

An Effective Hope

Isaiah 51:1-23

I. The Greatness of God’s Plan

Is. 51:1 Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD.

It is impossible to have true hope while pursuing goals that differ from God’s goals.

Is. 51:1 Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD.

Is. 51:4 Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation.

Is. 51:7 Listen to me, you who know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law.

Is. 51:1-2 Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him.

Rom. 8:31-32 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?

Phil. 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ.

Is. 51:1-2 Listen to Me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him.

II. The Greatness of God’s Purposes

A. Full Joy

Is. 51:3 For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places 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.

It is impossible to experience full joy without possessing a full life—the life that Christ gives.

Is. 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me **to bind up the brokenhearted**, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you, that **my joy** may be in you, and that **your joy may be full**.

John 17:13 But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have **my joy fulfilled in themselves**.

Rom. 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all **joy and peace in believing**, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit **you may abound in hope**.

Gal. 5:22-23 **But the fruit of the Spirit** is love, **joy**, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Phil. 3:1 Finally, my brothers, rejoice **in the Lord**.

Phil. 4:4 **Rejoice in the Lord** always; again I will say, rejoice.

A soul damaged by sin is incapable of true joy.

Is. 51:3-8 For the Lord comforts Zion; He comforts all her waste places 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.

Ps. 23:3 **He restores my soul**; He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

B. Acting Righteousness

Is. 51:4-5 Give attention to Me, My people, and give ear to Me, My nation; for a law will go out from Me, and I will set My justice for a light to the peoples. My righteousness draws near, My salvation has gone out, and My arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for Me, and for My arm they wait.

Rom. 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking **but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit**.

Is. 51:6 Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and its inhabitants will die in like manner; but My salvation will be forever, and **My righteousness will never be dismayed**.

Is. 51:7-8 Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, the people in whose heart is My law; fear not the reproach of man, nor be dismayed at their revilings. For the moth will eat them up like a garment, and the worm will eat them like wool; **but My righteousness will be forever**, and My salvation to all generations.

1 Pet. 1:24-25 For 'All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.'

Is. 51:7-8 Listen to me, you who know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; **fear not the reproach of man, nor be dismayed at their revilings**. For the moth will eat them up like a garment, and the worm will eat them like wool; but **my righteousness will be forever**, and my salvation to all generations.

III. The Greatness of God's Power

Is. 51:9-10 Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the Lord; awake, as in days of old, the generations of long ago. Was it not you who cut Rahab in pieces, who pierced the dragon? Was it not you who dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep, who made the depths of the sea a way for the redeemed to pass over?

Is. 51:9-11 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Is. 51:12-13 I, I am he who comforts you; who are you that you are afraid of man who dies, of the son of man who is made like grass, and have forgotten the LORD, your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth, and you fear continually all the day because of the wrath of the oppressor, when he sets himself to destroy? And where is the wrath of the oppressor?

Is. 51:14-16 He who is bowed down shall speedily be released; he shall not die and go down to the pit, neither shall his bread be lacking. I am the LORD your God, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—the LORD of hosts is his name. 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.'

Three Pillars of Effective Hope

- **The greatness of God's work in the universe**
God carries out His plan of salvation, no matter what.
- **The greatness of God's purposes**
God is leading us to true joy and righteousness.
- **The greatness of God's power**
God, who created the world and governs it, guarantees the fulfillment of His purposes.

Place your hope on Him!