

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Week 135

Isaiah Chapter 51:1 – 52:12

Overview of Isaiah 51:1-52:12

Chapter 50:10-11 addressed two opposite groups of people. The people of verse 10 were believers. The people of verse 11 were unbelievers.

This proclamation of salvation in Isaiah 51:1 – 52:12 is addressed to the people in verse 10 only – the faithful remnant of Israel. This is clear from the outset. Isaiah 51:1 is addressed to those who pursue righteousness and seek the Lord.

But while the audience for the proclamation is the believing remnant of Israel, the salvation it declares is universal and timeless. It is proclaimed to every nation on earth (Isaiah 51:5-6; 52:10). And will last forever. (Isaiah 51:6-8, 11).

The speaker alternates between the Lord and Isaiah. The Lord speaks to His people (and in one case to His Servant). Isaiah speaks to the Lord, to Jerusalem, and to Zion.

And last week we examined a table that showed the speaker and the audience for each set of verses.

Finally, we saw that the Servant of the Lord is in view in several passages, including 51:4,5,9, 16; 52:6,10. The arm of the Lord is featured prominently in three of these passages (51:5,9; 52:10).

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.

Using this outline as a guide, let's read this proclamation of salvation again: **Isaiah 51:1-52:12.**

The time element in Isaiah 51:1-52:12

Isaiah did not predict future events in a sequential or chronological timeline. The context reveals what time period is in view for specific passages in Isaiah. Let's look at the time periods associated with Isaiah 51:1-52:12.

Section	Time period in view
51:1-8	From Isaiah's lifetime to the Messianic Kingdom.
51:9-16	The exile in Babylon
51:17-23	The time of deliverance from Babylon
52:1-12	The restoration of Zion

At the same time, the salvation proclaimed will be for all time (and all people).

Indications of this eschatological (end times/Messianic kingdom) timeframe appear throughout this section, including :

Verses	indication
51:3	The wilderness will be made like Eden. The Lord will reverse the curse of Genesis 3:18 .
51:6,8	The sky will vanish like smoke and the earth will wear out like a garment. But My salvation, righteousness, and justice will be forever.
51:11	Everlasting joy. Also, this same passage is found in Isaiah 35:10 which describes the Messianic Kingdom.
51:22	You will never drink the chalice of the Lord's anger again.
52:1	The uncircumcised and unclean will no more come into you (See also Isaiah 35:8).

Next week, we will start our verse-by-verse study.