

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 268 – Hearken To Me Through Changing Of The Cup Of Fury (Isaiah 51:1-23)

1. Was the righteous of Zion going to be given a message of comfort or distress?

Comfort: *“(1) Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged. (2) Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him. (3) For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody” (Isaiah 51:1-3).*

- The call to hearken for those that followed righteousness (**Isaiah 51:7**) is the opposite of earlier (**Isaiah 46:12**).
- God addressed those who followed after righteousness (**Psalms 94:15, Proverbs 15:9, Proverbs 21:21, Matthew 5:6, Matthew 6:33, I Timothy 6:11, and II Timothy 2:22**).
- The righteous seek the Lord (**Psalms 105:1-7, Hosea 10:12, and Zephaniah 2:3**).
- The rock and hole of the pit whence they were digged (cf. **Matthew 3:7-9**).
- Abraham and Sarah bore them (**Genesis 18:11-19, Exodus 3:6, Joshua 24:1-3, and Romans 4:1**).
- God called Abraham (**Genesis 12:1-2**), blessed him and increased him (**Genesis 22:17**).
- God would comfort Zion (**Isaiah 40:1-8 and Zechariah 1:17**) for their sins had caused comfort to cease (**Lamentations 1:1-18**).
- Joy, gladness, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody in Zion (**Isaiah 35:10, Isaiah 61:1-3, Jeremiah 31:11-12, and Jeremiah 33:11**).

2. While there is a temporal nature of the earth, what about salvation?

Salvation is forever: *“(4) Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people. (5) My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust. (6) Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished... (8) For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: but my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation” (Isaiah 51:4-6; 8).*

- Again, hearken with the point of give ear (**Isaiah 42:23**). The emphasis of truly listening (**Nehemiah 8:1-3 and Proverbs 8:32-33**), which is something that hadn't been doing (**II Chronicles 24:19 and Nehemiah 9:30**).

- His people, His nation (**Exodus 19:1-6, Deuteronomy 7:1-9, I Kings 6:13, II Chronicles 6:5-6, Psalms 50:7, Isaiah 1:3, and Joel 2:27**).
- A law shall proceed from God (**Isaiah 2:1-3, Micah 4:1-2, Luke 24:47, and Acts 2:1-42**).
- Judgment for a light of the people (**Isaiah 42:1, John 5:30, and John 16:7-8**).
- Righteousness near and would go forth (**Romans 1:16-17**).
- They would trust in the Lord (**Zephaniah 3:12**).
- Look around (**Psalms 8:1-3**) at all that is temporary (**Matthew 24:35 and II Peter 3:10**).
- God's righteousness is not temporary (**Psalms 111:3 and Hebrews 1:8**).
- Salvation is eternal (**Hebrews 5:8-9**).

3. Can one know righteousness?

Yes: *"Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings" (Isaiah 51:7).*

- Those listening are those who know righteousness (**Isaiah 58:2, Philippians 3:7-13, Titus 2:11-14, and I John 2:29**).
- Those whose heart is God's law (**Psalms 37:30-31, Psalms 40:8, Jeremiah 31:33, Romans 10:8, and II Corinthians 3:3**).
- Nothing to fear of men for the faithful (**Matthew 10:27-28, Luke 6:22-23, and Hebrews 13:5-6**).
- You will be reviled (**Matthew 5:10-12**).

4. Did Israel fail to trust in God because He had not delivered them in the past?

No, they failed to trust in Him though He had consistently shown His power to deliver: *"(9) Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon? (10) Art thou not it which hath dried the sea, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over? (11) Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away. (12) I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass; (13) And forgettest the LORD thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? and where is the fury of the oppressor? (14) The captive exile hasteneth that he may be loosed, and that he should not die in the pit, nor that his bread should fail. (15) But I am the LORD thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared: The LORD of hosts is his name. (16) And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people" (Isaiah 51:9-16).*

- The call for the awakening of God (**Psalms 44:23**).
- The reference to the Lord's arm is a recalling of His strength (**Luke 1:51**).
- Cutting Rahab [some nation; said to be of Egypt] (**Psalms 87:4** and **Psalms 89:10**)
- The dragon can take on several meanings (**Psalms 74:13** and **Ezekiel 29:3**).
- God dried up the sea for deliverance (**Exodus 14:21-29** and **Job 26:12**).
- Man perishes (**Psalms 103:15**).
- With their history (**Exodus 14:30**, **Numbers 21:34-35**, **Deuteronomy 3:3**, **Deuteronomy 21:10**, **Joshua 21:44**, **I Samuel 14:23**, **II Kings 14:27**, and **II Chronicles 32:22**) and God's power (**Exodus 15:6**, **Deuteronomy 33:29**, **Psalms 66:3**), how could they forget God and fear man (**I Samuel 10:19**)?
- He put His words in the mouths of the inspired from David (**II Samuel 23:2**) to Jesus (**John 17:8**; cf. **Deuteronomy 18:8** and **Acts 3:20-26**).
- How could they forget the Creator (**Deuteronomy 4:32**, **Isaiah 42:5**, **Isaiah 45:12**, and **Colossians 1:16**) that laid the foundations of the earth (**Job 38:4** and **Psalms 104:1-5**)?

5. While they had received the fury of the Lord, what did God promise them?

That they'll not drink of the cup of His fury again: *"(17) Awake, awake, stand up, O Jerusalem, which hast drunk at the hand of the LORD the cup of his fury; thou hast drunken the dregs of the cup of trembling, and wrung them out. (18) There is none to guide her among all the sons whom she hath brought forth; neither is there any that taketh her by the hand of all the sons that she hath brought up. (19) These two things are come unto thee; who shall be sorry for thee? desolation, and destruction, and the famine, and the sword: by whom shall I comfort thee? (20) Thy sons have fainted, they lie at the head of all the streets, as a wild bull in a net: they are full of the fury of the LORD, the rebuke of thy God. (21) Therefore hear now this, thou afflicted, and drunken, but not with wine: (22) Thus saith thy Lord the LORD, and thy God that pleadeth the cause of his people, Behold, I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling, even the dregs of the cup of my fury; thou shalt no more drink it again: (23) But I will put it into the hand of them that afflict thee; which have said to thy soul, Bow down, that we may go over: and thou hast laid thy body as the ground, and as the street, to them that went over"* (**Isaiah 51:17-23**).

- Jerusalem, you wake up (cf. **I Corinthians 15:34**).
- None, other than God, to guide Jerusalem (**Matthew 9:36-38**).
- Who would sorrow for them or comfort them (**Psalms 69:20**)?
- Full, drunken of the fury of the Lord (**Isaiah 63:6**).
- No more fury on them (**Isaiah 54:7-9**).
- Now that cup of fury will be given to their enemies (**Jeremiah 25:15-17**; cf. **Isaiah 10:5-23**).