

# A Trek Through Isaiah 68 - 51:17 - 52:12

Bruce Pike

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For this week:

- To the Faithful Remnant (part 2) 51:17 - 52:12

Context

<b>The Greater Deliverance: the Work of the Servant (49:1 - 55:13)</b>
The Servant's mission 49:1-13
Nation and Servant contrasted 49:14 - 50:11
To the faithful remnant 51:1 – 52:12
The Servant's triumph 52:13 - 55:13

- In the book of the Servant (38 - 55): How will God's people be redeemed from captivity?
- This section (49 - 55) describes the greater deliverance (redemption from sin) accomplished through the Servant.
  - The Servant's mission: to redeem Israel and to redeem the world. 49:1-13
  - Nation and Servant Contrasted 49:14 – 50:11
  - To the faithful remnant 51:1 – 52:12
  - The Servant's triumph 52:13 - 55:13

## To the Faithful Remnant 51:1 – 52:12

- Theme
  - 50:10-11 differentiates those who trust in God from those who don't
  - Obeying the voice of the Servant is the distinguishing factor.
  - 51:1 - 52:12 addresses the believing remnant.
- Structure
  - Three calls to listen 51:1-8
  - Appeal to the LORD to act 51:9-11
  - Interlude 51:12-16
  - Three calls to alertness and action 51:17 - 52:11

- Three calls to alertness and action 51:17 – 52:12
  - Corresponding to the three calls to listen in 51:1-8.

Eden restored 51:1-3	Wrath removed 51:17-23
Universal and eternal salvation 51:4-6	Holiness enjoyed 52:1-10
No fear 51:7-8	A greater exodus 52:11-12

- Indicates that the promises have been fulfilled; now Israel is to enter into them.

- The first call: **Wrath** removed 51:17-23
  - Corresponds to the first promise.
  - V17-20 The cup drunk

17 Wake yourself, wake yourself, stand up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the LORD the cup of his wrath, who have drunk to the dregs the bowl, the cup of staggering. 18 There is none to guide her among all the sons she has borne; there is none to take her by the hand among all the sons she has brought up. 19 These two things have happened to you— who will console you?— devastation and destruction, famine and sword; who will comfort you? 20 Your sons have fainted; they lie at the head of every street like an antelope in a net; they are full of the wrath of the LORD, the rebuke of your God.

- Picture of a woman rendered helpless by drink, now called to stand up.
- V17 Call to wake
  - from the hand of the Lord. Given by God
  - the cup of his wrath,
    - Discipline for sin
    - A measured amount.
- V18 Alone
  - sons she has borne. Her people.
  - none to guide her ... none to take her by the hand
    - None can lead her away from the LORD's discipline.
- V19 Under discipline
  - These two things. Double indicates totality.
  - who will console you?
    - No earthly agent can help Zion.
  - Discipline described in twos
    - devastation and destruction (city destroyed), famine and sword (people destroyed)
    - Your sons have fainted... they are full of the wrath of the Lord,
- V20 Helpless
  - like an antelope in a net
    - Picture of an animal caught in the hunter's snare, unable to free itself.
  - the rebuke of your God
    - Strong word.
    - Almost a curse

■ V21-23 The cup removed

v21 Therefore hear this, you who are afflicted, who are drunk, but not with wine: 22 Thus says your Lord, the LORD, your God who pleads the cause of his people: “Behold, I have taken from your hand the cup of staggering; the bowl of my wrath you shall drink no more; 23 and I will put it into the hand of your tormentors, who have said to you, ‘Bow down, that we may pass over’; and you have made your back like the ground and like the street for them to pass over.”

- v21 -22 Deliverance for Jerusalem
  - Therefore hear this
    - Results of divine reasoning.
  - you who are afflicted, who are drunk
    - Continuing the metaphor of the cup to represent God’s judgment.
  - your Lord, the Lord, your God who pleads the cause of his people:
    - Reminding them again who God is.
    - Multiple references for emphasis
    - The God of Israel.
    - The sovereign Lord
    - The God of justice who defends His people
  - Behold, I have taken from your hand the cup
    - Zion has endured exactly the amount of wrath prepared for her; now comes deliverance.
    - Here is divine sovereignty: God decides when to give the cup and when to remove it.
    - Here is also divine justice: wrath deserved, wrath taken away with perfect justice, wrath gone forever.
- V23 Judgment on the nations
  - I will put it into the hand of your tormentors.
    - As at the Exodus.
    - Punishment for the nations deserved for not honoring the LORD as God.
    - But where is the Passover sacrifice that enables forgiveness for the nation Israel? God’s wrath does not evaporate.

- The second call: **Holiness** enjoyed 52:1-10
  - Corresponds to the promise of universal salvation (51:4-6)
  - Structure
    - Out of chronological order
    - V1-2 Zion can awake to holiness and royalty
    - Because V3-6 the LORD saw their need.
    - And v7-10 the LORD acted.
  - V1-2 Holiness and royalty

1 Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Zion; put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; for there shall no more come into you the uncircumcised and the unclean. 2 Shake yourself from the dust and arise; be seated, O Jerusalem; loose the bonds from your neck, O captive daughter of Zion.

- Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Zion;
  - Call to lay hold of the promise already accomplished.
  - Her strength is from the LORD.
- put on your beautiful garments,
  - Priestly garments.
  - As Ex 28:1-2 Then bring near to you Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the people of Israel, to serve me as priests—Aaron and Aaron’s sons, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. 2 And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.
- the holy city
  - Her sin was taken care of in 51:17-23
- for there shall no more come into you the uncircumcised and the unclean.
  - circumcised. A badge of legitimate citizenship.
  - no more...unclean. Truly separated from sin.
  - Appearance will match the reality.
- Shake yourself from the dust and arise; be seated, O Jerusalem; loose the bonds from your neck, O captive daughter of Zion.
  - From slavery to royalty.
  - Physical captivity ended at 48:21.
  - Deliverance from the captivity of sin
  - Made as princes.

■ V3-6 The LORD explains

3 For thus says the LORD: “You were sold for nothing, and you shall be redeemed without money.” 4 For thus says the Lord GOD: “My people went down at the first into Egypt to sojourn there, and the Assyrian oppressed them for nothing. 5 Now therefore what have I here,” declares the LORD, “seeing that my people are taken away for nothing? Their rulers wail,” declares the LORD, “and continually all the day my name is despised. 6 Therefore my people shall know my name. Therefore in that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here I am.”

- For. The basis of the holiness and deliverance of v1-2.
- V3-4 God looks to the past
  - You were sold for nothing.
    - No money changed hands so ownership did not transfer.
  - you shall be redeemed without money.
    - Redemption requires paying a price.
    - Either someone else will pay, or the payment will not be money.
    - 1 Pet 1:18-19 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.
  - the Lord God. Emphasizing His sovereignty.
  - Egypt...the Assyrian. God knows His people’s suffering.
- V5 God looks at the present
  - Now therefore what have I here. Regarding His people’s present plight
  - Two reasons for Him to act (1) my people are taken away for nothing? Their rulers wail,”(2) continually all the day my name is despised.
- V6 God looks at the future
  - Therefore... Therefore
    - 2x for emphasis
    - What the LORD will do.
  - my people shall know my name
    - A new appreciation of God as He is represented in word and deed.
  - they shall know that it is I who speak; here I am.”
    - No mediator.
    - God Himself will be with them and speak with them.
    - But no man may look upon God so how can this be?

■ V7-10 Zion is Redeemed.

7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." 8 The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. 9 Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. 10 The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

- V7 The messenger
  - The moment of the call in v1.
    - Picture of a city awaiting the outcome of the battle.
    - A messenger appears with the good news of victory.
    - The watchmen hear and cry out in joy.
    - The good news spreads through the city.
  - How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news,
    - Not a band of refugees fleeing defeat.
    - A single runner exultant in victory.
    - Mountains. Around Jerusalem.
    - How beautiful...are the feet.
      - An idiom: the message is desirable.

- who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation,
  - Parallel structure
    - Good news - peace
    - Good news - salvation
  - Good news.
    - Repeated for emotional intensity.
    - All of God. As Jesus said to the rich young ruler in Mk 10:18 ...No one is good except God alone.
  - Salvation
    - From sin
    - The greater deliverance accomplished by the Servant.
  - Peace
    - Result of salvation: Peace with God.
    - As Ro 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
  - As Isaiah has proclaimed
    - The end of God's wrath 51:17-23
    - The city awakening to holiness 52:1
    - The people finding themselves as priests and kings 52:1,2
    - Redemption without cost 52:3
  - Paul quotes this passage in Ro 10:14-15 referring to the preaching of the gospel: How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"
- who says to Zion, "Your God reigns.
  - God sovereign over all.
  - All His promises fulfilled.
  - Not that God has left the throne and is now returning, rather now His reign will be manifested.
  - As Jesus in Mk 1:15 The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."
    - Now is the time
    - The kingdom of God is here
    - Repent and believe in the gospel.



- V8 Response of the watchmen
  - The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy;
    - Begins with an exclamation: “Hark! I hear a voice”
    - As Song 2:8 The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes, leaping over the mountains, bounding over the hills.
    - Sing: to call loudly, shrilly; to rejoice; to exult. As they hear the message, the watchmen cannot contain themselves.
  - for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion.
    - Hard on the heels of the messenger comes the LORD Himself.
    - Eye to eye. Not “in agreement” but “close enough to look into each other’s eyes”. God’s presence will be immediate and clearly seen.
    - As Mt 1:23 quoting Is 7:14 Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).
  
- V9 Response of the city
  - Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem
    - Is 42:18-25 describes the condition of the city.
      - Physically in ruins: this is a people plundered and looted; they are all of them trapped in holes and hidden in prisons; they have become plunder with none to rescue, spoil with none to say, “Restore!”
      - Spiritually captive: Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the Lord?...Was it not the Lord, against whom we have sinned, in whose ways they would not walk, and whose law they would not obey?
    - Now, in response to the good news, what was in ruins rejoices.
    - Break forth together. Heb two imperatives: (break forth, shout) for emphasis.

- V10 Salvation visible to all
  - The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations
    - Made ready for action openly
  - all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.
    - Shall see God redeem His people.

- The third call: A greater **exodus** 52:11-12

11 Depart, depart, go out from there; touch no unclean thing; go out from the midst of her; purify yourselves, you who bear the vessels of the LORD. 12 For you shall not go out in haste, and you shall not go in flight, for the LORD will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard.

■ V11 The departure

- Depart, depart, go out from there;
  - In the first Exodus, Israel did not stay in Egypt after the Passover but came out and started on their way to the promised land.
  - Likewise, the faithful remnant is called to leave their old life and start on the pilgrimage of discipleship.
- touch no unclean thing;
  - Negative holiness
  - Unlike the first Exodus where Israel plundered the Egyptians. Here the things of the world are unclean.
- purify yourselves,
  - Positive holiness
  - People who serve the Lord are to be pure and not encumbered with the things of the world.
- you who bear the vessels of the LORD.
  - Under the Mosaic law, only the Levites could carry the things of the tabernacle. Re Num1:50 But appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the testimony, and over all its furnishings, and over all that belongs to it. They are to carry the tabernacle and all its furnishings, and they shall take care of it...
  - But now all of God's people will be priests.

■ V12 The journey

- For you shall not go out in haste, and you shall not go in flight,
  - Contrast the first Exodus where the people left in haste Ex 12:11
  - Now there is no one to flee from so the journey is with stately dignity.
- for the LORD will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard.
  - Completely protected.
  - As Is 40:10-11 Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 11 He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.
  - As the pillar of cloud and of fire guarded and led Israel in the Exodus. (Ex 13:21; 14:19)

## **Discussion**

We will break into three groups for discussion. The questions are

- 1. Holiness enjoyed 52:1-10**
  - a. Put on your strength**
  - b. Put on your beauty**
  - c. Loose the bonds**
  - d. Arise and be seated**
- 2. How beautiful 51:7-10**
  - a. The city awaits**
  - b. The beautiful news**
  - c. Singing for joy**
  - d. Seeing the salvation of our God**
- 3. Depart, depart 52:11-12**
  - a. Go out from there**
  - b. Touch no unclean thing**
  - c. Purify yourself**
  - d. Do not go in haste**

Remember to worship the Lord: (1) See (2) Know (3) Respond

For next week: To the Faithful Remnant (part 2) 51:17 - 52:12

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