

Isaiah 51-52:12

Bible Study

Review

Chapter 49—The Lord's Servant: A light to the Gentiles

The work of the Servant described:

Bring Israel back to God...be a light to the Gentiles, Salvation to the ends of the Earth

Israel's restoration in the millennium

The return of Israel and Judah from captivity

Chapter 50—Israel's sin...and the Servant's obedient work

Israel went into captivity because of their transgressions/sins

God sent His messengers but they would not listen

Servant has the tongue of instruction, to speak words in season

He allowed Himself to be persecuted and struck

Those who follow the Lord are exhorted to trust God and walk by faith, even in times of darkness/trials

Chapter 51

The Servant

The call to righteousness 'Listen to Me'—v. 1, 4, 7

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.

2 Look to Abraham your father, And to Sarah who bore you; For I called him alone, And blessed him and increased him.”

v.1 “you who follow (pursue) after righteousness (Mat. 6:33)...who seek the Lord” (Isa. 55:6)

- The faithful exiles anciently
- God’s people...the Church today

v. 1 [last part] (figurative/metaphorical) ‘Look...to the hole’—image of a quarry (of precious materials)

➤ Look to your origins—explained in verse two

Abraham and Sarah had no children (‘alone’)...but because of Abraham’s faith God blessed them with a great nation (Israel)

(Genesis 15:6) “And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness”

- Spiritual Israel, the Church is to pursue after righteousness in that kind of faith

The promise of the kingdom

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.

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.

v. 3 Zion/Jerusalem will receive comfort, as it will become a paradise like Eden was
(Did not happen anciently)—it will in the millennium

v. 4 In the millennium the whole world will be under the rule of Christ, and God’s law will be taught and
justice will be found in all the world

Jeremiah 23: 5

Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

God's righteousness and salvation linked together

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.

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.

v. 5 [Last part] “The coastlands will wait upon Me, And on My arm they will trust”

➤ The restoration of God's people Israel: Their opportunity for salvation
'coastlands' (KJV) 'isles'=a habitable spot, as desirable...(Israel's lands)—will look to God, trust Him
“arm”—symbol of God's power (v.9)

v. 6 The heavens and earth (material realm) are contrasted with God's righteousness and salvation
The material realm is not permanent and will vanish like smoke...(Rev. 21: 1)
But God's salvation and righteousness last forever

“My righteousness (God's law) will not be abolished”—God's way of life, the way of love

To those who choose to live by God's law, His way of love, they will experience salvation and enjoy eternal life

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.

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.”

v. 7 True followers of Christ really know and understand righteousness and have God’s law in their hearts

- Connection of the law and righteousness

(Psalm 119: 172) “My tongue shall speak of Your word, For all Your commandments are righteousness”

v. 7 [Last part] “Do not fear the reproach of men...nor their insults”

v. 8 [1st part] ‘the moth will eat them up’= “They will get theirs” (Ch. 50:9)—the Servant used this metaphor

v. 8 [last part] **Hope and a promise**

“My righteousness will be forever, And My salvation from generation to generation”

- Connected to salvation is God’s righteousness

God will deliver His people—like He did in ancient times

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?

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?

v. 9 “Awake...arm of the Lord”—God’s power which will deliver His people

Rahab—a reference to ancient Egypt

The serpent (Crocodile god) was the protector god of Egypt...who was not able to save Egypt

v. 10 God who performed the miracle of the Red Sea crossing

The redeemed (KJV) “ransomed” (Heb. *gaal*)= to redeem, deliver

God is Israel’s redeemer who delivered them from Egypt

God's promise and His power—Future

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.

12 “I, even I, am He who comforts you. 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?

v. 11 As God delivered Israel from Egypt, He will deliver His people at Christ's return and they will be singing with joy

“ransomed” (KJV) “redeemed” (Heb. *padah*)= redeemed by power, from an undesirable condition

v. 12 God's answer to the cry for Him to ‘awake’ (v. 9)...the strength of His arm

➤ “I am He who comforts you”= (Don't lose your faith)

v. 12 [Last part] Don't be afraid of man “who will die”

- Better to put trust in God, then in man who fades away

Psalm 118: 6

“The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”

The contrast of mortal man and the creator

13 And you forget the Lord your Maker, Who stretched out the heavens And laid the foundations of the earth; 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?

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.

v. 13 Don't forget the great and powerful God, the creator...

Those who have been oppressed 'by the fury of the oppressor'...the oppressor will fade away

v. 14 Captives desire to be loosed...they do not want to die or starve

- The faithful remnant will return in another exodus-- 'be loosed' Delivered (v. 15)



15 But I am the Lord your God, Who divided the sea whose waves roared— The Lord of hosts is His name.

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.' ”

v. 15 God is the creator and performed miracles for His people

v. 16 “I have put My words in your mouth”—by means of the prophets/His word

God protects His people with His hand...He has a unique relationship with them
“You are My people”

v. 17—20 Call to Jerusalem

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.

v. 17 [1st part] Jerusalem is to 'awake' (rouse yourself)—because the Lord is doing something

“The cup of His fury”= Those who have experienced God’s judgment

- Those who have been afflicted (their calamity/agony) is coming to an end (v. 22)

Isaiah 40: 1-2

¹ "Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" Says your God.

² "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the LORD'S hand Double for all her sins." (v. 17 The cup of His fury)

v. 17 [Last part] “You have drunk the dregs of the cup of trembling”—calamity/punishment

“And drained it out”—drunk all that was in the cup (of fury)...and it made them stagger, under affliction (v.18)

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.

(NIV) “Of all the sons she bore there was none to guide her; of all the sons she reared there was none to take her by the hand”

“There is no one to guide her”= From what Jerusalem shall go through

Point is: In the time of calamity there is no one of the people who can really comfort...only God can

Calamities upon Jerusalem

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?

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.

v. 19 (NIV) “These double calamities have come upon you—who can comfort you?—ruin and destruction, famine and sword—who can console you”

v. 20 Your sons have fainted (from famine) and lie at the head of the streets (from destruction)

Punishment transfers to the oppressor

21 Therefore please hear this, you afflicted, And drunk but not with wine.

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.

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.”

v. 21 “drunk but not with wine”—drunk with troubles/trials

v. 22 (Explains verse 17) “I have taken out of your hand the cup”—of punishment

“My fury; You shall not longer drink it”

- The punishment of the people will end after they have been delivered from captivity

v. 23 Jerusalem’s and Israel’s oppressors who afflicted them, will suffer for what they have done to the people

1 Awake, awake! Put on your strength, O Zion; Put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city! For the uncircumcised and the unclean Shall no longer come to you.

Jerusalem is to “awake” from the state of bondage (physical and spiritual)... (Christ has returned)

And to be exalted-- “put on the beautiful garments”=priestly garments...to approach God

➤ After being freed from the bondage

v. 1 [last part] The unclean/sin will no longer be welcome—only those who follow God (Millennium)

2 Shake yourself from the dust, arise; Sit down, O Jerusalem! Loose yourself from the bonds of your neck, O captive daughter of Zion!

“arise; Sit down, O Jerusalem”= Get up to sit on the throne”

Jerusalem is to arise from the dust of captivity/destruction and to be the ruling capital of the world

Babylon no longer rules...Jerusalem has the bonds loosed to be a glorious city

3 For thus says the Lord: “You have sold yourselves for nothing, And you shall be redeemed without money.”

4 For thus says the Lord God: “My people went down at first Into Egypt to dwell there; Then the Assyrian oppressed them without cause.

v. 3 “sold yourselves” —went into captivity (for sins)...and nothing was paid for you (by their captors)

[Last part] ‘You shall be redeemed without money’ —by **God’s power** to be delivered

“redeemed without money” (As it applies to us)

I Peter 1: 18-19

“knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

Romans 7: 24-25

O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!
(The focus of the next chapter)

v. 4 Israel went to Egypt (to escape the famine) and to sojourn there a while (And they were oppressed)

Then, they were oppressed by the Assyrians later on...and Babylon is implied as oppressors

- The idea and focus is that God would deliver them

5 Now therefore, what have I here,” says the Lord, “That My people are taken away for nothing? Those who rule over them Make them wail,” says the Lord, “And My name is blasphemed continually every day.

6 Therefore My people shall know My name; Therefore they shall know in that day That I am He who speaks:
‘Behold, it is I.’ ” (Your deliverer)

v. 5 Question: “what have I here”—i.e.= “what am I to do”
“My people are taken away” and nothing was paid for them”

(TEV) “And now in Babylonia the same thing has happened: you are captives, and nothing was paid for you,
Those who rule over you boast and brag and constantly show contempt for me.”

- The oppressors view with disdain the people of His name

v. 6 The answer: The situation will change greatly for Israel “in that day”

They will be taught and know God’s name (and also eventually the world)...and He is in control of events

All the world will come to know God as they see that God delivers His people (v. 10)

Message of God's deliverance/salvation

7 How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

8 Your watchmen shall lift up their voices, With their voices they shall sing together; For they shall see eye to eye When the Lord brings back Zion.

v. 7 "the mountains"= the nations

Good news is brought down to the nations...good news for Israel and all of the world

An announcement of salvation

And announced to Jerusalem: "Your God reigns"—Christ ruling

v. 8 What the watchmen see-- (2nd exodus)

God brings back Zion—Jerusalem restored and Christ ruling

9 Break forth into joy, sing together, You waste places of Jerusalem! For the Lord has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem.

v. 9 Song of God's redemption/deliverance for His people and Jerusalem

Waste places sing/rejoice because the news is so great that God has redeemed His people and Jerusalem

“For the Lord has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem”

It will be good news, after the world has passed through judgment and terrible times

10 The Lord has made bare His holy arm In the eyes of all the nations; And all the ends of the earth shall see The salvation of our God.

v. 10 All of the nations see God's hand in redemption...His plan for their salvation is revealed

“made bare His holy arm” (margin)— “Revealed His power”
God will make Himself known to all the world through the deliverance of His people

“And all the ends of the earth shall see The salvation of our God”—God has a plan for the rest of the world
The world will be taught and have their opportunity for salvation

Exhortation for God's people to come out of the world, and return to Him

11 Depart! Depart! Go out from there, Touch no unclean thing; Go out from the midst of her, Be clean, You who bear the vessels of the Lord.

v. 11 A command for all of God's people to come out of the unclean world
"Be clean"—return to Him

Isaiah 48:20

Go forth from Babylon! Flee from the Chaldeans! With a voice of singing, Declare, proclaim this, Utter it to the end of the earth; Say, "The Lord has redeemed His servant Jacob!"

Rev. 18: 4

And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.

12 For you shall not go out with haste, Nor go by flight; For the Lord will go before you, And the God of Israel will be your rear guard.

(TEV) “This time you will not have to leave in a hurry; you will not be trying to escape. The Lord God will lead you and protect you on every side.”

The remnant who return will not go in haste like ancient Israel

God will be with and protect those faithful who strive to live His way and come out of the world

Lesson for all of us

Lessons

All of us in the Church, spiritual Israel are to pursue righteousness...have faith and look to God

To those who choose to live by God's law, His way of life, they will experience salvation and enjoy eternal life

We are to come out of the world, be clean and return to God