

Free Redemption

Isaiah 50-52.12

Main Idea

The Lord reminds Israel of their sin, but He also reminds them that a Servant is coming to make a way back to the Lord and for the Lord to make the world right again, but it would not come by money, but by blood.

Overview

God is able, but we were unwilling (Isaiah 50.1-3)

- A. In their divorce and/or being sold it was their sin that caused such a result
 - 1. The Lord is able to save, so it cant be His fault (vs. 2)
 - 2. It is because of their sins that they find themselves estranged from God (vs. 1)

The Substitutionary Servant (Isaiah 50.4-11)

- A. Vs. 10 helps us understand who is talking in this passage...the servant
 - 1. We know this from chapter 49 who speaks in the first person about His ministry
 - 2. We also know that the help that Israel and the world needs will not come from the nation of Israel since they have failed in their mission as is evidenced by the Babylonian exile:
 - a. This prompts us to look towards the servant that has been coming up throughout this book...
 - b. This passage points to what that servant will do to reach the nations and bring glory to God
 - 3. Note that he doesn't rebel at this mission (vs. 5)
 - a. But instead he gives his back, his cheeks, and his face (vs. 6)
 - b. This giving of himself is connected to hearing and responding to Gods call (vs. 5)
 - c. This is exactly what we read Jesus does: Matt. 27.67, Mark 15.19, Luke 22.63, John 19.1
 - i. He is disgraced in order to not be disgraced by the Resurrection (vs. 6)
 - 4. God helps the servant and because of this he is confident in his success (vs. 7-9)
 - 5. And all of this is for the purpose of sustaining the weary (vs. 4)
- B. There are two responses to this servant and his work:
 - 1. Vs. 10: You rely or trust in the Lord
 - 2. Vs. 11: You rely or trust on your own efforts to kindle your own fire to walk in
 - a. For those that choose this option they lie in torment in the end

Comfort for the weary (For those that do rely) (Isaiah 51.1-16)

- A. There are at least 8 benefits and/or descriptors of those that have faith or rely/trust in the Lord and His servant:
 - 1. 51.1: You pursue righteousness...you pursue the Lord:
 - a. Righteousness is defined by the character of God
 - 2. 51.2: Look to the faith of your Fathers
 - a. Abraham and Sarah exude what it means to trust that God would do what we He said He would do:
 - i. That is the lineage of us who are a people of faith that trust in God
 - 3. 51.3: The Lord comforts Zion
 - a. As He blesses, the Lord intends to comfort His people
 - b. Israel had tried to find comfort elsewhere in its own self made religion, but the Lord reminds those that truly trust Him, they receive the comfort we all want
 - 4. 51.3: He restores Eden (heaven)
 - a. God takes that which has been neglected or broken (wilderness/desert) and He is

restoring it for His glory:

- i. That's what people of faith/church does
5. 51.4: Salvation for all peoples
 - a. This wrings of what we have seen in Isaiah 2.1-4, 49.6, 51.4
6. 51.6,8: Gods grants believers righteousness that is forever since it is His righteousness (not our own) that we are granted, therefore this righteousness will not be lost
7. 51.7: Do not need to fear the reviling or the dismay of those that persecute us
8. 51.8: Those that persecute believers will lose

B. Out of this comes a plea for the Lord to awake and act as He has done (vss. 9-11)

1. And in vss. 12-16 we see the assurance of His response

There is no comfort for the weary (for those that don't rely) (Isaiah 51.17-20)

A. There is a call in vs. 17 for those in Jerusalem to wake up and realize that they have been drinking from the cup of Gods wrath on their sin (i.e. the Babylonian captivity)

1. They are drunk with wrath from God and not wine (vs. 21)
2. From vss. 18-20 Jerusalem has a mirror set in front of their face where they are made to realize that they have no leader to guide them and no people to even follow if they did
 - a. As a result devastation, destruction, famine, and sword have come upon them
 - b. Their disobedience has gotten them nothing but trouble
 - i. Thus the question in vs. 19...then who will comfort you?

Freedom of Redemption (Isaiah 51.21-52.12)

A. The Lord promises to take the cup of wrath away from Israel and give it to their tormentors instead (vss. 22-23)

1. This likely is pointing to the re-payment of Babylon's poor execution of the captivity (46-47)
 - a. But since the OT is written to instruct us in the New Covenant community (1 Peter 1.12) we can see that even that points to the ministry of Christ:
 - i. Matthew 20.22, Matthew 26.39 both indicate that this "cup" is given to Jesus to drink in His execution for those that rely on Him
2. This redemption that comes as a result was purchased not with money (vs. 3)
 - a. Presumably it was purchased by the blood of Christ
3. Therefore we should put on the garments of righteousness and break free from the chains of sin that so easily bind us (vss. 1-2)
 - a. And we should go and publish the peace that the servant affords those that turn to Him (vss. 7-10)
 - b. We should not fear as we do for the Lord will be with us (vs. 12)

Questions

Discussion Starter: How would you describe how Israel has been acting towards the Lord?

1. Read Isaiah 50.1-3. What does the Lord want them understand? Why was Israel sent into captivity? What does this say about God? How does this comfort you?
2. Read Isaiah 50:4-11. Describe the servant in verses 4-9.
3. Do some cross-references to the New Testament and show how this points to Christ. What does this say about Jesus that he willfully gives?
4. What are the two different responses to the Servant of the Lord described in verses 10 and 11?
5. Read Isaiah 51.1-16. Pull out the descriptors and/or benefits of relying on the Lord and discuss how they encourage you to trust/rely on the Lord.
6. What are the people calling on the Lord to do in 51:9-11 and how does He respond in 51:12-16? What does this tell us about the character of God?
7. Read Isaiah 50.11 & Isaiah 51.17-20. Describe how the Lord sees those that do not rely/trust Him. Why is it important to understand this? How can we humbly talk about this with those who do not currently trust the Lord?
8. Read Isaiah 51.21-52.12. What is God calling his people to do in this passage?

9. Cross-reference the teaching of vss. 22-23 with Matthew 20.22 & Matthew 26.39. Discuss how Jesus understands what he is doing in light of what we are reading in Isaiah. How does this show you the heart of Christ?
10. How does redemption come “without money”?
11. Is the joy of this news causing you to sing? If so why? If not why?
12. How does the freedom of this Redemption seem to push us into a joy filled evangelism?
13. How does the Lord serve to be with us and be our “rear guard”? How does this help you trust all his promises to you?

Accountability: How is the freedom of redemption informing your joy?