

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Week 137

Isaiah Chapter 51:1 – 52:12

Outline of Isaiah 51:1-52:12

Section	Message
51:1-8	Listen to Me – My salvation shall be forever.
51:9-16	The LORD your Maker will soon free the exile.
51:17-23	The LORD your God contends for His people.
52:1-6	My people shall know My name.
52:7-12	The LORD has bared His holy arm.

Verse-by-verse

Verses 1-8: The Lord speaks to the remnant of Israel. He comforts His people with an announcement of salvation and righteousness which will be for all people everywhere.

Verses	Command	Addressed to
51:1-3	“Listen to Me”	You who pursue righteousness
51:4-6	“Pay attention to Me”	My people
51:7-8	“Listen to Me”	You who know righteousness

Let’s read **Isaiah 51:1-8**.

Verses 1-3: The people who pursue righteousness are exhorted to “listen”, “look”, and “look” again.

They are to look back to Abraham and Sarah. The Lord took one man, Abraham, and fulfilled His promise to make him the father of many nations. Genesis 15:4-6; 17:3-6; 22:17-18; Romans 4:16-21; Hebrews 11:8-12, 17-19.

In the same way, the Lord will fulfill His promises to the remnant of Israel. He will transform their ruined land into the garden of Eden. See **Genesis 2:8,10; Isaiah 35:1-2**. This goes way beyond bringing the remnant of Jews back to Jerusalem after they are freed from Babylon. The Lord is talking about what He will do for Israel in the end times.

Then the people will have joy that will never end. **Isaiah 65:17-25**.

Verses 4-6: Next, the Lord asks His people to listen to Him as He tells them about His righteousness and justice. He describes things that the Servant will do in the future. See **Psalm 102:25-28; Matthew 24:35; Hebrews 1:6-12; 2 Peter 3:10-13.**

Verses 7-8: The Lord tells His people not to fear any man. Man is but a vapor. He is like the grass of the field: here today, gone tomorrow. But the righteousness of God endures forever.

Let's read Psalm **37**. It speaks to us in our circumstances too.

Verses 9-16:

Let's read the passage – **Isaiah 51:9-16.**

Isaiah appeals to the arm of the LORD to take action on behalf of captive Israel (verses 9-11). In former days, Isaiah recalls, the arm of the LORD delivered the sons of Israel out of Egypt. Now Isaiah pleads for the LORD to return the exiles to Zion.

The LORD replies to Isaiah. He provides His comfort, and promises to deliver Israel from her enemies and bring her back to Zion (verses 12-16).

Notice the element of time in this passage.

Verses 9b-10 speak of redemption in the distant past – the Exodus from Egypt.

Verses 11 and 16 speak of a greater redemption in the far future - the Messianic Reign, followed by the New Heavens, New Earth, and New Jerusalem.

Verses 9a, 12-15 speak of a redemption that will occur in the near future – the rescue of the captives out of Babylon and their return to Zion.

This paragraph opens with an emotional appeal by Isaiah for the arm of the LORD to “awake, awake” .

Isaiah speaks for a people who have grown weary waiting for the LORD to act on their behalf.

But they have not lost all hope. They are hanging on to the promises that the LORD made to them.

There was a time in the life of King David when his heart was at such a place. He recorded his prayer to the LORD in **Psalms 13**. He expressed the same longing for the LORD to act. Let’s read Psalm 13 now.