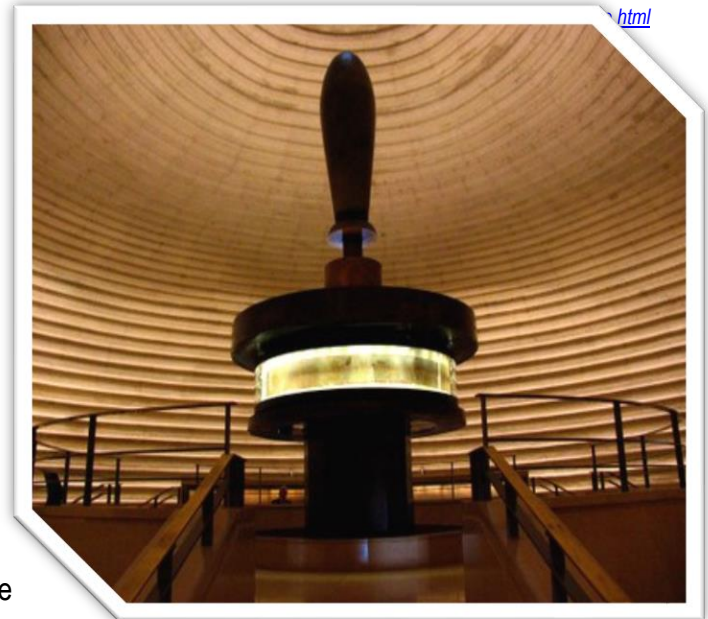


# ISAIAH 50 vs 1

The book of Isaiah has two great divisions; **first:** chapters 1–39; God’s Criticism of both rebel houses **Israel** and **Judah**, thereby affecting all the local neighbors in the hood; and **second:** chapters 40–66; God’s Consolation to both houses who have separate histories. The great Isaiah scroll found in the Qumran caves, dated from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC has put to rest many wild speculations about prophet Isaiah.



**<sup>1</sup> Thus says the LORD,**

**Where is the bill of your mother’s divorcement whom I have put away?** / where is the written record? Where the certificate... of your mother’s divorce? Can you find it?

**or to which of My creditors have I sold you?** / actually, this verse needs help, because we are left with the impression the Lord GOD officially divorced Mother ISRAEL – the 10 northern tribes; Ezekiel 23 says: *the Assyrians took her sons and daughters... and slew her with the sword*; so somewhere her sons and daughters were lost to history carrying with them... ALL the birthright promises of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. On this verse, James Moffatt’s translation is very clear:

**What writ of divorce did I ever hand to your mother? Whenever did I part with you and sell you to some creditor?**

The LORD did not divorce ISRAEL; though He did send her children away!

**Behold** / pay attention,

**for your willful iniquities have I sold** / NO!

**for your willful iniquities have you sold yourselves,**

**and for your transgressions** / for rebellion, stepping over the line,

**is your mother sent away** / so like the blessed song they all knew: even the Lord *did not stand in the way* of this sinning Mother Israel.

**Wherefore** / why is all this said?,

**when I came, why was there no man?** / in Hebrew: *ishi*... like, *Irish*... *Scottish*... *English*... *Danish*

# ISAIAH 50 vs 1

when I called, *why did... nobody answer?* / we just let the phone ring. Why? We all do it!

Is My hand shortened at all / is My hand too short...

that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver? / am I not able to rescue?

Behold / pay attention,

at My rebuke I dry up the sea,

I make the rivers a wilderness:

their fish stinketh, because *there is no water*,

and dies for thirst.

<sup>3</sup> I clothe the heavens with blackness / the Lord God as Creator appeals to his creation

and I make sackcloth their covering / the Lord says: *the heavens mourn*; do we occasionally frustrate God? In the past, the Lord regretted He made man. Do we really believe that? Or, are we really living in a meaningless, closed system of naturalism. The daily choice is always: time or eternity. Yet listen to this beautiful promise given us by God. All the promises can be ours. 2 Corinthians says: All the promises of God in Christ... are Yes and Amen, to us!

<sup>4</sup> The Lord GOD / Adonai YAHWAH; The One who in the beginning created us;

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of the learned / and aren't we all to be disciples of Him?

that I should know how to speak a word in season to the weary / the fatigued.

He awakens *me* morning by morning / every morning, the Lord GOD does!

He awakens my ear to hear as a disciple / as a lifelong learner, He still does!

<sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD has opened my ear,

and I was **not** rebellious / I was not disobedient,

nor *did I* turn back.

<sup>6</sup> I gave my back to the smiters / I let them hit me; I let them give me their best shot!

and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair:

# ISAIAH 50 vs 1

**I never hid my face from shame**

**and spitting** / many brothers and sisters in the Lord... sitting in prison throughout the world this day... for Christ's sake; they know that smiting and spitting... having faithfully followed their Lord... who took that abuse for us. We need to pray for them... **that their faith does not fail!**

**<sup>7</sup> For the Lord GOD helps me;**

**so, I am not confounded** / I am not confused:

**so, I set my face like a flint,**

**and I know I will not be ashamed.**

**Verse <sup>8</sup> He is near who justifies me** / in Hebrew: *tsadaq*... the word for: *right*, and *righteousness*. He: the One who is always right; the One who will always do right... He will never abandon His students.

**He is very near me.**

And the way of the Lord GOD is our way. We who once were enemies of God and afar off... but now, He is near; and this is what HE said:

**Who will contend with Me?** / and this is what WE can say:

**who will contend with me?**

**Let us stand closely together** / God calls some out of the crowd... to step right up! *Who wants to argue with Me? Come on!* Like Jacob... you're next!

God is not intimidated. Come on! Let's stand... closely together! He will train us up; He will pound and thump our nose until we are united with Him. God is not afraid of the hotheads! The hot- or cold-heads! It is those lukewarm ones... that bother Him.

HE says...

**Who will contend with Me?**

**Let us stand closely united together.**

Now, who is left over?

**Who is My adversary?**

# ISAIAH 50 vs 1

**Let him come near to Me!** / and I repeat: Paul says, *We all were enemies afar off brought near by the blood of Christ.* And God's not intimidated by anyone;

**Who is My adversary?**

**Let him come near to Me** / come a little closer! And even the men of old... are repetitious; we read a second time;

**Verse 9 Behold** / pay attention,

**the Lord GOD helps me** / Jesus said, Keep asking; keep seeking; keep knocking... don't stop! We might have to do it more than once... twice... three, four, five times.

God might want to know if we're serious, if we've counted the cost.

**Behold** / pay attention,

**the Lord GOD helps me** / and why do we need this help? Because things are heating up,

And for a third time...

**Who is he that condemns me?** / who is leftover in the crowd?

Who will... *condemn me?* Romans 8 says: *We are more than conquerors.* Who is he who condemns us? A fool! Christ Jesus died for us; He will not condemn us! There are fools in this world, but Jesus is alive and intercedes for us;

And listen to the beautiful response...

**lo,** / **LO...** that little Hebrew word...means: mark this; **highlight this**; draw a line under what you are going to hear... draw a circle around what I'm going to say... put your bookmark in this spot... hide these words in your heart... because the Lord GOD recognizes there are hard-heads in life;

**lo, who is he that condemns me?**

**they will all grow old as a garment;**

**and the moth** / that pesky little thing,

**will eat them up** / don't worry about those people who love to condemn.

Like pastor Scott says, Forgive them and drop it!

Let them go! What can they do to me? Nothing.

# ISAIAH 50 vs 1

**they will all wax old,**

**and the moth will devour them.**

And now, the prophet asks this most beautiful verse

that Dr. Gene Scott would annually preach on. Isaiah asks...

**Verse 10 Who is among you that fears the LORD** / earlier Isaiah said: make the Lord your fear and your dread, and He will be your sanctuary;

**that obeys the voice of His Servant** / **Jesus the great Suffering Servant** said: *My sheep hear My voice... and they follow Me... and another they will not follow*; this is not addressed to a disobedient person; but to someone

**who walks in darkness?**

...many years ago, in the church world, my dearest, oldest friends went from great success and faithful testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ touching untold numbers of people throughout the world. But when they became sick and in the hospital, I would hear religious leaders mutter, *They must be under the curse of God! No!* They were going through the trial of their faith... tested by fire – people, the world... even the church world... is not worthy of. The greatest men and women of God may be asked to **walk in darkness.**

Locked up in solitary confinement... all over this world... are mighty men and women of faith.

**Who is among you that fears the LORD,**

**who obeys the voice of the His Servant,**

**who walks in darkness, and has no light?**

**let him trust** / let him lean confidently

**on the name of the LORD** / what name do we need? The Lord is my peace; or maybe, the Lord is my health... the Lord is my righteousness. Or for direction, the Lord is my shepherd. Or in the battle, the Lord is my banner. Call on His name. **Psalm 91** says, *He will hear!* and He will answer.

We lean on Him. We call on Him. Even if you are confused and overwhelmed, don't worry! Call on **JESUS**: *He will help His people*; run to the name of the Lord; lean upon the name of the Lord;

**and stay** / literally,

**be anchored upon our God.**

# ISAIAH 50 vs 1

The last verse is a footnote of warning...

**Verse <sup>11</sup> Behold** / pay attention,

**but all ye who kindle a fire,**

**who encompass yourselves with sparks** / with your little match box. Moffatt says, You want to set the world ablaze! Go ahead!

**walk in the light of your fire,**

**and in the *little* sparks that you have kindled** / we can walk in the effort of what we've created.

The Lord values freedom; He won't always stand in our way and say, Halt! though we like to blame Him... when we mess things up.

But the Lord says to those who don't want to be tested... and trained in the darkness

**This you will have from My hand;**

**you will lie down in sorrow** / if the light is not His light, who is the Light of the world... then, how grave is our situation. We're just wandering in darkness, and we will go **down in sorrow**.

**Who is among you that fears the LORD,**

**who obeys the voice of **His Servant**, who walks in darkness,**

**and has no light?**

**let him trust in the name of the LORD;**

**let him be anchored upon his God.**