

# Isaiah 50 - The Sufferings of the Servant of Jehovah

## III. Prophecies of comfort (Is 40:1—66:24)

### (2) Israel's deliverer (Is 49:1—57:21)

#### (B) Obedient servant contrasted with disobedient Israel (50:1-11)

(a) Israel's disobedience (50:1-3)

(b) Servant's obedience (50:4-9)

(c) Servant's exhortation to trust God (50:10-11)

## Isaiah 50

(B) Obedient servant contrasted with disobedient Israel (50:1-11)

(a) Israel's disobedience (50:1-3)

**1** This is what the LORD says: "Where is the **certificate of divorce** By which I have sent your mother away? Or to whom of My creditors did I sell you? Behold, you were sold for your wrongdoings, And for your wrongful acts your mother was sent away.

**1** Thus says the LORD, "Where is the certificate of divorce By which I have sent your mother away? Or to whom of My creditors did I sell you? Behold, you were sold for your iniquities, And for your transgressions your mother was sent away.

**1** This is what the LORD says: "Where is your mother's certificate of divorce with which I sent her away? Or to which of my creditors did I sell you? Look! It's because of your sins that you were sold, and because of your transgressions that your mother was sent away.

**1** Thus saith the LORD, Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement, whom I have put away? or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away.

- Idiom of the nation of Israel

— Spoken of as the wife that is unfaithful because she went whoring after false gods

— Implies that the Lord would be justified in divorcing her, but notes that He hasn't

- "...certificate of divorce" - Cf. Deut 24:1; Jer 3:8; Hosea 2:2

**2** "Why was there no one when I came? When I called, *why* was there no one to answer? Is My hand so short that it cannot redeem? Or do I have no power to rescue? Behold, I dry up the sea with My rebuke, I turn rivers into a wilderness; Their fish stink for lack of water, And die of thirst.

2 "Why was there no man when I came? When I called, *why* was there none to answer? Is My hand so short that it cannot ransom? Or have I no power to deliver? Behold, I dry up the sea with My rebuke, I make the rivers a wilderness; Their fish stink for lack of water And die of thirst.

2 Why is it that when I came, no one was there? Why was there no answer when I called? Was my arm<sup>1</sup> too short to redeem you? Do I lack the strength to rescue you? Look! By my mere rebuke I dry up the sea, I turn rivers into a desert. Their fish stink for lack of water and die of thirst.

2 Wherefore, when I came, was there no man? when I called, was there none to answer? Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver? behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinketh, because there is no water, and dieth for thirst.

3 "I clothe the heavens with blackness, And make sackcloth their covering."

3 "I clothe the heavens with blackness And make sackcloth their covering."

3 I clothe the skies with darkness and make sackcloth their covering."

3 I clothe the heavens with blackness, and I make sackcloth their covering.

### **The Servant Songs of the Messiah (Is 42:1-9; 49:1-7; 50:4-9; 52:13—53:12)**

These four passages present as complete a picture of the Messiah as you'll find anywhere in Scripture, Old Testament or New.

#### **(b) Servant's obedience (50:4-9)**

4 The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of disciples, So that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens *Me* morning by morning, He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple.

4 The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of disciples, That I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens *Me* morning by morning, He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple.

4 "The Lord GOD has given me a learned tongue, so that I may know how to sustain the weary with words. And morning after morning he wakens, and he wakens my ear to listen like those who are being taught.

4 The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.

5 The Lord GOD has **opened** My ear, And I was not disobedient, Nor did I turn back.

5 The Lord GOD has opened My ear; And I was not disobedient Nor did I turn back.

5 My Lord GOD has opened my ears, and I did not rebel; I did not shrink back.

5 The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.

- "...opened" - pierced

-- In those days, if you were in debt you were in service until either the debt was paid or the Jubilee year. At that point you would be free to go.

-- However, often by this point, the servant could voluntarily choose to serve the house for the rest of his life. This kind of a servant was called a "bondslave" which was a position of merit.

-- The ceremony which established that relationship was to take an awl and pierce the ear of the slave to the doorpost of the house (both Paul and John use the term "bondslave" (*duolos*) of themselves to Jesus Christ)

6 I gave My back to those who strike Me, And My cheeks to those who pull out My beard; I did not hide My face from insults and spitting.

6 I gave My back to those who strike Me, And My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting.

6 I gave my back to those who beat me and my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard. I did not turn away my face from insults and spitting.

6 I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.

- They plucked off His beard! (i.e., Neh 13:25); Zech 13:6 (Thomas' doubt?)

— Does Jesus Christ bear the scars of His humiliation? Yes, see the Gospels and Rev 5:6, "the Lamb as it had been slain."

7 For the Lord GOD helps Me, Therefore, I am not disgraced; Therefore, I have made My face like flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.

7 For the Lord GOD helps Me, Therefore, I am not disgraced; Therefore, I have set My face like flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.

7 For the Lord GOD helps me, so I won't be disgraced. Therefore I've made my face like flint, and I know that I won't be put to shame."

7 For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.

8 He who vindicates Me is near; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand up to each other. Who has a case against Me? Let him approach Me.

8 He who vindicates Me is near; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand up to each other; Who has a case against Me? Let him draw near to Me.

8 The one who vindicates me is near. Who, then, will bring a charge against me? Let's face each other! Who has a case against me? Let him confront me!

8 He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who is mine adversary? let him come near to me.

9 Behold, the Lord GOD helps Me; Who is he who condemns Me? Behold, they will all wear out like a garment; A moth will eat them.

9 Behold, the Lord GOD helps Me; Who is he who condemns Me? Behold, they will all wear out like a garment; The moth will eat them.

9 See! It is the Lord GOD who will help me. Who is it that will declare me guilty? See! They will all wear out like a garment; moths will eat them up.

9 Behold, the Lord GOD will help me; who is he that shall condemn me? lo, they all shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up.

(c) Servant's exhortation to trust God (50:10-11)

10 Who is among you who fears the LORD, Who obeys the voice of His servant, Who walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.

10 Who is among you that fears the LORD, That obeys the voice of His servant, That walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.

10 Who among you fears the LORD, obeying the voice of his servant, who among you walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD, and rely upon his God.

10 Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.

11 Behold, all you who kindle a fire, Who encircle yourselves with flaming arrows, Walk in the light of your fire And among the flaming arrows you have set ablaze. This you will have from My hand: You will lie down in torment.

11 Behold, all you who kindle a fire, Who encircle yourselves with firebrands, Walk in the light of your fire And among the brands you have set ablaze. This you will have from My hand: You will lie down in torment.

11 Look! All those who light a fire, who surround yourselves with flaming torches— walk by the light of your fire, and by the torches that you have set ablaze! This is what you will receive from my hand: you will lie down in torment.

11 Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourselves about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow.