

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 267 – The Bill Of Divorcement Through Lying Down In Sorrow (Isaiah 50:1-11)

1. Who caused the separation between Israel and God?

Israel, by their transgressions: *“Thus saith the LORD, Where is the bill of your mother’s divorcement, whom I have put away? or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away” (Isaiah 50:1).*

- God asked them where the evidence was that He had put them away. He referenced a bill of divorcement (**Deuteronomy 24:1-4**).
 - Because I referenced Deuteronomy 24:1-4, I should also note, such is not God’s Law any longer (**Matthew 19:3-9, Romans 7:1-3, and I Corinthians 7:10-11**).
- God did put away Israel, not including Judah, for their sins (**Jeremiah 3:1-8 and Ezekiel 23:1-49**; cf. **II Kings 18:9-12**).
- God did not sell them to creditors (cf. **II Kings 4:1**).
- The conclusion is, their separation from God is their doing (**Deuteronomy 32:18-29, II Kings 17:13-18, Psalms 34:16, Proverbs 15:29, Proverbs 28:9, Isaiah 52:1-3, Isaiah 59:1-3, Jeremiah 5:23-25, John 9:31, and II John 1:9**).

2. Was God capable of saving them if they would have hearkened to His calls?

Yes: *“(2) Wherefore, when I came, was there no man? when I called, was there none to answer? Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver? behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinketh, because there is no water, and dieth for thirst. (3) I clothe the heavens with blackness, and I make sackcloth their covering” (Isaiah 50:2-3).*

- God tried to reach them (**II Chronicles 36:14-16 and Proverbs 1:24-31**).
- They didn’t hear (**Isaiah 65:12, Jeremiah 7:13-16, and Zechariah 7:11-13**).
- He questioned if they believed He could not save them (**Isaiah 31:1**).
- He stated the evidence of His power in reminding them what He did to the sea, etc. (**Exodus 7:21 and Exodus 14:10-31**).
- He could cause darkness in the skies (**Exodus 10:21-22 and Joel 2:1-2**).

3. Was God ever directly instrumental in someone knowing how to speak aright?

Yes: *“The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned” (Isaiah 50:4).*

- **II Samuel 23:2, Job 32:8, Jeremiah 1:9, Matthew 10:16-20, John 16:13, I Corinthians 2:9-13, I Corinthians 14:37, Galatians 1:10-12, II Timothy 3:15-17, and II Peter 1:20-21.**
- The “me” here could be Isaiah, Jesus, or I don’t know. Verse 5 makes it hard to conclude we’re talking about Jesus (more to come on that thought).

4. When the Lord opened up the ear of the one discussed in this chapter, was there any choice in that individual adhering to the words God spoke?

Yes, there was free-will: *"The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back"* (Isaiah 50:5).

- The opening of the ear is a choice (Isaiah 48:8 and Matthew 13:15).
- One challenge for this being Jesus is that Jesus always did the Father's will (John 8:29). At the same time, the argument could be made that it is Jesus in light of other Scriptures (John 14:30-31, Philippians 2:8, Hebrew 5:8-9, and Hebrews 10:5-7).
- Contextually, this could be Jesus because of the reference of "His servant" in verse 10 that could tie to Isaiah 42:1-7.
- Israel had a history of being rebellious (Deuteronomy 9:7, Deuteronomy 9:24, Deuteronomy 31:27, Psalms 78:5-8, Isaiah 30:1, Isaiah 65:2, Jeremiah 5:23, and Ezekiel 2:5-8).
- This servant will not be like Israel. He will hear and do (Luke 6:46-49, Luke 11:28, Romans 2:13, and James 1:21-25).
- Again, this might be Isaiah or another, but could also be Jesus (John 6:38).

5. What did the individual in this chapter do concerning the smiters?

He submitted to persecution: *"I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting"* (Isaiah 50:6).

- This certainly could apply to Jesus (Isaiah 53:4, Matthew 26:67, Mark 15:19, Luke 18:32-33, John 18:20-22, and Hebrews 12:1-3).
- However, others could fit this easily too (Psalms 143:1-6, Jeremiah 18:18, Jeremiah 20:7-11, Ezekiel 1:1-3:18, Hosea 1:1-2, Amos 5:10, etc.).
- In fact, any disciple of the Lord should have the mindset displayed in this Scripture (Matthew 5:10-12, Acts 14:22, and II Timothy 2:8-12).

6. Why did the individual discussed in this chapter stand fearless?

He knew God was with him: *"(7) For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. (8) He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who is mine adversary? let him come near to me. (9) Behold, the Lord GOD will help me; who is he that shall condemn me? lo, they all shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up"* (Isaiah 50:7-9).

- Again, could easily be Jesus (John 8:28-29 and John 16:32).
- However, these things apply to all of the faithful (Deuteronomy 31:1-9, I Chronicles 28:20, Psalms 37:25-28, Romans 8:28-39, and Hebrews 13:5-6).

7. Would those who feared God trust in Him as their light or would they seek out their own source of light?

They would trust in Him as a light rather than any other source of their own: *“(10) Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God. (11) Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourselves about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow” (Isaiah 50:10-11).*

- Fear God and obedience are directly tied together (**Deuteronomy 5:29, Deuteronomy 6:2, Deuteronomy 13:4, I Samuel 12:14, Psalms 111:10, Proverbs 1:7, Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, Acts 10:35, Acts 13:26, and Hebrews 12:28**).
- Fear alone is not the motivator. Love must also be there (**Exodus 20:6, Deuteronomy 7:9, Joshua 22:5, John 14:15-21, and I John 5:2-3**).
- Walking in darkness (**Ecclesiastes 2:14 and I John 2:11**).
- The tie of the light guiding out of darkness (**John 12:35-36 and John 12:46**).
- God is the light (**I John 1:5-6**).
- Come out of the darkness (**Colossians 1:12-13 and Ephesians 5:11**).
- Stay upon God (**Psalms 27:13-14**).
- They thought they could be their own source of light (**Romans 10:1-3**), which was stupid (**Isaiah 30:15-16 and Jeremiah 17:5**).