

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Week 127

Isaiah 49:1-50:3

Chapters 49-54 exhibit a pattern that repeats several times. A **Servant song** (looking forward to the Lord Jesus Christ) is followed by a **proclamation of future salvation**.

Servant Song	Proclamation of future Salvation for Israel
Isaiah 42:1-13	Isaiah 43:14-17
Isaiah 49:1-13	Isaiah 49:14-50:3
Isaiah 50:4-11	Isaiah 51:1-52:12
Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Isaiah 54:1-17

We are now ready to complete our study of Isaiah 49:14-50:3.

Verse-by-verse

Isaiah 50:1-3 consists of a rhetorical device which disproves the negative by asking questions and giving the responses to those questions.

Next, let's read Isaiah 50:1-3. The Lord asks and answers His own questions. Three pairs of them.

The Lord rebuts the claims by the people that He is to blame for their circumstances. And He reveals the real cause of their predicament: their own transgressions. Consider the following dialogue:

“Your divorced our mother (the nation of Israel)!” “You sold us into slavery repay a debt you owed.”

The Lord asks them: “Where is the certificate of divorce?” “Which creditor are you talking about?” (*1st pair*)

See **Isaiah 54:6-7** concerning the (lack of a) certificate of divorce.

Israel was “sold” but not to a creditor (not to pay a debt). See **Deuteronomy 32:30**.

“No, it was your own sins and transgressions that landed you in your predicament.” See **Isaiah 59:1-2**. “You didn’t answer Me when I called”. “No one showed up to reason together with Me (see **Isaiah 1:18-20**)”. (*2nd pair*)

See also **Isaiah 41:26-29; 59:9-16**.

“Well, we think that maybe you lacked the strength to deliver us”. (*3rd pair*)

The Lord responds: “I am all-powerful. Let me set you straight about just how powerful I am.”

In verse 2b, the Lord mentions the sea and the rivers. The Lord is reminding the Israelites about times in the past when His power delivered and ransomed them.

“Sea” refers to the Red Sea. See **Exodus 14:21** and **Isaiah 44:27**.

“Rivers” includes the Jordan River. See **Joshua 3:11-17**.

In verse 3, the Lord mentions covering the heavens with blackness (sackcloth). See **Isaiah 13:10 Joel 2:10,31; 3:15; Matthew 24:29; Revelation 6:12.**

These passages speak of the future Day of the Lord: the Great Tribulation and the Second Coming of Christ.

Isaiah Chapter 50:4-11

This is the 3rd Servant Song of Isaiah.

Outline

Isaiah 50:4	The Servant listened and learned
Isaiah 50:5-6	The Servant obediently endured suffering
Isaiah 50:7-9	The Servant confidently depended on God
Isaiah 50:10-11	The Challenge to follow the Servant's example

Let's read the passage: **Isaiah 50:4-11.**

Now I have identified this as the third Servant song.

How do we know that this passage refers to the Servant of the Lord, the Lord Jesus Christ, rather than to Isaiah?

Primarily, we know because of **verses 6-7**, in light of the gospels.

See Matthew 26:67; 27:30-31; Luke 18:31-33.

Another clue is found in the expression “*not disobedient*” in **verse 5**, In light of the New Testament.

See Matthew 26:39-42; John 8:28-29; 14:31; Philippians 2:8-9; Hebrews 5:8.

By the way, Isaiah 50:4-11 cannot refer to the nation of Israel either, because it was continually disobedient to the Lord!

Next time, we will begin our verse-by-verse study of this passage.

Verse-by-verse