

# Isaiah 47:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children:

## Analysis

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The self-deification 'I am, and none else beside me' parodies God's covenant name (Exodus 3:14) and claims absolute autonomy. The boasts 'I shall not sit as a widow' and 'I shall not know the loss of children' deny vulnerability and dependence, which are inevitable in a fallen world. This epitomizes unregenerate humanity's pretension to god-like self-sufficiency.

## Historical Context

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Babylon's goddess Ishtar claimed to prevent widowhood and child-loss, and the city's massive defensive system seemed to guarantee security. The sudden overthrow by Cyrus demonstrated the futility of both religious and military self-confidence.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. In what subtle ways do you echo Babylon's 'I am' boast in areas of life where you feel self-sufficient?
2. How does recognizing your inevitable 'widowhood' and 'loss' drive you to depend on God?

## Interlinear Text

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וְעַתָּה	שְׁמֻעֵי	זֶה	אַתָּה	עָדִינָה
H6258	Therefore hear	H2063	now this thou that art given to pleasures	H5719
	H8085			
אַשְׁבָּה	לֹכֶדֶת	בְּלֹבֶבֶת	בְּלֹבֶבֶת	
beside me I shall not sit	carelessly	that sayest	in thine heart	H589
H3427	H983	H559	H3824	
אַלְמַנָּה	אַשְׁבָּה	אַלְמַנָּה	אַלְמַנָּה	
I am and none else	beside me I shall not sit	as a widow	as a widow	H3808
H657	H3427	H490		
שְׁכֹלָה	אֵל עָ			
neither shall I know	the loss of children			
H3045	H7908			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Zephaniah 2:15** (Parallel theme): This is the rejoicing city that dwelt carelessly, that said in her heart, I am, and there is none beside me: how is she become a desolation, a place for beasts to lie down in! every one that passeth by her shall hiss, and wag his hand.

**Isaiah 32:9** (Parallel theme): Rise up, ye women that are at ease; hear my voice, ye careless daughters; give ear unto my speech.

**Isaiah 47:10** (Parallel theme): For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me.

**Isaiah 45:6** (Parallel theme): That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else.

**Jeremiah 50:11** (Parallel theme): Because ye were glad, because ye rejoiced, O ye destroyers of mine heritage, because ye are grown fat as the heifer at grass, and bellow as bulls;

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