

ISAIAH 51 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 2nd century BC has put to rest many wild speculations about prophet Isaiah. **In Isaiah chapters 45, 46, 49, 51, & 52 we hear lots of talk about salvation and being saved by the Holy One of Israel, the Savior, leading up to the chapter that orthodox Jewish leaders still love to hide from the great people of Judah, from whom would come Messiah.**



¹ Listen to Me, you who pursue what is right, you who seek the Lord: look to the Rock from which you were cut, and to the quarry from which you are dug / and what does this mean? Read on: **Ephraim's Israel = rule by God**

² look to Abraham your father, and to Sarah who bore you: for when he was one, I called him that I might bless him and multiply him / pursuing what is right is noble, just do it the way Abraham did it – by faith; **he was a friend of God;** not because of legalistic checklists of personal performance based on ceremonial laws of self-effort; but by taking God at His word; and living in His many promises, faith is action, not just sitting there thinking about it, Abraham got up and started walking; and apparently 2000 years later God's people needed this reminder.

³ For the LORD will comfort Zion He comforts all her wasted places, and will make her wilderness blossom like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; / the Lord will fortify the City of David, her destroyed places due to infidelity;

joy and gladness will be found in her, giving thanks, and the voice of song / this is still a future prophecy; the citizens were not faithful, they rejected the Covenant He spelled out to them with His hand. Moses warned the people, God gave a Covenant of blessings if they would do it; or cursings if they would not; and like good losers they gambled on His curses.

⁴ Listen to Me, My people and give ear to Me, My nation: for a law will go forth from Me, and I will set My justice for a light to the peoples / to the greater house of Israel and the smaller house of Judah; to reach to all the nations.

⁵ My Righteousness approaches to save and my Arm has gone forth and will judge all the nations / His Biceps = His army – all the animate and inanimate creatures of His creation are available to accomplish His will; or it could also mean: **His right-hand Man**

the isles will wait upon Me and on My arm they will wait /19 times Isaiah speaks of **Israel in the Islands**; this is the 16th time; and though the word might suggest coasts and seashores, it definitely means: **islands**; which should cause the most curious student of the word to ask: Which islands is He talking about that will wait upon the Lord? In Egypt, Israel gathered Joseph's 2 sons **Ephraim and Manasseh who were ½ – Egyptian**, and to Ephraim went all the promises given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, evident when the time of the Gentile nations comes to a close.

And Isaiah has us appeal to the Lord's creative power:

6Lift up your eyes to the heavens; and look at the earth beneath: for the heavens will vanish like smoke, and the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who dwell in it will die in like manner;

but My **salvation** / My **Yeshua**; My **Jesus**, Isaiah, repeats himself: **will be forever**, My **Righteousness will never be dismayed**.



7Listen to Me, you who know the right, the people in whose heart is My law, do not fear the reproach of men, be not afraid of their revilings / listen My people who took to heart what He wrote with His own hands; fear Him who has no equal.

8For the moth will eat them up like a garment, and the worm will eat them like wool: but My rights will be forever, and My salvation / My Yeshua... to all generations. / the most famous and powerful, with all of us; will one day rot and return to dust...

9Awake, awake, put on strength, O Arm of the LORD; awake, as in days of old, the generations of long ago, Didn't You cut in pieces Rahab, and wound the dragon? / Isaiah calls on the Lord to intervene.

10Didn't You dry up the sea, the waters of the great deep; and make the depths of the sea a way for the redeemed to pass over? / **when the children of Israel escaped Pharaoh's army and crossed the Red Sea on dry land** -- Exodus 14. that route through the Red Sea to Sinai in Arabia is still strewn with Egyptian chariot wheels and other stuff that drowned. Check out: **Waters Of Moses Opening**

11So the redeemed of the LORD will return; and come to Zion singing, and everlasting joy will be in their heads: they will obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and sighing will flee away../ describing Judah's ruled by God – **those joyously returning to Zion**; but will they come with their stale agenda of the last 2000 years, not concerned about what the Lord said?

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Still preferring their traditions; making the same errors; having rejected their Messiah – the Chief cornerstone; and for some reason, they want to start sacrificing animals at some temple, but aren't they too late? **Hasn't He already told you O man what is good and what the Lord requires?** – Micah 6.

I thought they were smart people and would have learned a thing or two in their absence. Too bad those returning brought their half-hearted baggage with them; while, I guess thinking, God forgot what He told the people through Moses and all the other prophets when they said: this is what the Lord requires, **but to fear Him, to walk in all His ways, to love Him with all your heart and all your soul; and do His instructions** – there were only 10, and no more – Deut. 10.

Between their time away, there was only one sacrifice that needed to be made; and no more. Messiah's mission was accomplished – the Passover Lamb of God was given; it seems these joyous folk, these singers coming to Zion, can't seem to turn the page and help the Lord get on with what is next on His clean-up crew agenda. So, this is still future prophecy because there is a lot of hocus pocus clutter to remove.

12 I, even I, am He who comforts you: so, who are you that you should be afraid of a man who will die, and of his son who is made like grass / here today, the food of cows and bulls, and crapped out tomorrow,



13 that you forget the LORD your Maker, who stretched out the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth that you fear continually all the day at the wrath of the oppressor, as he makes ready to destroy you, but what comes of all the oppressor's wrath? / how can any forget the God who made them? How did Isaiah know the heavens were expanding, that is not something you can observe in a lifetime; the astronomers of his time would have ridiculed Isaiah if he went to Athens and declared such nonsense about the universe; by the way, they still are expanding;

The Lord is talking to His prophet Isaiah who just said: Awake, Awake, put on strength O Arm of the Lord; is Isaiah getting anxious about the approaching enemy?

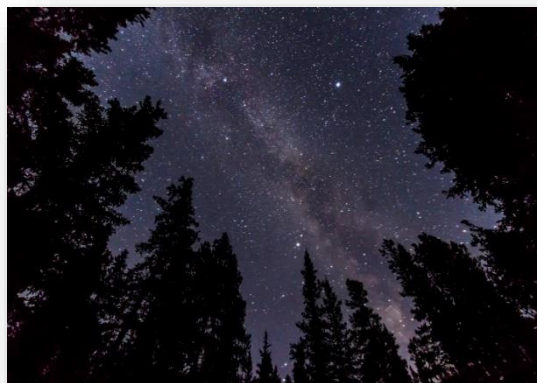
14 The cringing captive will quickly be set free; he will not die in the dungeon, his bread will not be lacking.

15 I am the LORD your God, who stirs up the sea of humanity, so that its waves roar -- the Lord of hosts is His name / He has all creation at His command.

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16 And I have put My words in your mouth and covered you in the shadow of My hand establishing the heavens, and laying the foundations of the earth, and saying to Zion, **You are My people.**

/ the Lord assures Isaiah and the people He is awake; so for a third time the Lord appeals to His Creator ability. They called on God to be awake and act, but the Lord God tells them...



17 Awake, awake, stand up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the Lord the cup of His anger; the cup of trembling you have drained to the dregs / citizens of the City of David, wake up and get up; so, does anybody think someone is drinking something in a little paper or glass cup, or even a fancy mug or chalice? Did someone drink some hocus pocus? The cup is a metaphor. **Little Judah's people** – hopefully **ruled by God**

18 There is none to guide her, among all the sons whom she has borne; there is none to lead by the hand among all the sons she has raised / there is no leadership in Jerusalem, no son in all the city able to lead by the hand – and do you wonder why? Simple, no one cared.

19 These two things have occurred to you -- who will console you? The devastation and destruction, the famine and sword: who will comfort you?

20 Your sons lay helpless collapsing, like an antelope caught in a net; they lie at the head of every street; filled with the LORD God's wrath and rebuke.

21 So hear this, you who are afflicted, who are drunk, but not with wine: / the Lord sent unpopular prophet Jeremiah – like pouring gas on a fire... to go speak caustic words to the people, as Babylon advanced on the outskirts of Jerusalem, to take captive its citizenry and plunder its cities. The people had rejected the God of Abraham, they corrupted the land, betting on the wrong outcome; over-populated with too many fools in leadership – fools who said in their heart: there is no God: much like those thugs and criminals in our genius 21st century.

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God, who covenanted with them, wrote His 10 commands with His own finger; if they lived on earth in that covenant they would be **blessed**, marked with God's favor; if they ignored that covenant, they would be **cursed**. The choice was simple.

The Lord said to Jeremiah, tell them: they will drink and stagger, and go mad because of the sword I send among them. Then I took the cup from the Lord's hand and made the nations drink, all the kingdoms on the face of the earth.... and if they refuse to take the cup, **then you will say to them: you will surely drink. I am summoning a sword against all the inhabitants of the earth, declares the Lord of hosts.** – **Jeremiah 25.**

And don't you sort of wonder when this prophecy will be fulfilled? Especially since 2500 years ago, the world was given clear warning.

22 Thus says your Sovereign Lord, your God who contends for His people, Behold, I take from your hand the cup of trembling and the cup of My anger, you will never drink again / now, does anyone think the Lord is taking a paper or plastic cup, or fancy mug? Good, because a metaphor is a symbol representing something that those people understood very well; whether or not we understand how it will relate to us in the last days:

23 but I will put it in the hand of your tormentors; who said to you, Bow down, we will walk over you: and you made your back like the ground and like the path for them to walk over.

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