

Isaiah 51 - Deliverance for Zion; A Promise of Return to the Land

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

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

(C) God provides reasons why Judah should trust Him (Is 51:1–52:12)

(a) Commands to listen (51:1-8)

(i) Israel's history (51:1-3)

(ii) God's character and power (51:4-6)

(iii) God's righteousness will endure (51:7-8)

(b) Commands to awaken (Is 51:9–52:12)

(i) To God's power as displayed in creation (51:9-16)

(ii) To God's wrath being given to Judah's tormentor (51:17-23)

Isaiah 51

(C) God provides reasons why Judah should trust Him (Is 51:1–52:12)

(a) Commands to listen (51:1-8)

(i) Israel's history (51:1-3)

1 "Listen to Me, you who pursue righteousness, Who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were cut, And to the quarry from which you were dug.

1 "Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, Who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were hewn And to the quarry from which you were dug.

1 "Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD! Look to the rock from which you were cut, to the quarry from which you were hewn.

1 Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.

2 "Look to Abraham your father And to Sarah who gave birth to you in pain; When *he* was *only* one I called him, Then I blessed him and multiplied him."

2 "Look to Abraham your father And to Sarah who gave birth to you in pain; When *he* was *but* one I called him, Then I blessed him and multiplied him."

2 Look to Abraham your father, and to Sarah who gave you birth. For when he was only one person I called him, but I made him fruitful and made him many.

2 Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him.

3 Indeed, the LORD will comfort Zion; He will comfort all her ruins. And He will make her wilderness like **Eden**, And her desert like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness will be found in her, Thanksgiving and the sound of a melody.

3 Indeed, the LORD will comfort Zion; He will comfort all her waste places. And her wilderness He will make like Eden, And her desert like the garden of the LORD; Joy and gladness will be found in her, Thanksgiving and sound of a melody.

3 For the LORD will have compassion on Zion, have compassion on all her ruins. He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her deserts like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving, and the sound of singing. Sorrow and sighing will flee away.

3 For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

- "...Eden" - Gen 13:10; Joel 2:3; Ezek 28:13; 29:8-9,16,18. Cf. Rev 5:8; 14:2; 15:2

(ii) God's character and power (51:4-6)

4 "Pay attention to Me, My people, And listen to Me, My nation; For a law will go out from Me, And I will bring My justice as a light of the peoples.

4 "Pay attention to Me, O My people, And give ear to Me, O My nation; For a law will go forth from Me, And I will set My justice for a light of the peoples.

4 "Pay attention to me, my people! Listen to me, my nation! For instruction will go out from me, and my justice will become a light for the nations. I will quickly bring

4 Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people.

5 "My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth, And My arms will judge the peoples; The coastlands will wait for Me, And they will wait expectantly for My arm.

5 "My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth, And My arms will judge the peoples; The coastlands will wait for Me, And for My arm they will wait expectantly.

5 my deliverance near; my salvation is on the way. His arm will bring justice to the nations; the coastlands will hope for him, and they will wait for his arm.

5 My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust.

6 "Raise your eyes to the sky, Then look to the earth beneath; For the sky will vanish like smoke, And the earth will wear out like a garment And its inhabitants will die in the same way. But My salvation will be forever, And My righteousness will not fail.

6 "Lift up your eyes to the sky, Then look to the earth beneath; For the sky will vanish like smoke, And the earth will wear out like a garment And its inhabitants will die in like manner; But My salvation will be forever, And My righteousness will not wane.

6 "Lift up your eyes, you heavens and look to the earth beneath; and see who created these. Its inhabitants will die just like this; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never fail.

6 Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished.

(iii) God's righteousness will endure (51:7-8)

7 "Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, A people in whose heart is My Law; Do not fear the taunting of people, Nor be terrified of their abuses.

7 "Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, A people in whose heart is My law; Do not fear the reproach of man, Nor be dismayed at their revilings.

7 Listen to me, you who know righteousness, you people who have my instruction in their hearts. Don't fear the insults of mortals, and don't be dismayed at their hateful words.

7 Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings.

8 "For the moth will eat them like a garment; Yes, the moth will eat them like wool. But My righteousness will be forever, And My salvation to all generations."

8 "For the moth will eat them like a garment, And the grub will eat them like wool. But My righteousness will be forever, And My salvation to all generations."

8 For moths will eat them up just like a garment, and worms will devour them like wool; but my deliverance will last forever, and my salvation to all generations.

8 For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: but my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation.

(b) Commands to awaken (Is 51:9—52:12)

(i) To God's power as displayed in creation (51:9-16)

9 Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; Awake as in the days of old, the generations of long ago. Was it not You who cut **Rahab** in pieces, Who pierced the **dragon**?

9 Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; Awake as in the days of old, the generations of long ago. Was it not You who cut Rahab in pieces, Who pierced the dragon?

9 "Awake! Awake! Clothe yourself with strength, you arm of the LORD! Awake, as in days gone by, as in generations of long ago. Was it not you who split apart Rehob, who pierced that sea monster through?

9 Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon?

- "...Rahab" - proud one; Egypt (Ps 87:4; 89:10)

- "...dragon" - sea monster, leviathan (Job)

10 Was it not You who dried up the sea, The waters of the great deep; Who made the depths of the sea a pathway For the redeemed to cross over?

10 Was it not You who dried up the sea, The waters of the great deep; Who made the depths of the sea a pathway For the redeemed to cross over?

10 Was it not you who dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep, who made a road in the depths of the sea so that the redeemed could cross over?"

10 Art thou not it which hath dried the sea, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over?

11 And the redeemed of the LORD will return And come to Zion with joyful shouting, And everlasting joy *will be* on their heads. They will obtain gladness and joy, And sorrow and sighing will flee away.

11 So the ransomed of the LORD will return And come with joyful shouting to Zion, And everlasting joy *will be* on their heads. They will obtain gladness and joy, And sorrow and sighing will flee away.

11 "The scattered ones of the LORD will return, and they will enter Zion with singing. Everlasting joy will be upon their heads; they will attain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

11 Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

God's Answer

12 "I, I Myself, am He who comforts you. Who are you that you are afraid of mortal man, And of a son of man *who is made like* grass,

12 "I, even I, am He who comforts you. Who are you that you are afraid of man who dies And of the son of man who is made like grass,

12 "I—yes, I—am the one who comforts you. Who are you, that you are so afraid of humans who will die, descendants of mere men, who have been made like grass?

12 I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass;

13 That you have forgotten the LORD your Maker, Who stretched out the heavens And laid the foundations of the earth, That you fear continually all day long because of the fury of the oppressor, As he makes ready to destroy? And where is the rage of the oppressor?

13 That you have forgotten the LORD your Maker, Who stretched out the heavens And laid the foundations of the earth, That you fear continually all day long because of the fury of the oppressor, As he makes ready to destroy? But where is the fury of the oppressor?

13 As a result, you have forgotten the LORD who made you, who stretched out the heavens and laid the earth's foundations, and you live in constant fear every day because of the oppressor's fury, since he's ready to destroy. Now where is the oppressor's fury?

13 And forgettest the LORD thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? and where is the fury of the oppressor?

14 The exile will soon be set free, and will not die in the dungeon, nor will his bread be lacking.

14 The exile will soon be set free, and will not die in the dungeon, nor will his bread be lacking.

14 Distress will quickly be set free. He won't die in the Pit, nor will he lack food."

14 The captive exile hasteneth that he may be loosed, and that he should not die in the pit, nor that his bread should fail.

15 For I am the LORD your God, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar (the LORD of armies is His name).

15 For I am the LORD your God, who stirs up the sea and its waves roar (the LORD of hosts is His name).

15 "For I am the LORD your God, who churns up the sea, so that its waves roar, 'The LORD of the Heavenly Armies is his name.'

15 But I am the LORD thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared: The LORD of hosts is his name.

16 And I have put My words in your mouth and have covered you with the shadow of My hand, to establish the heavens, to found the earth, and to say to Zion, 'You are My people.'"

16 I have put My words in your mouth and have covered you with the shadow of My hand, to establish the heavens, to found the earth, and to say to Zion, 'You are My people.'"

16 I have put my words in your mouth and have covered you with the shadow of my hand, so that I could plant the heavens and lay the earth's foundations, to say to Zion, 'You are my people.'

16 And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people.

(ii) To God's wrath being given to Judah's tormentor (51:17-23)

17 Pull yourself up! Pull yourself up! Arise, Jerusalem! You who have drunk from the LORD'S hand the cup of His anger; The chalice of staggering you have drunk to the dregs.

17 Rouse yourself! Rouse yourself! Arise, O Jerusalem, You who have drunk from the LORD's hand the cup of His anger; The chalice of reeling you have drained to the dregs.

17 "Awake, Awake! Stand up, Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the LORD's hand from the cup that is his anger. You have drunk to the dregs the cup that makes you stagger, and have drained it.

17 Awake, awake, stand up, O Jerusalem, which hast drunk at the hand of the LORD the cup of his fury; thou hast drunken the dregs of the cup of trembling, and wrung them out.

18 There is no one to guide her among all the sons *to whom* she has given birth, Nor is there anyone to take her by the hand among all the sons she has raised.

18 There is none to guide her among all the sons she has borne, Nor is there one to take her by the hand among all the sons she has reared.

18 There is no one to guide you out of all the children she bore, no one to take her by the hand out of all the children she brought up.

18 There is none to guide her among all the sons whom she hath brought forth; neither is there any that taketh her by the hand of all the sons that she hath brought up.

- Second of three: "Awake, awake" (Is 51:9; 51:17; 52:1)

- Leaders fled (Jer 43:5-7)

19 These two things have happened to you; Who will mourn for you? The devastation and destruction, famine and sword; How shall I comfort you?

19 These two things have befallen you; Who will mourn for you? The devastation and destruction, famine and sword; How shall I comfort you?

19 "These twin things have come upon you (who can feel sorry for you?): ruin and destruction, famine and the sword— who can console you?

19 These two things are come unto thee; who shall be sorry for thee? desolation, and destruction, and the famine, and the sword: by whom shall I comfort thee?

20 Your sons have fainted, They lie *helpless* at the head of every street, Like an antelope in a net, Full of the wrath of the LORD, The rebuke of your God.

20 Your sons have fainted, They lie *helpless* at the head of every street, Like an antelope in a net, Full of the wrath of the LORD, The rebuke of your God.

20 Your children have fainted. They lie at the head of every street, like antelope caught in a trap, filled with the anger of the LORD and the rebuke of your God.

20 Thy sons have fainted, they lie at the head of all the streets, as a wild bull in a net: they are full of the fury of the LORD, the rebuke of thy God.

The Cup of Wrath will be Given to the Enemy

21 Therefore, listen to this, you afflicted, Who are drunk, but not with wine:

21 Therefore, please hear this, you afflicted, Who are drunk, but not with wine:

21 Now listen to this, you afflicted one, made drunk, but not with wine:

21 Therefore hear now this, thou afflicted, and drunken, but not with wine:

22 This is what your Lord, the LORD, your God Who contends for His people says:

"Behold, I have taken from your hand the cup of staggering, The chalice of My anger; You will never drink it again.

22 Thus says your Lord, the LORD, even your God Who contends for His people, "Behold, I have taken out of your hand the cup of reeling, The chalice of My anger; You will never drink it again.

22 This is what your Lord, the LORD, says, your God, who defends his people's cause: "See, I have taken from your hand the cup that made you stagger. And you will never again drink to the dregs the cup that is my anger.

22 Thus saith thy Lord the LORD, and thy God that pleadeth the cause of his people, Behold, I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling, even the dregs of the cup of my fury; thou shalt no more drink it again:

23 "I will put it into the hand of your tormentors, Who have said to you, 'Lie down so that we may walk over you.' You have also made your back like the ground, And like the street for those who walk over *it*."

23 "I will put it into the hand of your tormentors, Who have said to you, 'Lie down that we may walk over you.' You have even made your back like the ground And like the street for those who walk over *it*."

23 But I will put it into the hands of those who tormented and oppressed you, those who said to you, 'Lie down, so we can step over you,' so that you had to make your back like the ground, and like a street for them to walk over."

23 But I will put it into the hand of them that afflict thee; which have said to thy soul, Bow down, that we may go over: and thou hast laid thy body as the ground, and as the street, to them that went over.

None of Israel's modern day leaders will have done what is required to spare Israel from the Great Tribulation. The Lord told us that this time of judgment will be so severe that if He allowed it to run its course, no one would survive. But for the sake of His elect, He'll put a stop to it at the appointed time (Matt 24:22) which is 1260 days after it begins. Just before the end, the Lord will pour out upon His people a spirit of grace and supplication. They will finally recognize their Messiah, the one they have pierced (Zech 12:10) and that will put an end to their problems forever. By the time it's all over the unbelieving nations who have oppressed and tormented Israel will have been totally defeated.