

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, September 17, 2023

Passage: Isaiah 51:17-52:12

Memory Passage: Isaiah 52:9-10

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is. 51:17–52:12.** Summarize in one sentence the message of each section we studied last week: 51:1–3; 51:4–6; 51:7–8; 51:9–11; 51:12–16. We covered three sections beginning with “listen/give attention,” the first of three sections beginning with “awake/wake,” and an interlude. This week, we’ll cover the final two sections that begin with “wake/awake.”
- (b) Who begins speaking in 51:17, and to whom is the voice speaking? Identify each time the speaker changes and to whom the new speaker speaks in vs. 51:17–52:12.
- (c) Describe the current state of Jerusalem from which Isaiah commands them to awake (51:17-20).
- (d) What does Yahweh intend to do for his people (51:21-23)?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is. 51:17–52:12.** Describe the tone of 51:17–20, 51:21–23, and 52:1–12. What accounts for the differences in tone?
- (b) 51:17–23 speaks of God’s judgment against his people and then his gracious lifting of that judgment. Of what does 52:1–12 speak? What is the relationship between these two sections of Scripture?
- (c) What blessing does 52:1 describe for God’s redeemed people? Why is this important?
- (d) What blessing does 52:2 describe for God’s people? Why is this important?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is. 51:17–52:12.** Why does the genre switch to prose in 52:3–6, and why does this shift matter as you interpret?
- (b) Explain what Yahweh says about his people in 52:3–4 and why this is important in the message of chapters 51–52.
- (c) What is Yahweh’s purpose for his people’s situation (52:5–6)?
- (d) How does 52:3–6 connect with what precedes and what follows, and what purpose does it serve in this chapter?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Is. 51:17–52:12.** What message do the messengers bring, and why are their feet described as “beautiful upon the mountains” (52:7)?
- (b) How do the watchmen respond and why (52:8)? How are the people of Jerusalem to respond and why (52:9)?
- (c) Why is it important that all nations and the ends of the earth see Yahweh’s power to save (52:10)?
- (d) From where must they “depart, go out,” and why must they go in the manner commanded in 52:11? Why will they have “the vessels of Yahweh” (cf. 2 Kgs 24:13; Ezra 1:7–11)?
- (e) Of what event does 52:12 remind us (cf. Ex. 12:11, 31; 14:19), and what is the contrast promised here (cf. also Is. 58:8)?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Is. 51:17–52:12.** Write down at least three ways Is. 51:17–52:12 would have brought encouragement and strength to those in Babylonian exile.
- (b) Interestingly, 51:17–52:12 do not clearly reveal how all these blessings will be provided. But one look at the next verse and we know: “Behold, my servant” (52:13). In what ways does our passage (51:17–52:12) reveal, foreshadow, or find fulfillment in Christ (though there are more, consider, for example, Mark 10:38; 14:24, 36; and 1 Pet. 1:18–19)?
- (c) Notice all the blessings promised to God’s people in these verses: holiness, freedom, redemption, vindication, salvation, protection. Write down at least two ways each of these blessings encourages and strengthens you in your walk with Christ.

DATE: Sept. 17, 2023**PASSAGE: Isaiah 51:17–52:12***Yahweh Comforts and Saves His People (Part II)*