

ISAIAH – Chapter 51

Vs. 1 The Lord is directing what He is about to say to the individuals who (have been chosen):

1. Pursue righteousness. Mt. 5:6 (Rom. 3:10-11ff); Prov. 15:9; 21:21; 1 Tim. 6:11-12 (Rom. 6:1-23); 2 Tim. 2:20-3:15; Rom. 9:30-10:4; Rom 8:2-17
2. Who seek the Lord? (Rom. 3:11) Acts 15:13-18; Rom. 10:16-21; Heb. 11:6; 1 Thes. 1:2-4; 2 Thes. 2:13-14

Question: Why are those being spoken to in this verse called “The spirits of the righteous made perfect”? Heb. 12:23

Vs. 2 Look to...remember where you came from – Abraham and Sarah. Gen. 12:2; 15:5, 17:4-8; Rom. 4:16-25

I promised them.

They never received the promises. Heb. 11:11-16

They never stopped believing.

I will deliver on my promises to Abraham.

Vs. 3 Indeed, the Lord will also deliver on His promises to the nation. He will comfort Zion; Mt. 23:37-39 with Rom. 11:26-27; Zech. 14:1

He will:

1. Comfort all her waste places.
2. Make her wilderness like Eden.
3. Make her desert like Eden.

NOTE: The curse will be lifted. Isa. 65:17-25

4. Joy, gladness, thanksgiving, sound of a melody will found in her. Isa. 51:11

Vs. 4 Pay attention...give ear.

My people...my nation.

Let me repeat once again what I will do:

My justice will extend over the entire world. Isa. 2:2-3 (repeated in Micah 4:1-3)

NOTE: The Mosaic Law contained in commandments, statutes, and the ordinances was the expression of God's will to Israel to whom alone it was addressed. Rom. 9:3-5 (Rom. 2:12, 14)

Grace teachings are addressed only to those who are in the church and therefore are already perfected in Christ. 1 John 2:3 (His teachings) with 1 Cor. 7:12-17

Kingdom rule embodies that responsibility which will be required when Christ is reigning on the earth; when Satan is in the pit; when righteousness and peace shall cover the earth. This relationship with its responsibility is reflected in the Sermon on the Mount. Mt. 5:3-ff

Vs. 5-6 In contrast, the heavens and the earth will pass away but that which the Lord has accomplished – salvation and righteousness – will continue forever. Mt. 24:35

Christ “our righteousness” is near.

His salvation is a finished work.

He will judge. John 5:22

There will be those who wait for Him. Rev. 22:20

Vs. 7-8 Knowing God's revealed plan “the remnant” with God's Law within them and eternal hope before them, should take courage (John 16:33) not allowing their “enemies” to discourage them (reproach and reviling will come).

Contrast the two ends: What we possess is forever; what they who oppose us possess is consumable (a moth eaten future).

Vs. 9-11 A (the) prayer of the remnant – awake, oh Lord, and give us another “Exodus” – save your people.

Rahab is Egypt. Isa. 30:7

The dragon. Isa. 27:1

“Deliver from Evil”...lead us home.

The redeemed, ransomed will return.

Zion will be theirs. Mt. 24:31; Deut. 30:1-5

Israel's lot – everlasting joy. Rev. 21:1-5

Vs. 12 The remnant will be living in fear – why? (Who to fear, Lk. 12:4-5) The ones they will be fearing are only men; like grass. Isa. 40:6-8

The reason that they have no reason to fear. Rom. 8:31-39

Keep things in perspective! Remember! You are His people, vs. 16.

Vs. 13 Judah has forgotten their God who is the Creator (controller) of all things.

Judah fears from time immemorial because of the fury of their oppressor, as those oppressors make ready to destroy – What has happened to the oppressor?
Mt. 24:29-31; Rom. 11:25-27; Rev. 19:11-21

Vs. 14-15 God's declaration (response) to Israel's real life predicament.

Vs. 16 God's perspective on the entire situation.

Again, Israel belongs to God. Hos. 1:23

Vs. 17 Israel had called for God to wake up and do something. Isa. 51:9

Now God is telling Israel to wake up.

In their exile, Judah has experienced God's wrath in full – she is now about to experience His blessing.

Vs. 18 No one within the nation will be found who is able to deliver her – no more heroes (maybe they have all died).

Vs. 19 Two things have befallen Judah:

1. Devastation and destruction.
2. Famine and sword.

Read Rev. 6:1-18:24

Vs. 20 During this time of tribulation, "the son's of Israel" will be cut down in the streets of Jerusalem, a result of the wrath of their God – His rebuke.

Vs. 21-23 The time of judgment is over.

The cup that God has given them to drink will now be handed over to those who have hated them.

NOTE: The world's treatment of Israel is like that of a person who makes another as dirt on which to walk.

Near fulfillment – Babylon; ultimate fulfillment – end of days.