

Part II, Lesson 22

Isaiah

The Lord is Salvation

The Cup of
God's Wrath
And
Redemption

Isaiah
51:17-
52:6

Isaiah Part II, Lesson 22

The Cup of God's Wrath and Redemption

Isaiah 51:17-52:6

Again and again Isaiah shouts, "Wake Up!" He speaks to Jerusalem again. Remember that when Jerusalem is spoken to, Isaiah is not talking about the city, but about the people to whom God gave the city. He is speaking to the people of Israel...the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Read Isaiah 51:17-23.

Here God is reminding the people of the terrible things that happened to them. Not that they needed reminding, we assume, but God had a purpose here. He is going to contrast their sad state with the blessing to come. He spoke of His judgment on Israel as being like strong drink...booze is one of the words we use.

He said that they had fallen down like a drunk person. They had fallen into the gutter outside the bar and there was no one to take them home from the street. There was no one to put them to bed and tuck them in for the night. He said that not even friends or relatives were available.

He said that two things were obvious. First, nobody cared that they were lying in the gutter. No one cared that they were slaves in Babylon. No one was building an army to rescue them. All the people who had been left in Judah were busy surviving, they weren't forming a rescue party.

Second, He said that there was no one ready and willing to comfort, support and cheer them up. They had been assaulted, beaten down, threatened with swords, and were even hungry because food was scarce for them. Yet, no one was coming to their rescue, no one was even writing them letters of comfort and hope.

He told them to look around and see their children also passed out in the gutter. They were sleeping off their drunkenness. What a sad picture. They had all been drugged by the cup of God's wrath.

But wait, God said that their being drunk was not caused by wine...by drinking something that would make them drunk. Their state was caused by God's anger. He wanted these people who were like drunks, nursing hangovers, dealing with the morning after headache, to listen to the truth of their situation.

The truth was that they were where they were, in the state that they were in, because of God's judgment. As Isaiah has said many times in the past, the people had rejected God. They had worshipped idols; they had ignored God's leadership as a nation. What else could God do? They had to live with their sin...their rejection of God. They found themselves in this terrible situation because God had to judge them.

But, listen, God had something else to say. His word was that there would be a new day. It will be a day which comes from God Himself. God's people are going to sober up. He will be the one to care about them. He will be the one to comfort them.

God was taking away the cup of His anger. It would be passed on to those who made them slaves. There would be no more lying down so their masters could walk over them like pavement stones. This was the

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work of the Sovereign Lord. This word was from God Himself, not just the preaching of Isaiah or any other prophet for that matter.

Those who had demanded that they lie down and be walked on, were going to suffer the cup of God's wrath. They would experience that which the people of God had experienced, but it would be even more severe. Can you hear a warning here to people today who use their power or wealth to mistreat/abuse others who have less power? It is against God's will to mistreat others just because you can.

Chapter fifty-two begins with a promise from God that the people would be rescued. Redemption was coming. They were captives in Babylon, but soon they would be free. Read Isaiah 52:1-6

God lists, like rapid fire, five things that Israel is to do: 1. Wake up and get moving. 2. Put on your strength. 3. Put on your best clothes...the beautiful ones. 4. Shake the dust off. 5. Take off the chains of slavery.

Things were about to be different. They were headed to the Holy City, Jerusalem. There would be those who choose not to go and those who were not worthy to be part of the new Holy City. This probably refers to people like those who took them captive...the Assyrians.

God reminded them of the past. They went to Egypt as a free nation...actually, just one large family. Then they were made slaves. They were marched to Babylon as slaves. God says that He is not going to pay a ransom for them. They were sold, in both cases, for nothing and He was buying them back for nothing.

The Lord says, "What do I have here?" This is spoken like God is with His people in Babylon. He surveys the situation. Like someone looking over the top of their glasses God asks, "What is this that I see?"

And we hear Him say that what He sees are rulers who mock Him. They constantly blaspheme God's name. They have no respect for Him whatsoever.

So God says, "I am going to make it clear to my people who I am." There will be a day when there will be no doubt as to who God is. They will be very clear that it was God who told them what would be happening well in advance. Then He adds, "Yes, it is I." A better way of saying what Isaiah wrote is, "It is I who speaks, 'Here I am.'" God uses His covenant name here. When God sent Moses to Egypt to lead His people out of bondage, He told Moses to say that "I Am" sent me. That is God's name, and the people of Israel would have identified with that immediately.

*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

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Scripture Memory: "Therefore my people will know my name; therefore in that day they will know that it is I who foretold it. Yes, it is I." Isaiah 52:6

Lesson Goal: To encourage students to see God's grace, His willingness to save all who trust Him.

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The Cup of God's Wrath and Redemption—Isaiah 51:17-52:6

Student Worksheet

Listen during the lesson for this information:

1. How did God describe the people of Israel who were slaves in Babylon?
2. What were the two things about His people that were obvious to God?
3. What caused the Israelites to be in slavery?
4. Who will take care of and comfort God's people?
5. What are the five things Israel was to do?
6. When God asked, "What is this that I see?" what did He see?
7. What is God's covenant name?

Page Four

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How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.

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