



House of New Beginnings

ShalomAZ Ministries
In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

Wake Up to Wonderful, Comforting News!
(Isaiah 51-52)
Rabbi Cosmo Panzetta
Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: Isaiah 51-52

As we approach the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we reflect on the profound themes of repentance, redemption, and restoration. The period leading up to these holy days, marked by Tish B'Av, is a time of mourning for the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple, emphasizing our yearning for divine comfort and renewal. This message focuses on the *haftarot* of consolation found in Isaiah 51 and 52, illuminating the comforting promise of the Lord's salvation and the role of Yeshua as the "Arm of the Lord."

Isaiah 51 begins with a call to the faithful to listen and pay attention to God's promises. God declares that His righteousness is near and His salvation (יְשׁוּעָה, *Yeshuah*) has gone forth (Isaiah 51:4-5). This message is a beacon of hope to the exiled and suffering, reminding them that despite the destruction and desolation, God's deliverance is imminent.

As the chapter continues, the people cry out for the "Arm of the Lord" to awaken and act as in the days of old (Isaiah 51:9-10). This imagery of the Lord's powerful arm signifies His ability to deliver and redeem His people from their dire circumstances.

But in 17-22, the Lord calls His people to awaken from their spiritual stupor. The imagery of drinking from the cup of fury is a metaphor for the intense suffering the people have endured. God assures them that they will no longer drink from this cup, symbolizing the end of their punishment and the beginning of restoration.

Here, God's comforting promise is underscored by His commitment to redeem His people, not with silver, but through His mighty acts. The chapter concludes with a vision of future glory and the removal of their chains, emphasizing that while God has broken their chains, **THEY** must actively respond to what He has done by removing those broken chains.

Isaiah 52 opens with a powerful call to "Awake, awake!" (Isaiah 52:1). This call is not just to wake up physically but to spiritually embrace the transformation God is about to bring. The imagery of putting on strength and beautiful garments represents a restoration of God's people being restored to who they were intended to be: A Kingdom of Priests!

The chapter continues with the proclamation of the Lord's victory and the announcement of peace, good news, and salvation. The "beautiful feet" of the messenger bring tidings of a

reign where God's rule restores all things to their intended order (Isaiah 52:7-10). This proclamation emphasizes that Yeshua is the embodiment of the "Arm of the Lord," bringing salvation and healing.

We recognize that Yeshua (Jesus) is the ultimate fulfillment of the "Arm of the Lord." His coming is the manifestation of God's strength and salvation, embodying the promises made in Isaiah. He is the one who brings the good news of peace, deliverance, and redemption.

Through Yeshua, the Lord's arm is revealed as a symbol of His active and powerful intervention in human history. His ministry, suffering, and resurrection bring about the ultimate fulfillment of the promises of comfort and restoration found in Isaiah. The "Day of Alarm" and subsequent "Day of Atonement" are realized through His sacrifice, which secures eternal redemption and reconciles humanity with God.

Discussion Questions

1. Reflecting on Isaiah 51:4-5, how does the promise of God's righteousness and salvation provide hope and encouragement in times of distress? How does Yeshua fulfill this promise?
2. Isaiah 51:9-10 describes the Lord's mighty acts in history. How does remembering these past acts of deliverance strengthen our faith in God's ability to act powerfully in our lives today?
3. In Isaiah 51:17-18, Jerusalem is called to awake from its spiritual stupor. What are some practical ways individuals and communities can "wake up" to God's calling and promises in their lives?
4. Isaiah 52:1-2 uses the imagery of clothing to represent renewal and restoration. How can this metaphor inspire us to embrace our identity in Christ and live out our calling with renewed vigor?
5. How does understanding Yeshua as the "Arm of the Lord" reshape our view of His role in bringing peace, salvation, and redemption? In what ways can we more actively respond to His call for transformation and restoration in our lives?