

Fall Feasts of Israel

Lesson 5: Consolation 4

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Recap of Consolations 1-3

Consolation 1 – Isaiah 40:1-26

Stumbling block: Seeking comfort in the transient things

- Consider your own mortality. Life is transient, like the grass and flowers that fade.
- Consider God's eternity – His authority as Creator, His power, His omniscience
- Where do we seek comfort – in the transient things or in the permanence and power of God?

Understand God's power

Consolation 2 – Isaiah 49:14-51:3

Stumbling block: Despair

- God's love expressed in words of promise
- God's love expressed in the Suffering Servant
- It can cause a resistance to comfort if the comforter does not truly identify with the sufferer's circumstances but pretends to.
- It can cause a resistance to a redemptive message if there is sin that the person doesn't want to deal with.

Understand God's love

Consolation 3 – Isaiah 54:11-55:5

Stumbling block: Earthly treasure

- A kingdom that has a wealth by earthly standards but its true value is found in righteousness, peace, security, and freedom from fear and oppression.
- An abundant life not based on things purchased which cannot satisfy, but things bought without cost which are of heavenly value.
- Abundant life is tied to the picture of the Kingdom (Isaiah 55:3-5)
- When earthly treasure is lost, a life or identity built on it will be lost as well, bringing despair (victim mentality).

What do you value, the choices you make

Consolation #4: Isaiah 51:12–52:12

Haftarah (Prophets):

Isaiah 51:12–52:12

Stumbling Block: Fear

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

2 Timothy 1:7

Torah (Law):

Deut 16:18–21:9

(Deut 18:18–19)

There is only one thing to fear in this life, and that is God Himself. Nothing happens to us apart from His allowing it or even His orchestrating it. **Fear of God**—that understanding of His absolute power over our lives—is good in that **shows that we understand who He is and who we are, and places us in a correct relationship with Him.**

NT portion:

2 Timothy 1:7

1 John 4:17-18

John 1:19–28

Matthew 4:23

Matthew 26:36–46

An understanding of His power has to be balanced with an understanding of His love. God’s power is tempered by His love, so that we do not fear to stand before Him in judgment.

“Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.” - 1 John 4:17-18

Psalm 33

You cannot truly love someone—even God—so long as you are afraid of losing them. That was the tragedy of Israel’s despair. In the torment of her exile, she believes she has been forsaken by God.

Consolation #4: Isaiah 51:12–52:12

Haftarah (Prophets):

Isaiah 51:12–52:12

Israel has lost a sense of God's power and His love (v12-16). Fear of the oppressor has overshadowed God's power in her eyes, and she refuses to be comforted. She has become focused on earthly existence – the fear of death and a lack of bread. (v14). Fear becomes a form of spiritual bondage in the midst of physical bondage.

Torah (Law):

Deut 16:18–21:9

(Deut 18:18–19)

Fear has robbed her of power and love and a sound mind.

NT portion:

2 Timothy 1:7

1 John 4:17-18

John 1:19–28

Matthew 4:23

Matthew 26:36–46

Fear robs us of power, and we respond either by sinking into hopelessness or trying to take control by force. Neither reaction brings peace.

Fear can infect love, expressing itself in jealousy and possessiveness. Fear makes us objectify the people, so that we reduce a relationship to a set of values that must be met. A relationship based on works quickly becomes infected with fear, because the relationship becomes conditional.

Psalm 33

Fear robs us of sound minds. It affects our decision making. It can keep us focused on our earthly condition and rob us of the heavenly vision.

Consolation #4: Isaiah 51:12–52:12

Haftarah (Prophets):

Isaiah 51:12–52:12

Torah (Law):

Deut 16:18–21:9

(Deut 18:18–19)

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Psalm 33

Questions

- What are some things that you fear in life?
- Are you afraid of losing your relationship with God?
 - What is driving that fear?
 - Have you objectified that relationship by giving it a value based on earthly works?
 - How do you combat it?
- Are you afraid of other people in life?
 - What is driving that fear?
 - How do you combat it?
- Do you believe that God is more powerful than the things you fear?
- Has fear ever kept you from speaking the truth or doing something that you know you should do?
- Has fear ever caused you to do something you know you shouldn't do?
- How does fear affect our decision-making?

Consolation #4: Pictures of Christ

Haftarah (Prophets):

Isaiah 51:12–52:12

'I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. 'And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him. - Deuteronomy 18:18-19

Torah (Law):

Deut 16:18–21:9

(Deut 18:18–19)

"I, even I, am He who comforts you." Isaiah 51:12 – **Allusion #1 to Noah**

NT portion:

2 Timothy 1:7

1 John 4:17-18

John 1:19–28

Matthew 4:23

Matthew 26:36–46

"And he called his name Noah, saying, 'This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, . . .'" – Genesis 5:29

The cup of judgment poured out – Isaiah 51:17-23

"Then He said to them, 'My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.' He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.'" – Matthew 26:38-39

Psalm 33

What comfort would Jesus have gotten from the Isaiah passage as He prayed in the garden on the eve of His crucifixion?

Consolation #4: Pictures of Christ

Haftarah (Prophets):

Isaiah 51:12–52:12

Torah (Law):

Deut 16:18–21:9

(Deut 18:18–19)

NT portion:

2 Timothy 1:7

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Matthew 4:23

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Psalm 33

The Gospel

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation (Yeshua), who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’” - Isaiah 52:7

“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.” – Matthew 4:23

The Arm of the Lord

“The LORD has made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation (Yeshua) of our God.” - Isaiah 52:10

The arm is a symbol of strength, often associated with military or political strength. It has the power to bring deliverance and salvation. The Arm of the Lord fits very well with the picture of Messiah, a political and military power, coming to reclaim the kingdom.

In terms of the sacrifice, it is a choice part of the animal reserved for the priesthood.

Consolation #4: Arm of the Lord

“Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him.” - Isaiah 40:10

“Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD! Awake as in the ancient days, In the generations of old. Are You not the arm that cut Rahab apart, and wounded the serpent? Are You not the One who dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep; that made the depths of the sea a road for the redeemed to cross over? So the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness; sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” - Isaiah 51:9-11

“The LORD has made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; And all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.”- Isaiah 52:10

*“. . . to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?” - **Isaiah 53** (in reference to the sacrifice)*

“He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor; therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him;” - Isaiah 59:16a (in reference to the day of judgment)

“. . . Therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me . . .” - Isaiah 63:5 (in reference to the day of vengeance and treading out the winepress)

"But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, The descendants of Abraham My friend . . . You are My servant, I have chosen you and have not cast you away" - Isaiah 41:8-9

"You are My witnesses," says the LORD, 'And My servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe Me . . .'" - Isaiah 43:10

"Yet hear now, O Jacob My servant, and Israel whom I have chosen . . . Remember these, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are My servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me!" - Isaiah 44:1, 21

"The LORD has redeemed His servant Jacob!" - Isaiah 48:20

"And He said to me, 'You are My servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'" - Isaiah 49:3

Corporate Israel

Isaiah 41
The Servant

Isaiah 43, 44
The Servant

Isaiah 48-49
The Servant



The Unnamed Servant

Isaiah 42
The Servant

Isaiah 45
"Mashiach"

Isaiah 49
The Servant

Isaiah 50
"Me"

Isaiah 53
The Servant

Isaiah 61
"Me"

"Behold! My Servant . . . I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles . . . He will bring forth justice for truth . . . I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house." - Isaiah 42:1-7

"Thus says the LORD to His anointed, to Cyrus, . . . to subdue nations before him . . . To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut . . . I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways; He shall build My city And let My exiles go free . . ." - Isaiah 45:1-2, 13

"It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant . . . to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation . . . I will preserve You and give You as a covenant to the people, to restore the earth, to cause them to inherit the desolate heritages;" - Isaiah 49:5-8

"Behold, My Servant . . . His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men; so shall He sprinkle many nations." - Isaiah 52:13-14

"He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities." - Isaiah 53:11

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor . . . to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn," - Isaiah 61:1-2

Consolations #2 & 3: Pictures of Christ

Consolation 2 (Isaiah 49:14-51:3/Deuteronomy 7-11)

“Thus says the LORD: ‘Where is the certificate of your mother's divorce, whom I have put away? . . .’” - Isaiah 50:1

Picture of Mary, the virgin of Israel who is not put away even though she is in disgrace. (Matthew 1:18-25)

“So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.” - Deuteronomy 8:3

Paired with Consolation 1 in the Temptations of Christ but also part of Consolation 2 in identifying with Israel's suffering

“. . . The Lord GOD has opened My ear; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away. I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.”
- Isaiah 50:4-6 **Christ's Death** (Matt 26:65–68, 27:26–30)

Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)

Structure:

- **Chapter 5:** Jesus' discourse on the Law from Deuteronomy; opens with consolations
- **Chapter 6:** Jesus' discourse on the Prophets mostly from the Consolation passages
- **Chapter 7:** Jesus' summary

The Sermon on the Mount - Beatitudes

- 1 *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."* Matthew 5:3
(Isaiah 66:2, added to the Consolation readings in years where Consolation 2 coincides with Elul 1)
- 2 *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."* Matthew 5:4
(Isaiah 61:2 – Considered part of Consolation 7, but not read because of Jesus' Messianic claim)
- 3 *"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."* Matthew 5:5
(Psalm 37:11, read with Consolations 2)
- 4 *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."* Matthew 5:6
(Isaiah 55:1, Consolation 3)
- 5 *"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."* Matthew 5:7
(2 Samuel 22:26, read the Sabbath before the Day of Atonement)
- 6 *"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."* Matthew 5:8
(Psalm 24:4-5, read every Sabbath as part of handling the Torah scroll)
- 7 *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."* - Matthew 5:9 (summary of the Consolations)
- (+1) *"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."* Matt 5:10
(Isaiah 66:5)

The Sermon on the Mount

Chapter 5 (Commentary on the Law):

Murder begins in the heart Matthew 5:21-22 Deuteronomy 5:17

- *“Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”* - Matthew 5:23-24
- *“Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.”* - Matthew 5:25 (Consolation 2)

Adultery begins in the heart Matthew 5:27-28 Deuteronomy 5:18

- *“If your right eye causes you to sin [**stumble/offend**], pluck it out and cast it from you . . .”* Matthew 5:29-30

Divorce leads to adultery Matthew 5:31-32 Deuteronomy 24:1

Swearing oaths Matthew 5:33-37 Deuteronomy 23:23

Eye for an eye Matthew 5:38-42 Deuteronomy 19:21

Love your neighbor/hate enemies Matthew 5:43-48 Deuteronomy 23:3-6

The Sermon on the Mount

Chapter 6 (Commentary on the Prophets):

Where your reward* is	Matthew 6:1-6	All consolations, including Psalm 37 (Consolation 2)
Forgiveness and Fasting	Matthew 6:14-18	Isaiah 58:3-7 (read on Sabbath before Day of Atonement)
Lay up treasures in heaven	Matthew 6:19-21	Consolation 3
Lamp of the Body	Matthew 6:22-23	Consolation 6 (Light and dark theme)
Cannot serve God and riches	Matthew 6:24	Consolation 3
Do not worry over earthly needs	Matthew 6:25-34	Consolation 1, 2, 3

*The “Reward” inclusio in the Consolations:

“Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him.” - Isaiah 40:10 (Consolation #1)

“Indeed the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the world: ‘Say to the daughter of Zion, “Surely your salvation is coming; Behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him.”” - Isaiah 62:11 (Consolation #7)

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.” - Rev 22:12

The Sermon on the Mount

Chapter 7 (summary):

How you judge	Matthew 7:1-6
Do unto others	Matthew 7:7-12
The Way (narrow gate)	Matthew 7:13-14
Know them by their fruits	Matthew 7:15-20
I never knew you	Matthew 7:21-23
The house that stands or falls	Matthew 7:24-29

Consolation #2 & 3: Pictures of Christ

"Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat . . ." - Isaiah 55:1a

- Jesus at the Temple on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles (John 7:37-39) *"On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" - John 7:37-38*
- *" . . . I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts." – Revelation 21:6*
- *"And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely." Revelation 22:17*

Woman at the well

"Jesus answered and said to her, 'Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.'" - John 4:13-14

"In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, 'Rabbi, eat.' But He said to them, 'I have food to eat of which you do not know.' Therefore the disciples said to one another, 'Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.'" - John 4:31-34

"The woman said to Him, 'I know that Messiah is coming . . .When He comes, He will tell us all things.' Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am He.'" - John 4:25-26