

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—The Suffering Servant Remains Faithful (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 50:4–11

The Suffering of the Messiah

- 4 The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of disciples,
That I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word.
He awakens *Me* morning by morning,
He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple.
- 5 The Lord GOD has opened My ear;
And I was not disobedient
Nor did I turn back.
- 6 I gave My back to those who strike *Me*,
And My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard;
I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting.

The Messiah's Trust in God Remains Steadfast

- 7 For the Lord GOD helps Me,
Therefore, I am not disgraced;
Therefore, I have set My face like flint,
And I know that I will not be ashamed.
- 8 He who vindicates Me is near;
Who will contend with Me?
Let us stand up to each other;
Who has a case against Me?
Let him draw near to Me.
- 9 Behold, the Lord GOD helps Me;
Who is he who condemns Me?
Behold, they will all wear out like a garment;
The moth will eat them.

The Destruction the Wicked Plan for the Messiah Falls Upon Themselves

- 10 Who is among you that fears the LORD,
That obeys the voice of His servant,
That walks in darkness and has no light?
Let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.
- 11 Behold, all you who kindle a fire,
Who encircle yourselves with firebrands,
Walk in the light of your fire
And among the brands you have set ablaze.
This you will have from My hand:
You will lie down in torment.

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Zion's Comfort (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 51:1–52:12

Future Blessing for Zion—the New Eden

- 51:1 "Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
Who seek the LORD:
Look to the rock from which you were hewn
And to the quarry from which you were dug.

- 2 “Look to Abraham your father
And to Sarah who gave birth to you in pain;
When *he was but* one I called him,
Then I blessed him and multiplied him.”
- 3 Indeed, the LORD will comfort Zion;
He will comfort all her waste places.
And her wilderness He will make like Eden,
And her desert like the garden of the LORD;
Joy and gladness will be found in her,
Thanksgiving and sound of a melody.

Justice to the Nations

- 4 “Pay attention to Me, O My people,
And give ear to Me, O My nation;
For a law will go forth from Me,
And I will set My justice for a light of the peoples.
- 5 “My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth,
And My arms will judge the peoples;
The coastlands will wait for Me,
And for My arm they will wait expectantly.
- 6 “Lift up your eyes to the sky,
Then look to the earth beneath;
For the sky will vanish like smoke,
And the earth will wear out like a garment
And its inhabitants will die in like manner;
But My salvation will be forever,
And My righteousness will not wane.

Message for the Faithful

- 7 “Listen to Me, you who know righteousness,
A people in whose heart is My law;
Do not fear the reproach of man,
Nor be dismayed at their revilings.
- 8 “For the moth will eat them like a garment,
And the grub will eat them like wool.
But My righteousness will be forever,
And My salvation to all generations.”

The Mighty Redeemer

- 9 Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD;
Awake as in the days of old, the generations of long ago.
Was it not You who cut Rahab in pieces,
Who pierced the dragon?
- 10 Was it not You who dried up the sea,
The waters of the great deep;
Who made the depths of the sea a pathway
For the redeemed to cross over?
- 11 So the ransomed of the LORD will return
And come with joyful shouting to Zion,

And everlasting joy *will be* on their heads.

They will obtain gladness and joy,
And sorrow and sighing will flee away.

12 “I, even I, am He who comforts you.

Who are you that you are afraid of man who dies
And of the son of man who is made like grass,

13 That you have forgotten the LORD your Maker,

Who stretched out the heavens

And laid the foundations of the earth,

That you fear continually all day long because of the fury of the oppressor,

As he makes ready to destroy?

But where is the fury of the oppressor?

14 “The exile will soon be set free, and will not die in the dungeon, nor will his bread be lacking.

15 “For I am the LORD your God, who stirs up the sea and its waves roar (the LORD of hosts is His name).

16 “I have put My words in your mouth and have covered you with the shadow of My hand, to establish the heavens, to found the earth, and to say to Zion, ‘You are My people.’”

The Cup of God’s Wrath

17 Rouse yourself! Rouse yourself! Arise, O Jerusalem,

You who have drunk from the LORD’s hand the cup of His anger;

The chalice of reeling you have drained to the dregs.

18 There is none to guide her among all the sons she has borne,

Nor is there one to take her by the hand among all the sons she has reared.

19 These two things have befallen you;

Who will mourn for you?

The devastation and destruction, famine and sword;

How shall I comfort you?

20 Your sons have fainted,

They lie *helpless* at the head of every street,

Like an antelope in a net,

Full of the wrath of the LORD,

The rebuke of your God.

21 Therefore, please hear this, you afflicted,

Who are drunk, but not with wine:

22 Thus says your Lord, the LORD, even your God

Who contends for His people,

“Behold, I have taken out of your hand the cup of reeling,

The chalice of My anger;

You will never drink it again.

23 “I will put it into the hand of your tormentors,

Who have said to you, ‘Lie down that we may walk over *you*.’

You have even made your back like the ground

And like the street for those who walk over *it*.”

God Calls Zion to Awake

52:1 Awake, awake,

Clothe yourself in your strength, O Zion;

Clothe yourself in your beautiful garments,

O Jerusalem, the holy city;
For the uncircumcised and the unclean
Will no longer come into you.

- 2 Shake yourself from the dust, rise up,
O captive Jerusalem;
Loose yourself from the chains around your neck,
O captive daughter of Zion.

3 For thus says the LORD, “You were sold for nothing and you will be redeemed without money.”

4 For thus says the Lord GOD, “My people went down at the first into Egypt to reside there; then the Assyrian oppressed them without cause.

5 “Now therefore, what do I have here,” declares the LORD, “seeing that My people have been taken away without cause?” *Again* the LORD declares, “Those who rule over them howl, and My name is continually blasphemed all day long. [[Rom 2:24](#)]

6 “Therefore My people shall know My name; therefore in that day I am the one who is speaking, ‘Here I am.’”

Zion’s Deliverance Comes

- 7 How lovely on the mountains
Are the feet of him who brings good news,
Who announces peace
And brings good news of happiness,
Who announces salvation,
And says to Zion, “Your God reigns!” [[Rom 10:14–15](#)]
- 8 Listen! Your watchmen lift up *their* voices,
They shout joyfully together;
For they will see with their own eyes
When the LORD restores Zion.
- 9 Break forth, shout joyfully together,
You waste places of Jerusalem;
For the LORD has comforted His people,
He has redeemed Jerusalem.
- 10 The LORD has bared His holy arm
In the sight of all the nations,
That all the ends of the earth may see
The salvation of our God.

Return from Exile

- 11 Depart, depart, go out from there,
Touch nothing unclean;
Go out of the midst of her, purify yourselves,
You who carry the vessels of the LORD. [[2 Cor 6:17](#)]
- 12 But you will not go out in haste,
Nor will you go as fugitives;
For the LORD will go before you,
And the God of Israel *will be* your rear guard.