

Shalom AZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption



“It Looks Over. Feels Over. But It’s NOT Over.”

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts (TLV): Is 50:1-3; Is. 5:4; Is. 49:14-16, 21; Is. 53:1; Jer. 3:8; 31:30-32; Gen. 3:8-9; Ex. 14; Ex. 7:17-18; Ex. 10:21-23;

Sometimes the circumstances of life make it feel as though everything is finished. The situation appears irreversible, the losses feel permanent, and the heart quietly concludes that God must have stepped away. This is the emotional place the people of God had reached in Isaiah’s day. In their grief and exile they said, *“ADONAI has forsaken me, ADONAI has forgotten me.”* (Is. 49:14). To them, the silence of heaven looked like abandonment.

Yet the Lord answered their accusation with tenderness and clarity. He reminded them that His relationship with them was not something casually discarded. *“Can a woman forget her nursing child or lack compassion for the child of her womb? Even if these forget, I will not forget you. Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of My hands.”* (Is. 49:15–16). The problem was not that God had abandoned His people. Rather, they had misunderstood both their situation and the heart of their Redeemer. Isaiah 50:1–3 opens with God responding again to that accusation, showing that what looked over—and felt over—was not over at all.

1. THE SITUATION IS NOT WHAT IT SEEMS (Is. 50:1)

The Lord begins with a question that exposes the misunderstanding of His people: *“Thus says ADONAI: ‘Where is the divorce certificate by which I sent your mother away? Or to whom of My creditors did I sell you?’”* (Is. 50:1). In other words, if the relationship were truly over, there would be proof. In the ancient world, divorce required documentation. The Lord’s challenge is essentially this: produce the evidence that I have abandoned you. Their assumption of abandonment did not match reality.

But then the Lord explains the true cause of their situation. *“See, you were sold for your iniquities, and for your transgressions your mother was sent away.”* (Is. 50:1). The exile was not the result of divine neglect; it was the consequence of human rebellion. Their captivity was not proof that God had failed them—it was the result of their own twisting away from Him. Yet even that discipline did not mean the covenant relationship was irreparable. The prophets consistently show that God’s goal was restoration, ultimately fulfilled through the promise of a new covenant (Jer. 31:30–32).

2. THE PROBLEM IS OUR FAILURE TO RESPOND (Is. 50:2a)

The Lord then asks another question that cuts deeper into the issue: *“Why was no one there when I came? Why was there no one to answer when I called?”* (Is. 50:2). This reveals a painful truth. The Lord had not been silent or distant. He had come, and He had called—but no one responded. The problem was not the absence of God’s voice; it was the absence of human response.

This language echoes a pattern that runs throughout Scripture. In the Garden of Eden, after humanity sinned, *“ADONAI Elohim called to the man and said to him, ‘Where are you?’”* (Gen. 3:9). The heart of God has always been the same: He comes, He calls, He invites. Yet people often respond with silence, hiding, or blame. Isaiah even earlier captured this in the song of the vineyard, where the Lord asked, *“What more was there to do for My vineyard that I have not done?”* (Is. 5:4). God had

done everything necessary, yet His people still failed to respond. Their crisis was not caused by God's absence but by their unwillingness to answer His call.

3. GOD STILL HAS THE POWER TO RESTORE (Is. 50:2b-3)

Finally, the Lord addresses the assumption that the situation is beyond repair. He asks, *"Is My hand too short to redeem? Or have I no power to deliver?"* (Is. 50:2). The rhetorical force of the question is obvious. Of course His hand is not too short. The God who created the heavens and the earth has never lacked the power to rescue His people.

To make the point unmistakable, the Lord points to His authority over creation itself: *"Behold, I dry up the sea at My rebuke, I make rivers a wilderness... I clothe the heavens with blackness and make sackcloth their covering."* (Is. 50:2-3). These images recall the Exodus, when God parted the sea, struck Egypt with plagues, and brought darkness over the land while giving light to His people. The same God who commands the seas, rivers, and skies is fully able to transform the fortunes of His people. If He can reshape creation, He can certainly restore what seems lost.

CONCLUSION

Isaiah 50 reminds us that the moments when life feels finished are often the very moments when God is preparing restoration. The people believed the story was over. They thought the covenant had been broken beyond repair. But the Lord revealed that their perception of abandonment was mistaken. The problem was not God's faithfulness or power—it was their failure to see His hand and respond to His call.

Perhaps you find yourself in a place that feels like exile—where hope seems thin and restoration seems unlikely. Maybe the heart whispers the same accusation Israel once made: "God has forgotten me." But the message of Isaiah 50 invites you to look again. The Lord's question still echoes through the pages of Scripture: *"Is My hand too short to redeem?"* The answer is no. The God who parted seas, darkened skies, and promised a new covenant still calls His people to return. What feels over is not over when God is involved. The Lord has not abandoned His people, and His power to redeem has not diminished.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do people often assume that difficult circumstances mean God has abandoned them?
2. What does Isaiah 50:1 teach us about taking responsibility for our own actions rather than blaming God?
3. How does the question *"Why was no one there when I came?"* challenge our response to God's voice today?
4. What examples in Scripture remind us of God's power to redeem situations that seem impossible?
5. How can remembering God's past faithfulness strengthen our trust in Him during difficult seasons?

CLOSING PRAYER:

ADONAI, Thank You that when our circumstances make it seem as though everything is finished, Your purposes are still unfolding. Forgive us for the times we have blamed You instead of recognizing our own need to return to You. Help us to hear Your voice when You call and to respond with humble and willing hearts. Remind us that Your hand is never too short to redeem and that Your power to restore has never diminished. Strengthen our faith to trust You even when life feels uncertain, and lead us into the restoration You have promised through Your Servant, Messiah Yeshua.

B'Shem Yeshua, In the name of Yeshua, amen.