</sup> Trick out the beauty of your face! <sup>55</sup> The reward of a harlot is in your bosom, therefore you shall receive your recompense.** <sup>56</sup> As you will do to my chosen people," says the Lord, "so God will do to you, and will hand you over to adversities. <sup>57</sup> Your children shall die of hunger, and you shall fall by the sword, and your cities shall be wiped out, and all your people who are in the open country shall fall by the sword. <sup>58</sup> And those who are in the mountains and highlands shall perish of hunger, and they shall eat their own flesh in hunger for bread and drink their own blood in thirst for water. <sup>59</sup> Unhappy above all others, you shall come and suffer fresh afflictions. <sup>60</sup> **And as they pass they shall wreck the hateful city, and shall destroy a part of your land and abolish a portion of your glory, as they return from devastated Babylon.** <sup>61</sup> And you shall be broken down by them like stubble, and they shall be like fire to you. <sup>62</sup> **And they shall devour you and your cities,** your land and your mountains; they shall burn with fire all your forests and your fruitful trees. <sup>63</sup> They shall carry your children away captive, **and shall plunder your wealth, and abolish the glory of your countenance."**