

## Isaiah Chapters 50-51 – The Servant, Israel’s Hope; The LORD Comforts Zion; God’s Fury Removed

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

### OBSERVATION

### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

**JESUS PAID IT ALL** – *Elvina Hall; sung by Joslin Choral Society*

*I I hear the Savior say, “Thy strength indeed is small; Child of weakness, watch and pray, Find in Me thine all in all.”*

*Refrain - Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.*

*2 Lord, now indeed I find Thy power and Thine alone, Can change the leper’s spots And melt the heart of stone.*

*Refrain*

*3 And when before the throne I stand in Him complete, “Jesus died my soul to save,” My lips shall still repeat.*

*Refrain - Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow. He washed it white as snow.*

**GENERAL OUTLINE OF ISAIAH:** Referred to as the “Fifth Gospel” since the third century!

*Possible date of kings reign” - Uzziah, - 792-740; Jotham, - 750-736; Ahaz, - 735-720 Northern Kingdom of Israel falls to Assyria in 722BC; Hezekiah, - 715-699/686; Manasseh – 687-642*

*Isaiah’s time of prophecy - About a minimum of 40 years and possibly more than 60 years!*

*In the tenth year of Nabopolassar (616 BC) the Babylonians defeated the Assyrian army.*

*Cyrus takes Babylon. In October (539 BC), the Persian king Cyrus took Babylon.*

### ISAIAH 40:1-66:24

*The prophecies of chapters 1-39 addressed Judah in her situation during Isaiah's ministry (739 B.C. until c. 686 B.C.). The prophecies of chapters 40-66 address Judah as though the prophesied Babylonian captivity (Isa 39:5-7) were already a present reality, though that captivity did not begin until 605-586 B.C. The words "'There is no peace,' says the Lord, 'for the wicked'" (Isa 48:22; Isa 57:21) signal the divisions of this section into three parts: chapters 40-48 (Comfort of Jehovah), chapters 49-57 (Salvation of Jehovah) and chapters 58-66 (Glory of Jehovah).*

*Four Messianic Prophecies-Songs of the Suffering Servant: #1 Chapter 42:1-9 -Servant of Jehovah-Jesus; #2 Chapter 49:1-13-Servant of God; Savior of the World; #3 Chapter 50:4-9-Jehovah Adonai-Humility of Rejected Prophet; #4 Chapter 52:13-53:12-Suffering Servant-Jehovah’s Servant-Sin Bearer.*

### ISAIAH 49-57

*Starting with Isaiah chapters 49 through 57, there is no longer a mention of Cyrus, now the focus is on the ultimate deliverer, the Messiah. Though there is still reference to the deliverance from Babylon’s captivity, the real focus is on the ultimate deliverance the Messiah will bring.*

### Isaiah – Bible Timeline

|        |  |  |
|--------|--|--|
| 739 BC | Isaiah Complains of Zion's Corruption              | <a href="#">Isaiah 1 - 5</a>                       |
| 739 BC | Isaiah's Vision and Commission                     | <a href="#">Isaiah 6</a>                           |
| 735 BC | Isaiah's Prophecy of Immanuel                      | <a href="#">Isaiah 7</a>                           |
| 734 BC | Uriah/Zechariah Verification                       | <a href="#">Isaiah 8</a>                           |
| 730 BC | Isaiah Prophecies a Child Is Born                  | <a href="#">Isaiah 9</a>                           |
| 730 BC | Isaiah Prophecies Judgments Upon Israel            | <a href="#">Isaiah 9:8</a>                         |
| 730 BC | Isaiah Prophecies Judgment on Assyria              | <a href="#">Isaiah 10</a>                          |
| 730 BC | Isaiah Prophecies The Root of Jesse                | <a href="#">Isaiah 11</a>                          |
| 730 BC | Isaiah's Joyful Thanksgiving                       | <a href="#">Isaiah 12</a>                          |
| 725 BC | Isaiah Prophecies against the Nations              | <a href="#">Isaiah 13 - 22</a>                     |
| 725 BC | Isaiah's Valley of Vision                          | <a href="#">Isaiah 22</a>                          |
| 725 BC | Isaiah's Burden of Tyre                            | <a href="#">Isaiah 23</a>                          |
| 725 BC | Devastation on the Earth                           | <a href="#">Isaiah 24</a>                          |
| 725 BC | Isaiah's Songs of Praise                           | <a href="#">Isaiah 25 - 27</a>                     |
| 725 BC | Isaiah's Further Warnings                          | <a href="#">Isaiah 28 - 32</a>                     |
| 725 BC | Isaiah Prophecies a King Shall Reign               | <a href="#">Isaiah 32</a>                          |
| 725 BC | Isaiah Declares God's Judgments                    | <a href="#">Isaiah 33, 34</a>                      |
| 725 BC | Isaiah Declares the Joyful Will Flourish in Zion   | <a href="#">Isaiah 35</a>                          |
| 712 BC | Hezekiah's Illness and Healing                     | <a href="#">2 Kings 20, Isaiah 38</a>              |
| 711 BC | Hezekiah Shows Treasures                           | <a href="#">2 Kings 20:12, Isaiah 39</a>           |
| 711 BC | <b>Isaiah Prophecies Captivity and Restoration</b> | <b><a href="#">Isaiah 40 - 66</a></b>              |
| 701 BC | Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem                    | <a href="#">2 Kings 18, Isaiah 36, 2 Chron. 32</a> |
| 701 BC | Hezekiah's Prayer                                  | <a href="#">2 Kings 19, Isaiah 37</a>              |

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### OBSERVATION

### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

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|---|---|---|
| <p><i>Israel's Sin and the Servant's Obedience</i></p> <p><b><i>Isa 50:1 Thus says the LORD: "Where is the certificate of your mother's divorce, Whom I have put away? Or which of My creditors is it to whom I have sold you? <u>For your iniquities you have sold yourselves, And for your transgressions your mother has been put away.</u></i></b><br/> <b><i>Isa 50:2a Why, when I came, was there no man? Why, when I called, was there none to answer?</i></b></p> | <p><b>We have God’s answer to Israel’s supposition that He has forgotten them - <i>Isa 49:14-15 But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me, And my Lord has forgotten me." [15] "Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely, they may forget, Yet I will not forget you.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>vs. 1-2a</i></b> The LORD’s question to Zion. God does care, and will lovingly confront those in Zion who doubted His care for them. <b><i>Where is the certificate of your mother’s divorce?</i></b> God says to doubting Zion, “You say I don’t care about you anymore. You say I have divorced you. Very well then, produce the document. But there is none, because I have not divorced you. You will see that <b><i>for your iniquities you have sold yourselves</i></b>. It is your own fault, and no one else’s.” Here it not that God has divorced them, for it was all a matter of due reward of <i>sins</i>. <b><i>Why, when I came, was there no man?</i></b> Seeing that Zion’s troubles come from their own disobedience, where is the <i>man</i> who will stand up for Israel? Who will contend their case before God? No man to stand in the gap – to beseech to pray?</p> <p><b><u>Intercessory Prayer</u></b> <i>“Men always ought to pray and not lose heart.” Luke 18:1</i> You cannot truly intercede through prayer if you do not believe in the reality of redemption. Instead, you will simply be turning intercession into useless sympathy for others, which will serve only to increase the contentment they have for remaining out of touch with God. True intercession involves bringing the person, or the circumstance that seems to be crashing in on you, before God, until you are changed by His attitude toward that person or circumstance. Intercession means to “fill up . . . [with] what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ” (Colossians 1:24), and this is precisely why there are so few intercessors. People describe intercession by saying, “It is putting yourself in someone else’s place.” That is not true! <b>Intercession is putting yourself in God’s place; it is having His mind and His perspective.</b> As an intercessor, <b>be careful not to seek too much information from God regarding the situation you are praying about, because you may be overwhelmed.</b> If you know too much, <b>more than God has ordained for you to know, you can’t pray; the circumstances of the people become so overpowering that you are no longer able to get to the underlying truth.</b> Our work is to be in such close contact with God that we may have His mind about everything, but we shirk that responsibility by substituting doing for interceding. <b>And yet intercession is the only thing that has no drawbacks, because it keeps our relationship completely open with God.</b> What we must avoid in intercession is praying for someone to be simply “patched up.” <b>We must pray that person completely through into contact with the very life of God.</b> Think of the number of people God has brought across our path, only to see us drop them! When we pray on the basis of redemption, God creates something He can create in no other way than through intercessory prayer. (Chambers, Oswald. <i>My Utmost for His Highest</i>)</p> | <p><b><i>vs. 1-2a</i></b> A classic case of “blame shifting”! Disobedience leads to problems, then man’s tendency is to blame God! <b>Do we blame God in such circumstances?</b></p> <p>God says, I haven’t divorced you! <b>How glad are we that God is a covenant keeping God and cannot divorce those He has taken into covenant relationship? What a comfort!</b></p> <p><b>+Why, when I came, was there no man?...</b> Notice here as well as in (<i>Is. 59:16, Ez. 22:30</i>) <b><i>Isa 59:16 He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Eze 22:30 So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Eze 22:31 Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads," says the Lord GOD.</i></b></p> <p>Have we thought about it? Somebody to make up the hedge – to fill in the gap, that God might not destroy the nation! A man or a woman to stand! Is it you? Let Him find some here!</p> |
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### OBSERVATION

### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

*Isa 50:2b Is My hand shortened at all that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver? Indeed with My rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness; Their fish stink because there is no water, And die of thirst.*  
*Isa 50:3 I clothe the heavens with blackness, And I make sackcloth their covering.*"

*Isa 50:4 "The Lord GOD has given Me The tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak A word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear To hear as the learned.*  
*Isa 50:5 The Lord GOD has opened My ear; And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn away.*

*vs. 2b-3)* God does care and reminds Zion of His power. The LORD answers His own question. *Is My hand shortened at all that it cannot redeem?* The answer to this rhetorical question is a definite, “No.” Despite the doubts of Zion, the LORD’s power and authority is beyond question. *I clothe heavens with blackness:* Heaven is in mourning, because of the sin and unbelief of God’s people. “Oh, the sorrow in the heart of God - the pang, the pain, the agony, the suffering - when His children sin! Also, the darkness at the Crucifixion comes to mind: We read that, at high noon, the sun was veiled, and there was darkness over all the land for three black hours. Wonder of wonders, Jesus, who hung bleeding there had wrought that mighty marvel! The sun had looked upon Him hanging on the cross, and, as if in horror, had covered its face, and traveled on in tenfold night. The tears of Jesus quenched the light of the sun. Had he been wrathful, like us, He might have put out its light forever; but His love not only restored that light, but it has given to us a light a thousand times more precious, the light of everlasting life and joy!

*vs. 4-5* The care of God is dramatically shown in the Messiah’s submission unto the LORD. *The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of the learned:* The Messiah now prophetically speaks again, explaining that the LORD God has given Him the ability to speak wisely. But for what purpose? *To speak a word in season to him who is weary. What a glorious use of the tongue of the learned! He awakens Me morning by morning:* The prophet now only telling of us about the coming Messiah, born of a virgin, from Bethlehem and so many prophecies about Him. **Here we’re told about His morning devotional life! For us to observe – time to set aside for our speech to be set aside for His benefit – a powerful capacity of speech to be used for Him in the day when I’m heading out into! Jesus did that! He said He only speaks that which the Father has told Me to speak – over and over again! He received that morning by morning!** Sanctifying our speech, making holy, each day, to begin with a quiet time with the LORD. Also sanctifying our ears – set aside unto God! Further, I was not rebellious. I gave My back to the smiters! My cheeks to those who pulled out my beard! I did not hide my face from shame and from being spit upon. Jesus, knowing for His lifetime, as a man, what lay ahead for Him, but morning by morning, He submitted His will to that of the Father, in order that no matter what price I pay to be obedient to you and knit to that even before the day begins! **This time with the LORD each day to be spent, so that no matter what they do to Me today, I will not turn away! I don’t care what people say, what they do! I don’t care how hard it’s going to be to obey You! I choose to do that! Each morning as the day begins – “no turning back, no turning back!** *The Lord GOD has opened My ear, and I was not rebellious:* The Messiah, speaking prophetically, looks back to a custom described in ([Exo 21:5-6](#),; [Psa 40:6](#)) where a servant became a willing bond slave to his master. The sign of this willing servant was the ear opened by the piercing of an awl, done against the entry doorway of the master. This speaks of the total submission of the Messiah to the Lord GOD. It was a commitment not motivated by debt or obligation, only love for the master. Jesus was a perfect bond-slave to the Father ([Php 2:7](#)).

*vs. 2b-3* God says **why didn’t you call on Me?** You’ve heard and some have seen My miracles -dry up rivers; create droughts; clothe the heavens in blackness. **How often and how quickly to we go to Him as our first and top priority and not our last resort?**

*vs. 4-5* How learned is my tongue? **Do I know how to speak a word in season to the weary? Do I respond in prayer and worship each morning as He awakens me? .. opened My ear, and I was not rebellious – Jesus, the Messiah, was totally willing to be a perfect bond slave to His Father, for ever and ever! Jesus never faltered in turning away, even know the horror of the cross that He would encounter. Serving our Master, we too, can look forward to great difficulties. Will I turn away?**

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### OBSERVATION

### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><i>Isa 50:6 I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.</i></p> <p><i>Isa 50:7 "For the Lord GOD will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.</i></p> | <p><i>vs.6-7</i> The care of the LORD is shown in the courageous greatness of the Messiah’s submission unto the LORD. <i>I (willingly!) gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting:</i> This prophecy speaks in chilling detail of the sufferings of the Messiah.. We know that Jesus was beaten on the back (<a href="#">Mar 15:15</a>); beaten on the face (<a href="#">Luk 22:63-65</a>); mocked and spat upon (<a href="#">Mar 15:19-20</a>). There is no specific mention in the gospels of those <i>who plucked out the beard</i> of Jesus as part of His pre-crucifixion suffering, but from this passage in Isaiah we know it happened. What terrible agony Jesus endured! Also, according to Near-Eastern concepts, to have one’s face covered with spit was, the most humiliating suffering that could be inflicted upon a man! Many of us could cheerfully give Christ our money, health and strength, but when it comes to a point of our reputation we respond strongly against that! To be slandered, to have filthy things said of you is too much for us! <i>7 For the Lord GOD will help Me:</i> In the midst of all this suffering, humiliation, and pain, the Messiah has an unshakable confidence in the help of the Lord GOD. Can we have the same confidence in God? “It is pitiful for the Christian to refuse to suffer, and to become a fighting man, crying, ‘We must stand up for our rights.’ Did you ever see Jesus in that posture?” Instead, trust in the LORD and proclaim, <i>for the Lord GOD will help me. Therefore, I have set My face like a flint:</i> Despite knowing the agony awaiting Him, the Messiah will have a steadfast determination to obey the Lord GOD and follow His way. His <i>face</i> will be set as hard as <i>a flint</i>, and nothing will turn Him aside. This was exactly fulfilled in the life of Jesus, who was determined to go to Jerusalem, even knowing what waited for Him there. <i>Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem. (Luk 9:51)</i> There are two kinds of courage - the courage of moment, which requires no previous thought, and a “planned” courage, which sees the difficulty ahead and steadfastly marches towards it. Jesus had this kind of courage; He could see the cross in the horizon, but still set His <i>face like a flint. And I know that I will not be ashamed:</i> The courage of the Messiah isn’t a blind resignation to fate. It is a confident assurance in the Lord GOD. He can set His <i>face like a flint</i> because He can say, <i>“I know that I will not be ashamed.”</i></p> | <p><i>vs. 6-7</i> A true servant of Christ must make himself of no reputation when he takes upon himself the work of his Lord. <b>Our blessed Master was willing</b> to be scoffed at by the worst and lowest of men. <i>I gave My back</i> means that Jesus did it voluntarily and willingly. <b>Can we imagine the depth of God’s love toward us and still ever think that He does not care for us? Do you know that in Christ, you will never be ashamed?</b></p> <p><i>How willing are we to totally surrender to our LORD?</i></p> |
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### OBSERVATION

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### APPLICATION

*Isa 50:8 He is near who justifies Me; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand together. Who is My adversary? Let him come near Me.*

*Isa 50:9 Surely the Lord GOD will help Me; Who is he who will condemn Me?*

*Indeed they will all grow old like a garment; The moth will eat them up.*

*Isa 50:10 "Who among you 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 upon his God.*

*Isa 50:11 Look, all you who kindle a fire, Who encircle yourselves with sparks: Walk in the light of your fire and in the sparks you have kindled— This you shall have from My hand: You shall lie down in torment.*

*vs. 8-9 He is near who justifies Me* - God, who will vindicate My character, and who approves what I do, does not leave nor forsake Me, and I can with confidence commit Myself and My cause to Him. God, in the proper, judicial sense, would declare Him to be righteous; He would vindicate His character, and show Him to be innocent. *Who will contend with Me?* - This question indicates confidence in God, and in the integrity of His own character. *Let us stand together* - Before the seat of judgment as in a court. *Who is My adversary (Who is the master of my cause?)* The expression means not merely one who has a lawsuit, or a cause, but one who is ‘lord of the judgment, the possessor of the cause, or one who has a claim, and can demand that the judgment should be in his favor. And the call here is on any who should have such a claim to prefer against the Messiah; who should have any real ground of accusation against Him; that is, it is an assertion of innocence. *Let him come near to me* - Let him come and make his charges and enter on the trial. If it isn’t clear enough, He says it again: *Surely the Lord GOD will help Me; who is he who will condemn Me?* The reason why [Rom 8:31](#) applies to us is that it first applies to Jesus, and we are in Christ. If Jesus stands in this place of victory, then all those who are in Christ stand there also. *They will all grow old* - All my enemies shall pass away, as a garment is worn out and cast aside. The idea is, that the Messiah would survive all their attacks; His cause, His truth and His reputation would live, while all the power, the influence, the reputation of His adversaries, would vanish as a garment that is worn out and then thrown away. *The moth will eat them up* - The moth is a well-known insect attached particularly to woolen clothes, and which soon consumes them (see the note at [Job 4:19](#)). In eastern countries, where wealth consisted much in changes of raiment, the depredations of the moth would be particularly to be feared, and hence, it is frequently referred to in the Bible. The sense here is, that the adversaries of the Messiah would be wholly destroyed. The Servant of the LORD challenges all to submit to the LORD as He does. *Who among you fears the LORD? Who obeys the voice of His Servant?* Now the Messiah speaks to His people, and challenges them to fear the **LORD** and obey *His Servant* - the Messiah Himself. Only He who knows how to obey can call others to obedience. *Who walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely upon his God:* The Messiah guides His people into the path of light. Simply, *trust in the name of the LORD and rely upon your God.* It isn’t necessarily easy, but it certainly is *simple!*

*v. 11 Look, all you who kindle a fire:* We might think that this fire is a *positive* thing, but in light of the entire verse, it isn’t positive. It is more like the *profane fire* of Nadab and Abihu described in [Num 10:1](#). If we *walk in the light of that fire and in the sparks you have kindled*, then we shall have **torment** from the hand of the LORD. This follows along the line of the Messiah’s exhortation to *trust in the name of the LORD*, and not in our own efforts before God, which are like a profane fire. Those who ‘light fires’ refers to men who had their own schemes and their own gods. Because they had rejected the light of God’s Word, they would face terrible punishment. **Torment** . . . is only found here but its verb . . . guarantees its meaning of grief, pain and displeasure - even the ‘place of pain’ - specifically the pains of sin under the curse of God.

*vs. 8-10 Who is among you that fears the LORD, that obeys the voiced of His Servant, and yet walks in darkness and has no light? Jesus is saying, I entered into all this for you! “My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?” Now, if that person is here right now, let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely or lean upon his God. It’s so wonderful to know that Name! Let him lean on Me!*

*v. 11 Notice the challenge to those who refuse the help from the LORD and worship idols. Those who refuse Him and walk in their own light and in the sparks which they have kindled, the LORD promises the from His hand, they will lie down in torment! Are we 100% committed to obey Him and walk in His light?*

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### OBSERVATION

### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

#### *The Lord's Comfort for Zion*

*Isa 51:1 "Listen to Me, you who follow after righteousness, You who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were hewn, And to the hole of the pit from which you were dug.*

*Isa 51:2 Look to Abraham your father, And to Sarah who bore you; For I called him alone, And blessed him and increased him."*

*Isa 51:3 For the LORD will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places; He will make her wilderness like Eden, And her desert like the garden of the LORD; Joy and gladness will be found in it, Thanksgiving and the voice of melody.*

*Isa 51:4 "Listen to Me, My people; And give ear to Me, O My nation: For law will proceed from Me, And I will make My justice rest As a light of the peoples.*

*Isa 51:5 My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth, And My arms will judge the peoples; The coastlands will wait upon Me, And on My arm they will trust.*

*Isa 51:6 Lift up your eyes to the heavens, And look on the earth beneath. For the heavens will vanish away like smoke, The earth will grow old like a garment, And those who dwell in it will die in like manner; But My salvation will be forever, And My righteousness will not be abolished.*

*vs. 1-3* “Listen to Me, you who follow after righteousness: The LORD here speaks to His people; but His people have had trouble listening to Him. So three times in this chapter, the exhortation is given: *Listen to Me. Look to the rock from which you were hewn . . . Look to Abraham your father, and to Sarah who bore you:* God counsels His people to look at His work in His people in days past. This is one of the great glories of God’s Word to us; it tells us how God has dealt with His people, and gives us faith and guidance for His work in our lives - if we will listen to Him. *For I called him alone, and blessed him and increased him:* Abraham was one man, from one simple family. Yet God *called him alone*, and *increased him*. This should remind His people today that God does not need many people to do a great work. He can bless and increase one man *alone*. Isaiah wanted God’s people - in view here are the returning exiles from Babylon, and those of Israel’s ultimate regathering - to not be discouraged of their small numbers, but realize that just as He did great things with Abraham and Sarah, He can do great things through them. Remembering Abraham and Sarah should give them hope for this promise: *For the LORD will comfort Zion . . . He will make her wilderness like Eden . . . Joy and gladness will be found in it.* The promise seems too good to be true, but by faithfully remembering God’s work in people like Abraham and Sarah, they would have the faith to believe God’s promise to them today.

*vs. 4-6* Listen: The LORD’s salvation and righteousness are forever. *I will make My justice rest as a light of the peoples:* When the LORD ultimately regathers, blesses, and saves Israel, He will also shine forth His justice to all the world - to Israel (*My nation*) and to all the nations (*the peoples*). *For the heavens will vanish away like smoke, the earth will grow old like a garment:* These are references to phenomenon surrounding the Second Coming of Jesus ([Mat 24:35](#), [2Pe 3:7-10](#), [Rev 6:12-17](#)). This is ultimately when the justice of the LORD will be displayed to Israel and all nations. The judgment of the LORD isn’t only evident in creation, but in the man also: *Those who dwell in it will die in like manner. But My salvation will be forever, and My righteousness will not be abolished:* Those tied to the earth, not heaven will be cast away, and even the earth will *vanish away*. But never the *righteousness* or *salvation* of God. They remain, and are more permanent than even the heavens and the earth. We don’t have to be afraid that God will change His character (*My righteousness*) or His mind about us (*My salvation*). This is something to *listen* to!

*vs. 1-3* Hearken, listen to Me! God is calling every sincere heart in Israel that longs to be righteous and desires to know God. He says, wake up, I have a plan for you just as I had for Abraham, your father and Sarah, that bore you. I called Abraham when he was in Chaldea in idolatry, and look what I’ve done through him! Now I want to move in your heart and life. Are we listening and ready to hearken to God’s calling to us?

*vs. 4-6* Jesus said in [Mat 24:35](#) *Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.* Even though the world is winding down and the sun is burning away, God’s word is solid and everlasting! Are we building our lives and trusting totally in His precious Word?

## Isaiah Chapters 50-51 – The Servant, Israel’s Hope; The LORD Comforts Zion; God’s Fury Removed

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – [Phil Twente](mailto:Phil Twente), cell #714 425 9221; email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com) Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

### OBSERVATION

### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

*Isa 51:7 "Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, You people in whose heart is My law: Do not fear the reproach of men, Nor be afraid of their insults.*

*Isa 51:8 For the moth will eat them up like a garment, And the worm will eat them like wool; But My righteousness will be forever, And My salvation from generation to generation."*

*Isa 51:9 Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD! Awake as in the ancient days, In the generations of old. Are You not the arm that cut Rahab apart, And wounded the serpent?*

*Isa 51:10 Are You not the One who dried up the sea, The waters of the great deep; That made the depths of the sea a road For the redeemed to cross over? Isa 51:11 So the ransomed of the LORD shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness; Sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*

*Isa 51:12 "I, even I, am He who comforts you. You have feared continually every day Because of the fury of the oppressor, When he has prepared to destroy. And where is the fury of the oppressor?*

*Isa 51:14 The captive exile hastens, that he may be loosed, That he should not die in the pit, And that his bread should not fail.*

*Isa 51:15 But I am the LORD your God, Who divided the sea whose waves roared—The LORD of hosts is His name.*

*Isa 51:16 And I have put My words in your mouth; I have covered you with the shadow of My hand, That I may plant the heavens, Lay the foundations of the earth, And say to Zion, 'You are My people.' "*

*vs. 7-8 Listen: Fear God, not man. Listen to Me . . . Do not fear the reproach of men:* Knowing the permanence of the righteousness and salvation of the LORD, and the passing nature of the wicked (*For the moth will eat them up like a garment*), we should *listen* to God, and not be afraid of *men*. *But My righteousness will be forever, and My salvation from generation to generation:* Knowing that the *righteousness* and *salvation* of the LORD are permanent and the opposition and mocking of the wicked is temporary, we should stand strong in faith. This is something to *listen* to!

*vs. 9-16 Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD!* Here, the faithful believer calls out to the LORD, looking to Him for salvation. They know of God’s great works in the past (*Awake as in ancient days*), but ask God to act on their behalf *now*. *Are You not the arm that cut Rahab apart, and wounded the serpent?* Among God’s great works remembered is His defeat of *Rahab*. But when did God *cut Rahab apart*, and wound a *serpent*? The name *Rahab* means **pride**, and ever since the Garden of Eden, the *serpent* has been associated with Satan ([Gen 3:1-6](#)). This speaks in poetic terms of God’s victory over Satan, as it does also in [Psa 89:10](#). With every enemy defeated, and every obstacle taken care of, *So the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing*. This is another promise with both a near and an ultimate fulfillment. *Who are you that you should be afraid of a man who will die:* With promises this glorious, and a God this mighty, we have no reason to fear man. Man can never undo God’s plan for our lives. Compared to the great power of God, they are *like grass*. *You forget the LORD your Maker . . . You have feared continually every day:* The two go together. We will only live in fear *continually every day* if we *forget the LORD*. When we *forget the LORD*, we forget His tender love and care for us: *I have covered you with the shadow of My hand . . . and say to Zion, “You are My people.”* This is something to be *awake* to!

*v. 7-8 Those who revile God’s word and ignore His commands will be eaten up with fear, pride, lust and greed. But we need not be one of them! May we be ever so close to You, desiring to read and heed Your Word so as to not be eaten up like a garment but to recognize and experience Your righteousness forever!*

*vs. 9-16 Who are you that you should be afraid Of a man who will die, And of the son of a man who will be made like grass? Isa 51:13 And you forget the LORD your Maker, Who stretched out the heavens And laid the foundations of the earth; How utterly foolish it is to fear man, what he thinks or can do to us, when You, God, hold our lives and eternity in Your hand!*

## Isaiah Chapters 50-51 – The Servant, Israel’s Hope; The LORD Comforts Zion; God’s Fury Removed

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – [Phil Twente](mailto:Phil Twente), cell #714 425 9221; email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com) Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

### OBSERVATION

### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

*Isa 51:17 **Awake, awake! Stand up, O Jerusalem, You who have drunk at the hand of the LORD The cup of His fury; You have drunk the dregs of the cup of trembling, And drained it out.***

*Isa 51:18 **There is no one to guide her Among all the sons she has brought forth; Nor is there any who takes her by the hand Among all the sons she has brought up.***

*Isa 51:19 **These two things have come to you; Who will be sorry for you?—Desolation and destruction, famine and sword—By whom will I comfort you?***

*Isa 51:20 **Your sons have fainted, They lie at the head of all the streets, Like an antelope in a net; They are full of the fury of the LORD, The rebuke of your God.***

*Isa 51:21 **Therefore please hear this, you afflicted, And drunk but not with wine.***

*Isa 51:22 **Thus says your Lord, The LORD and your God, Who pleads the cause of His people: "See, I have taken out of your hand The cup of trembling, The dregs of the cup of My fury; You shall no longer drink it.***

*Isa 51:23 **But I will put it into the hand of those who afflict you, Who have said to you, 'Lie down, that we may walk over you.' And you have laid your body like the ground, And as the street, for those who walk over."***

*vs. 17-23* Wake up to the reality of God’s wrath. **Awake, awake! Stand up, O Jerusalem:** This wakeup call is directed right at **Jerusalem**. God’s people sometimes spiritually “fall asleep” and need to be awakened. **Rom 13:11-12** says, *And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. You who have drunk at the hand of the LORD, the cup of His fury: A common picture of judgment in the Old Testament is the **cup** of God’s wrath or **fury**. The idea is that God gives a cup “full” of His wrath to those who are under judgment, and they must drink it. Here, God calls Jerusalem to remember that they have **drunk at the hand of the LORD, the cup of His fury** when they experienced God’s judgment through the Babylonians. **See, I have taken out of your hand the cup of trembling, the dregs of the cup of My fury; you shall no longer drink it:** The LORD knows when to give the cup, and when to take it from His people. Now is time for their redemption and for the shame of their enemies, so the LORD promises, **I will put it into the hand of those who afflict you.** We should always be *awake* to God’s timing and loving promises. **Who have said to you, “Lie down, that we may walk over you.”** This practice is well documented in the ancient Near East, featured especially, but not exclusively, in Assyrian inscriptions. But God will give this humiliation to those who humiliated His people.*

*vs. 17-23* The LORD is telling Israel that He has taken out of their hand the **cup of trembling, the dregs of the cup of His fury, (cf. Mt. 26:39)** that He will put it into the hand of their enemies. **(cf. Rev. 14:10)** His chastening of His children, for Israel, then, and now for His saints, is because of His great love for them and for us. Today, as then, if we continue in sin and disobedience, we’re demonstrating that we are not His children, at all. That is when and what, one must be afraid of!