

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Week 144

Isaiah 51:17-23

There is a **remarkable turn of fortune** for Judah here. It begins with Isaiah addressing Judah, telling her that she has come close to destruction under the fierce wrath of God. Then the Lord speaks, telling Judah that her desolation is coming to an end.

Keep your eyes on **the cup of the Lord's anger** – whose hands it is in. That tells the story of this section.

Let's read **Isaiah 51:17-23**.

Verses	The cup	Results
51:17-20	Jerusalem has drunk from the cup of the Lord's wrath	Drunkenness: Her men stagger, Calamities have befallen her; There is no one to comfort her; Her sons are helpless – in particular, her priests, prophets (false), and kings .

51:21-23	The Lord removes the cup from her hand and puts in the hands of her tormentors	The Lord defends His people Israel; They will never drink the goblet of His wrath again. The Lord's wrath is coming upon her enemies, who tortured and humiliated her.
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Major themes: comparing scripture with scripture.

1. The *reversal of fortunes*. Starting point is “Therefore” in Isaiah 51:21.

Let's examine:

First: Jeremiah 25:8-14

Then: Isaiah 54:7-8; Lamentations 4:21-22; Obadiah 10-21

2. The *cup of God's wrath*. Starting point is Isaiah 51:17, 18, and 22.

Let's examine:

First: Jeremiah 25:15-29

Then: Psalm 75:8; Jeremiah 49:12-13; Habakuk 2:15-17; Revelation 14:10; 16:19

3. *Drunkenness*. Starting point is Isaiah 51:17, 21, 22.

Let's examine:

Isaiah 19:14 (Egypt); Isaiah 28:1-4 (Samaria); Isaiah 29:9-12 (Israel during the Assyrian crisis)

Application

How do these themes apply to us – church age believers, members of the body of Christ?

Answer: In some very remarkable ways!

1. How does the theme *reversal of fortunes* apply to the church age believer? What reversals of fortune occurred when we believed in Christ?

Let's examine – and then discuss:

Chapter 6 of a forthcoming book on Eternal Security.

2. How does the *cup of God's wrath* relate to the church age believer?

Let's examine - and then discuss:

“cup” in Mark 14:36; Luke 22:20; John 18:11; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 1 Corinthians 11:25-26

“wrath of God” in John 3:36; Romans 3:21-26; Romans 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:9; also Isaiah 53:10-11

“condemnation” in Romans 5:16-18; Romans 8:1

Jesus drank the cup of God's wrath so we wouldn't have to. The wrath of God came upon Jesus as the sin-bearer, bearing our sins on the cross. The sacrificial offering of the blood of Christ satisfied all of the claims of God's holiness against sin. So now, believers in Christ drink from the cup of blessing.

2 Corinthians 5:21.

3. *Drunkenness*. That's a subject for another day!