

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.



¹ Listen to Me, you who pursue Rightness, 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:

² look to Abraham your father / 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,

look to Abraham your father, and to Sarah who bore you: for he was one / he was alone; he was by himself; and based on God’s word; and since faithing is acting, not just sitting there thinking about it, Abraham got up and started walking; and apparently 2000 years later God’s people needed this reminder,

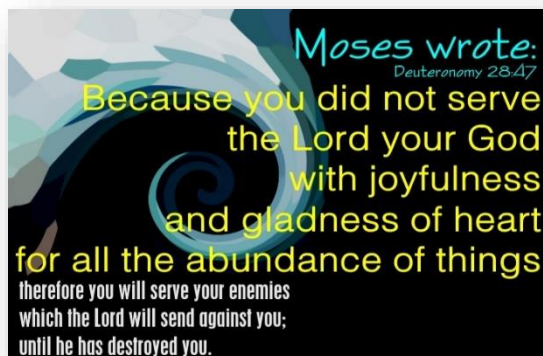
when I called him / when in the land of Ur... God said follow Me, there Abram got up and started walking...

that I might bless him and multiply him.

³ For the LORD comforts Zion / the Lord strengthens and fortifies **the City of David**, Jerusalem:

He comforts all her wasted places / all her desolate, her destroyed places a result of her faithlessness; **and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord;**

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



⁴ Listen to Me, My people / the greater household of Israel and the smaller household of Judah;

and give ear to me, My nation: for a law / for My teaching... **will go out from Me, and I will set My justice for a light to the peoples** / to all the nations.

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⁵ **My righteousness is near; My salvation** / in Hebrew: **Yesha**, a diminutive of **Yeshua**, where we get the name: **Jesus**... is near.

Yesha has gone forth, and **My arm** / it's a metaphor; it can mean: **His Arm** -- suggesting His Biceps; **His army** – all the animate and inanimate creation available to accomplish His will; or it could also mean: **His right-hand Man** – the Psalmist said, *Kiss the Son while He can be found* – while there is still time; the metaphor doesn't matter, because it all describes the same person: **Jesus** Christ, **Yeshua** the Messiah.

My arm... will judge the peoples / all the nations;

the isles will wait upon Me /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. Ephraim would become a great community of nations, and Manasseh, a great nation when the time of the Gentile nations comes to a close – **Genesis 48**.

Check out: **Cleopatra's Needles**

and on My arm they will wait / on My Arm – My powerful Biceps, on My Army, on My right-hand Man they have a reason to wait, they are full of hope in His salvation... in His **Yeshua**.

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

⁶ **Lift up your eyes to the heavens; and look at the earth beneath: for the heavens will vanish away 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, repeating himself:

will be forever,

My righteousness will never be dismayed.

⁷ **Listen to Me, you who know the right,**

the people in whose heart is My law / My teaching; Listen My people who took to heart what He wrote with His own hands;

fear not the reproach of men, be not afraid of their revilings / the Creator has no equal, fear Him.



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8 For the moth will eat them up like a garment, and the worm will eat them like wool: / the most famous and most powerful, with everyone else; will one day rot and decompose and become dust...

but My rights will be forever, and My **salvation** / My **Yeshua**... to all generations.

9 Awake, awake, put on strength, O Arm of the LORD;

awake, as in days of old, the generations of long ago / Isaiah calls on the Lord to intervene.

Didn't You cut in pieces Rahab, and wound the dragon? / referring to the Egyptian bondage.

10 Didn'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. The pictures show both the route; and where archeologists have located Egyptian chariot wheels and other artifacts at the bottom of the Red Sea near Saudi Arabia. Check out: **Waters Of Moses Opening**



11 Therefore the redeemed of the LORD will return;

and come to Zion singing / describing many now days, particularly the household of Judah – the Jewish people joyously returning to Zion; but, will they come with their stale agenda of the last 2000 years, not concerned about what the Lord said? 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 forgetting what the prophets told them: *Does the Lord really delight in the blood of ten thousand rams? Or should I present my firstborn, for my rebellious acts, the fruit of my body, for the sin of my soul? 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. Tragically, those returning brought their half-hearted baggage with them; while, I guess thinking, God by now forgot what He repeatedly told His 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 commandments** – there were only 10, and no more – Deut. 10.

Between their faithless time away, there is only one sacrifice that needed to be made; and no more. Messiah's mission was accomplished – the Passover Lamb of God was given; apparently these rather 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 the Lord has a lot of hocus pocus and religious clutter to remove when He comes with a rod of iron.

and everlasting joy will be in their heads: they will obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

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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 / by the way, how did Isaiah know the heavens were expanding, that is not something anyone can observe in a lifetime; the astronomers of his time would have ridiculed Isaiah if he went to Mars Hill in Athens... and declared such about the universe; by the way, they still are expanding;

that you fear continually all the day at the wrath of the oppressor / 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?

when he is ready to destroy you, what comes of all his wrath?

14 The cringing captive will quickly be released; he will not die in the pit / in the dungeon, his bread will not be lacking.

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

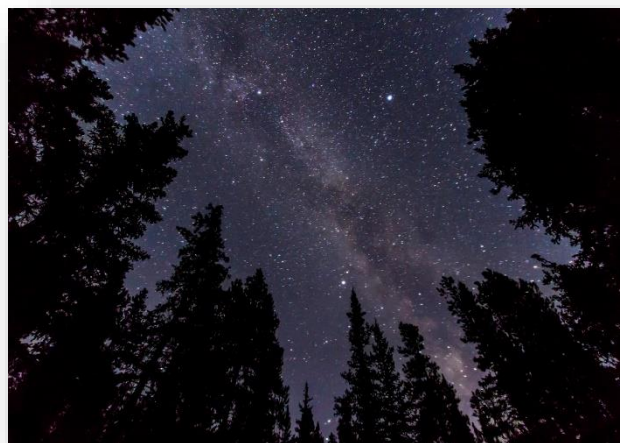
16 And I have put My words in your mouth and covered you in the shadow of My hand / the Lord assures Isaiah and the people He is awake; He gives the word to the prophet to comfort the people,

establishing the heavens, and laying the foundations of the earth, / so for a third time the Lord appeals to His Creator ability,

and saying to Zion, You are My people.

They called on God to be awake and act,

but now the Lord God says...



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17 Awake, awake, stand up, O Jerusalem / citizens of the City of David, shake yourself awake,

you who have drunk from the Lord's hand the cup of His anger / now, does anybody think someone is drinking something in a paper or glass cup, or even a fancy mug or chalice?

the cup of trembling you have drained to the dregs / how about now, did someone drink some hocus pocus... something poured in a mug, or paper cup... draining it to the dregs? The cup is a metaphor.

18 There is none to guide her / Jerusalem... **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 befallen you -- who will console you?

The devastation and destruction, the famine and sword: who will comfort you?

20 Your sons have fainted / they 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. Apparently, too many fools had populated the leadership of the day – fools *who said in their heart: there is no God*: much like those wannabe thugs and criminals in our genius 21st century. God, who had covenanted with them, wrote His 10 commands – *no more, no less...* with His own finger; if they lived in that covenant they would be **blessed**, marked with God's favor; if they dismissed and ignored that covenant doing their own thing 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 that I send among them. Then I took the cup from the Lord's hand and made the nations drink, to whom the Lord sent me.... all the kings of the north, near and far; all the kingdoms of the earth which are on the face of the earth.... and if they refuse to take the cup from your hand to drink,*

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then you will say to them: thus says the Lord of hosts, 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 / now, does anybody think the Lord is taking a paper or plastic or glass cup, or fancy mug or chalice? Good, because a metaphor is a symbol representing something that those people understood very well; whether or not we understand it completely today,

and the cup of My anger you will never drink again:

²³ but I will put it in the hand of your tormentors; who said to you,

Bow down, that we may walk over you:

and you made your back like the ground and like the path for them to walk over.

[You Can Depend On Jesus](#)