

**Know God No Fear
Remember Who He Is and What He Has Done
Isaiah 51:9 – 23**

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YAHWEH has been encouraging the remnant. Those of Israel and Judah who have remained faithful upto an including those who will be looking for their Messiah to rescue them at the end of the Tribulation. Psalm 103:14 “For he knows how we were formed, aware that we were made from dust.” (ISV)

The encouragement received thus far is summarized for us by Oswalt in his commentary on Isaiah.

When faced with the evil of the world, the seeming delay in the fulfillment of God’s promises, and the mockery and hatred of a sinful world, believers should remember the evidence of God’s faithfulness in history (vv. 1–3). They should recognize that God is not some local deity who is but a projection from creation; rather, he is the Creator, whose promises of salvation will outlast the cosmos (vv. 4–6), and they should know that those who reproach and revile them, like all that has not partaken of the permanence of God, are doomed to the slow destruction from which none who have made this world their God can ever escape. (Oswalt 1998, 338)

To place this into language we see in Revelation, those who are looking for a Kingdom not of this world will be satisfied. Jesus is indeed coming back to rescue His own. But for the earth dwellers, those who are following the beast, doom and judgement.

Having received these words from YAHWEH, the remnant responds in prayer.

Isaiah 51:9–11

“Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; Awake as in the 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 pathway For the redeemed to cross over? And the redeemed of the LORD will return And come to Zion with joyful shouting, And everlasting joy will be on their heads. They will obtain gladness and joy, And sorrow and sighing will flee away.” (NASB 2020)

Suddenly, we have a new speaker. This is not YAHWEH, and it is not the Servant, this is the remnant and possibly Isaiah in prayer.

Verse 9 starts off with a double imperative followed by one more, but it is directed to the Lord. They are not asking Him to wake up, they are asking Him to act. This is a rather urgent request as well since they repeat it three times.

The plea is that God in His power (arm; cf. v. 5) would rise again (Awake; cf. v. 17) and save His people as He did in the Exodus (as in the days gone by). (Martin 1985, 1105)

This is prayer, intercession with the Lord calling for Him to act and save His people just as He has done before. They believe His promises. Like most of us, they want to see them fulfilled sooner rather than later. As they pray, they begin reminding the Lord of what He has done in the past.

“...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 pathway For the redeemed to cross over?” (Isaiah 51:9b–10, NASB 2020)

As questions often serve their role in prayer, so here. Praying people ask if it was not the Lord who defeated Egypt’s army, cleared a path in the sea, and let His people cross safely. They do not answer their own question, for the reply is obvious. (Rosscup 2008, 1119)

Yes, God is indeed the one who did all of that. He has been letting the faithful know that exile is coming, hard times are coming, but there is a future. They are praying about that future.

The prayer cry to God, “Awake, awake,” repeats the word to express intense longing for His perfect action. It does not belittle God as if asleep, and hard to awaken, for He who keeps Israel never slumbers or sleeps (Ps. 121:4). Rather it is a way of praying that God will set forth His activity bringing blessing (cf. 59:16, 17), as a mighty warrior surges out of quietness into battle and fights valiantly. (Rosscup 2008, 1119)

They and we are quite ready, right now, for Revelation 19:11 – 16.

Revelation 19:11–16

“Then I saw heaven standing open, and there was a white horse! Its rider is named Faithful and True. He administers justice and wages war righteously. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many royal crowns. He has a name written on him that nobody knows except himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called the Word of God. The armies of heaven, wearing fine linen, white and pure, follow him on white horses. A sharp sword comes out of his mouth to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod and tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and his thigh he has a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS” (ISV)

The use of way is significant, because this and related terms, such as “highway,” are used throughout the book to speak of God’s ability to bring his own back to him. Thus if that is what God did in the past for the descendants of Abraham, is it not possible that God could, if he would, do the same thing again? (Oswalt 1998, 342-343)

This is the remnant who is praying, they know they are being heard. They know He can do as in the past and they react with an affirmation of this.

Isaiah 51:11

“And the redeemed of the LORD will return And come to Zion with joyful shouting, And everlasting joy will be on their heads. They will obtain gladness and joy, And sorrow and sighing will flee away.” (NASB 2020)

There is confidence in this prayer. The redeemed will return, this is not a request to return, this is an affirmation of what they have been told. They know they will return. They know that there will be joy in Jerusalem again, joy that will never end.

The remnant has been paying attention to what it is Isaiah has been saying. Verse 11 shows that they have been listening.

Isaiah 35:10

“And the redeemed of the LORD will return And come to Zion with joyful shouting, And everlasting joy will be on their heads. They will obtain gladness and joy, And sorrow and sighing will flee away.” (NASB 2020)

Isaiah 35 was all about the future YAHWEH has for Jerusalem, and the remnant agrees with that future. They are reminding the Lord of what He has already promised.

This is an affirmation of the prophetic plans God has for the nation. They know He will do this.

There is something we can learn from this prayer pertaining to our own prayer life. When we pray, is it a laundry list of things we want the Lord to do or are we listening and praying in agreement with what He has already said. Far too often I think we come in on the laundry list side of the equation.

For example, praying for someone we love to realize their need for Jesus and become a believer. “Lord, save them” is a great prayer. There are times that is entirely the right way to pray. What we see here though is a bit more involved and is based on the relationship the remnant has with YAHWEH. They are reminding Him of what He has promised.

It would be along the lines of: Lord, thank you for your salvation which you have given me. Empower me to live in the power and light of your word fully empowered and enabled by your Holy Spirit just as you have promised to do if we ask. Open the door to me to be an effective witness to my loved one. As you have promised in your word, as I use your word have it be a sword to cut away all their reasons to not believe you. As you have said, it is your will for all to be saved, extend your mercy to my loved one and have your Holy Spirit do a work in their life and spirit showing them their need for you. Have your word continue to cut and break down all the walls and have them realize their need for you and repent. Thank you, Lord.

God answers them.

Isaiah 51:12–13

“I, I Myself, am He who comforts you. Who are you that you are afraid of mortal man, And of a son of man who is made like grass, That you have forgotten the LORD your Maker, Who stretched out the heavens And laid the foundations of the earth, That you fear continually all day long because of the fury of the oppressor, As he makes ready to destroy? And where is the rage of the oppressor?” (NASB 2020)

God responds to His people, and He does so with comfort immediately attacking the one thing that becomes enemy number one for all of us as we wait on the Lord, fear.

Psalms 27:14

“Wait for the LORD; **be strong, and let your heart take courage**; wait for the LORD!” (ESV)

Psalms 33:18–22

“Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine. Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.” (ESV)

Isaiah has already discussed the results to be realized in the life of the believer who waits on the Lord, and it isn't fear.

Isaiah 40:31

"Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary." (NASB 2020)

When we wait on Him, just as the remnant is doing, we are admitting that we have no other help, no other way out of the situation we find ourselves in. We are totally and completely dependent on God for the solution and we are willing to let Him dictate the terms. They are okay with the fact God will use a gentile to rescue His people, this contrasts with the rest of Judah who wants to dictate the terms and conditions of their own salvation. Fear leads to impatience and our trying to resolve the situation in our own strength.

But wait a minute, we were waiting on Him to begin with because He was the only one who could deal with what we were in. Will my picking it back up help move things along? The enemy lies to us that it will but what is the reality? We need to wait on the Lord.

David had to decide about waiting on the Lord.

He had been anointed by Samuel to be the next King of Israel. He knew He would be King; the Lord was with him and protecting him.

One day, an opportunity presented itself to help things along.

1 Samuel 24:2-7

"Saul took 3,000 of the best soldiers in Israel and went looking for David and his men east of Wild Goat Rocks. He came to a cave close to some sheep pens by the road and went in to relieve himself. It happened to be the very cave in which David and his men were hiding far back in the cave. They said to him, "This is your chance! The LORD has told you that he would put your enemy in your power and you could do to him whatever you wanted to." David crept over and cut off a piece of Saul's robe without Saul's knowing it. But then David's conscience began to trouble him, and he said to his men, "May the LORD keep me from doing any harm to my master, whom the LORD chose as king! I must not harm him in the least, because he is the king chosen by the LORD!" So David convinced his men that they should not attack Saul. Saul got up, left the cave, and started on his way." (GNB)

David decided to wait on the Lord and His timing. This would not be the only time he would be given the opportunity to speed things up. It would be years before the Lord would make David King, years of being on the lam from Saul. Yet David remained faithful.

Who is it that comforts those who wait? His first comment should be sufficient to chase away all fears and doubts. The question had been posed by the remnant as to whether God is the one who did the great works in the past and the first thing that is affirmed to them is no, much more than that. "I am your comforter," but something even more profound. "I am." He can express His eternity and being because the remnant is faithful.

Why is God able to be their comforter, because "I am." He is the self-existent one. He is the Creator God of everything.

Jesus also talked about this, reflecting that it is a known temptation for us to take our eyes off Him as we wait; a reminder we need.

Luke 12:4–5

“But I tell you, my friends, never be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can’t do anything more. I’ll show you the one you should be afraid of. Be afraid of the one who has the authority to throw you into hell after killing you. Yes, I tell you, be afraid of him!” (ISV)

The fear is misplaced. Ultimately, mere man has no authority or control about the future of those who belong to the Lord. In verse 7 the call was not to fear those who taunt and abuse. Man is temporal and fleeting, not even worthy of fear in the face of the pre-existent one.

He is the source of life, breath, hope, salvation, encouragement, righteousness. He is and always has been. That should be sufficient.

The problem with taking our eyes off Him and looking to ourselves for the solution is simple. We begin to believe we can solve the problem, but we know we cannot, so we begin to fear the circumstances we are in; the naysayers and the ones who are persecuting us. But remember who is for you, the “I am” is for you. We should not forget that. When we try to solve our problem, we have forgotten who it is who can resolve it all for us.

Peter learned this lesson.

Acts 12:6–10

“On that very night before Herod was going to bring him out for trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the prison cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up, saying, “Get up quickly!” And the chains fell off Peter’s wrists. The angel said to him, “Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.” Peter did so. Then the angel said to him, “Put on your cloak and follow me.” Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening through the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. After they had passed the first and second guards, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went outside and walked down one narrow street, when at once the angel left him.” (NET)

Peter had accepted the circumstances he was in and was heavily reliant upon the Lord. So much so, that he was sleeping, deeply, in prison. The angel had a bit of a challenge waking him up.

Are we that confident in the Lord? He commanded us personally to not sweat it. “So then, **don’t worry** saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’” (Matthew 6:31, NET)

Isaiah has already covered the results we should experience when we fully and completely place our trust in the Lord.

Isaiah 26:3–4

“You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you! Trust in the LORD always, for the LORD GOD is the eternal Rock.” (NLT)

We are to never forget who is really in control. Knowing that results in perfect peace and while the world around us goes crazy, we can sleep really really well because of who we rely on. When take our eyes off Him, we see our circumstances and we forget things.

Isaiah 51:13

“That you have forgotten the LORD your Maker, Who stretched out the heavens And laid the foundations of the earth, That you fear continually all day long because of the fury of the oppressor, As he makes ready to destroy? And where is the rage of the oppressor?” (NASB 2020)

That lays it out, we have forgotten our Maker. He created everything, the earth, the heavens, yet because we have forgotten that we took our eyes off Him and looked at the circumstances, we are tempted to wallow in fear and worry.

God asks a question; is the reason you're experiencing fear remnant, faithful ones, those who love me, because of a poor memory?

He is not talking to those in unbelief. He is talking to the faithful remnant. Those who are struggling to remain faithful in a culture gone mad.

The problem is not with God's memory; the problem must be the poor memory of the people of Israel. If they would continually remember that their God was the Creator who "stretched out the heaven and laid the foundation of the earth," they would not live in constant fear of their oppressors who were trying to destroy them. (Smith 2009, 406-407)

Have they forgotten who it is He is? He is "I am." He is their creator, their maker. He is the one who stretched out the heavens. He is the one who made the earth.

Remember, this is the remnant who are praying and trusting that God is responding to. This could also be the response at the end of the age to those who are in hiding from the Beast and his oppression? Are they so concerned with this oppression that they have forgotten that there is a future, and it is the Lord who is taking care of them?

They are in fear of destruction but those they fear are only men. They are soon to be returned to Jerusalem in an exodus that will make the first one look like a Sunday outing.

Those of their number who have died due to the oppression of the beast have this to say.

Revelation 6:10–11

"They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been." (ESV)

How long? Same question as we have just looked at. His answer, soon.

It is that answer that drives us up the wall. We have a temporal perception of reality, not an eternal one.

He understands.

Ezekiel 36:22–32

"Therefore tell the house of Israel, 'This is what the Lord GOD says: "I'm not about to act for your sake, you house of Israel, but for the sake of my holy reputation, which you have been defiling throughout all of the nations where you've gone. I'm going to affirm my great reputation that has been defiled among the nations (that is, that you have defiled in their midst), and those people will learn that I am the LORD," declares the Lord GOD, 'when I affirm my holiness in front of their very eyes. I'm going to remove you from the nations, gather you from all of the territories, and bring you all back to your own land. I'll sprinkle pure water on you all, and you'll be cleansed from your impurity and from all of your idols. I'm going to give you a new heart, and I'm going to give you a new spirit within all of your deepest parts. I'll remove that rock-hard heart of yours and replace it with one that's sensitive to me. I'll place my spirit within you, empowering you to live according to my regulations and to keep my just decrees. You'll live in the land that I gave to your ancestors, you'll be my people, and I will be your God. In addition, I'll deliver you from everything that makes you unclean. I'll call out to the grain you plant, ordering it to produce abundant yields, and I will never bring famine in your direction. I'll increase the yields of your fruit trees and crops so that you'll never again experience the disgrace of famine that occurs in other nations. Then you'll remember your lifestyles and practices that were not good. You'll hate yourselves as you look at your own

iniquities and loathsome practices. I won't be doing any of this for your sake," declares the Lord GOD, "so keep that in mind. Be ashamed and frustrated because of your behavior, you house of Israel!" (ISV)

The remnant has the attention of God. He answers their prayers, and He comforts them. They are not alone; they never have been, and we are not either. He is coming very soon. The events we have been discussing are soon to take place in real time, and you can be ready for that, but it will involve a decision made with the full disclosure that not many will be joining you on the path.

Matthew 7:13–14

"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few." (ESV)

Isaiah 51:14–16

"The exile will soon be set free, and will not die in the dungeon, nor will his bread be lacking. For I am the LORD your God, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar (the LORD of armies is His name). And I have put My words in your mouth and have covered you with the shadow of My hand, to establish the heavens, to found the earth, and to say to Zion, 'You are My people.' "" (NASB 2020)

Just as Peter suddenly found himself free, so shall the remnant suddenly experience the same at the end of the age. This is a promise of the Lord we see here.

God hastens to come and deliver his people, so that they come safely out of the dungeon. The Lord does not promise his people some sudden assistance just to bring them out of prison, but also so that, having been delivered, they may be the objects of his kindness. He promises everything necessary for their food and support, that they may be convinced that he will always take care of them; his practice is not only to assist his people for a moment but to remain with them continually. (Calvin 2000, 318)

This is a picture of the rescue mission of Messiah in operation at the end of the Tribulation. The picture of fear, terror, fury, and destruction of the oppressor suddenly is changed to that of being set free and every need being met.

Isaiah 51:15–16

"For I am the LORD your God, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar (the LORD of armies is His name). And I have put My words in your mouth and have covered you with the shadow of My hand, to establish the heavens, to found the earth, and to say to Zion, 'You are My people.' "" (NASB 2020)

A reminder again for the remnant that their God, YAHWEH, is the same one who provided an escape from Egypt across the Red Sea. He is YAHWEH of heavenly armies. He is the Lord of Hosts.

The verse therefore means, I am the Lord thy God, who smote the [Red] Sea with consternation and then its waves surged and dashed and roared; first back, for my people to pass; and then with returning tides to overwhelm the hosts of Egypt deep beneath its angry billows. (Cowles 1869, 414)

He rescued in the past and He can rescue in the future.

YAHWEH then turns to His Servant who is being looked for by the remnant. His comments let them remember what YAHWEH said to the Servant, Messiah earlier in Isaiah 49:2 and 50:4.

This is part of the overall assurances being provided by YAHWEH to His people who are praying and asking for Him to move quickly. He is reminding them of His commissioning of the Servant. "Initially the prophet quotes God's past commissioning of the Servant (this is not a direct address to the Servant at this time) and his past promise to protect the Servant by hiding him in his hand (51:16a), thus assuring the audience that God's arm was already active in the past. What he called the Servant to do (49:2) will be accomplished; therefore the audience should trust God." (Smith 2009, 409)

The remnant prayed for the Lord to move quickly, and He is responding by reaffirming His plans to include the coming of the Servant. It is the Servant who will deliver Israel and who will say to Jerusalem that they belong to the Lord. “But this will be the nature of the plague with which the LORD will strike all the nations that have fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh will decay while they stand on their feet, their eyes will rot away in their sockets, and their tongues will dissolve in their mouths. On that day there will be great confusion from the LORD among them; they will seize each other and attack one another violently.” (Zechariah 14:12–13, NET)

The fact that the Servant will remind those in Jerusalem at the end of the age that they belong to the Lord is important. “This line forms the climax to God’s words of promise and assurance. He has not forgotten his people.” (Ogden and Sterk 2011, 1461)

Again, this is encouragement for those who are the remnant. The Lord continues talking to His people.

Isaiah 51:17

“Pull yourself up! Pull yourself up! Arise, Jerusalem! You who have drunk from the LORD’S hand the cup of His anger; The chalice of staggering you have drunk to the dregs.” (NASB 2020)

The remnant had prayed for YAHWEH to awaken and move quickly to rescue them, but here it is YAHWEH who tells His own people to wake up. Judgement had indeed fallen on Jerusalem and on His people, but the end of that has arrived. We are at the end of the age. It is time to get up and remove the yoke of servitude and slavery.

Jerusalem had indeed fully experienced (drunk) judgement, the reference to the dregs implies this is the end of that.

The cup has now been drained. Judgement is at an end. The Servant has come to rescue His people. But the impact of it all has been horribly expensive and destructive. The condition of the nation upon rescue points to the condition of the remnant.

Isaiah 51:18

“There is no one to guide her among all the sons to whom she has given birth, Nor is there anyone to take her by the hand among all the sons she has raised.” (NASB 2020)

Leadership is non-existent among the remnant. This is indeed a picture of Jerusalem after being dealt with by Babylon and Rome, it will also be a picture at the end of the Tribulation.

What is even worse for Jerusalem is that in each situation leading up to the exile of the nation, leadership was non-existent. There should have been those who would lead them in the Law in order to prevent judgment from coming, but instead those who should have been leading the people the right way, were involved in leading the nation the wrong way.

Ezekiel was shown the problem with the leadership just prior to Jerusalem falling to Babylon and the city and Temple being destroyed.

Ezekiel 8:16–18

“Then he brought me into the inner courtyard of the LORD’s Temple. At the entrance to the sanctuary, between the entry room and the bronze altar, there were about twenty-five men with their backs to the sanctuary of the LORD. They were facing east, bowing low to the ground, worshiping the sun! “Have you seen this, son of man?” he asked. “Is it nothing to the people of Judah that they commit these detestable sins, leading the whole nation into violence, thumbing their noses at me, and provoking my anger? Therefore, I will respond in fury. I will neither pity nor spare them. And though they cry for mercy, I will not listen.”” (NLT)

Jesus picked up and added to this just prior to His crucifixion.

Matthew 23:37–39

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones to death those who have been sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were unwilling! Look! Your house is left abandoned! I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘How blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ” (ISV)

The result was the destruction of the city and the Temple again, both times on the same day. And the diaspora at the hands of Rome.

Yet to come, the Beast coming into Jerusalem and demanding worship as god. The result will be another mass disruption.

The message is clear, those charged with the spiritual well-being of the nation, are derelict in their duties. The right guidance and direction could have shown the people how to avoid judgement by following the Lord, but they failed and will do so multiple times.

Unfortunately, this sounds way to familiar. In the past in our nation, voices would be speaking out regarding the direction of the culture, today, it is strangely silent. There are some who are speaking out, but unlike in the past where the media would give voice to both sides, that no longer exists, and the number of those who speak out is shrinking.

The United States is in the early stages of biblical abandonment and the consequent cultural decline. Increasing numbers of people are comfortable with faith as long as it provides the benefits they seek and is neither demanding nor constraining. This shift began tentatively more than four decades ago and has been gathering momentum ever since. Millennials, the generation whose choices will ultimately determine the nature of Christianity and the Church in America for several decades, appear poised to wholeheartedly support the shift away from biblical Christianity and toward new belief patterns. (Barna 2016, Kindle Location 350)

Isaiah 51:19–20

“These two things have happened to you; Who will mourn for you? The devastation and destruction, famine and sword; How shall I comfort you? Your sons have fainted, They lie helpless at the head of every street, Like an antelope in a net, Full of the wrath of the LORD, The rebuke of your God.” (NASB 2020)

In verse 19 we are told two things, a double disaster, have happened to the Jerusalem, but four things are listed. Possibly, the four things are double, double disasters. Devastation, destruction, famine and sword. If that is the case, then the first two are disasters on the land and the last two are disasters on the people.

The bottom line though is because of the dearth of leadership, there is no one left to mourn for a nation that has left YAHWEH and YAHWEH asks how shall I comfort you. Since the leadership led the people astray and they are suffering the results of sin, how would the Lord comfort that?

Why no help from those who should be leading the nation? They are the ones who are subject to judgement. They are incapable of sensing anything because they are “full of the wrath of the Lord, the rebuke of your God.” They are incapable of seeing or leading spiritually because they have dulled their own senses by drinking and worshipping at the wrong place.

Literally, the picture is one of drunks lying in the street incapable of even taking care of themselves much less anyone else.

This is the picture of Jerusalem; the remnant were wanting God to move and act but God is showing them what the problem truly is. Because of this dearth of leadership, the misguided rulers who have misled their own people into destruction, are no better than drunks lying in the street. This results in devastation,

destruction, famine and sword. Like antelope in the net, which means they are captured helpless and ready for slaughter.

This brings us to some divine conclusions of those conditions.

Isaiah 51:21–23

“Therefore, listen to this, you afflicted, Who are drunk, but not with wine: This is what your Lord, the LORD, your God Who contends for His people says: “Behold, I have taken from your hand the cup of staggering, The chalice of My anger; You will never drink it again. I will put it into the hand of your tormentors, Who have said to you, ‘Lie down so that we may walk over you.’ You have also made your back like the ground, And like the street for those who walk over it.”” (NASB 2020)

YAHWEH tells those who are afflicted, some of whom are part of the remnant. To listen to Him. If it was not clear at first, when He says they are drunk but not with wine it becomes clear here.

This message is not for just the remnant, but for those who have been the reason for judgement to fall on Jerusalem in the first place. To make sure He is clear, He also adds this is what your Lord, YAHWEH, your Elohim has to say.

By the way, He is the one who contends for His people. The leadership is incapable of doing so. They failed prior to Babylon, they failed prior to Rome, and they will fail again prior to the Beast. They are the ones who are drunk with drinking down every drop of wrath as indicated in Isaiah 51:17.

When He says “This is what your Lord, the Lord, your God” the first usage of the word Lord is the Hebrew word Adonai and it is in the plural here. “Exceptionally, Isaiah uses the plural of the word here (‘ādōnayik) usually reserved for human relationships—as of husband to wife (1 Kgs 1:17), parent to child (Gen. 31:35). Could it be that Isaiah chose this form here in order to stress that the divine lordship comes down into the ordinary affairs of life? Transcendent though he is, his sovereignty is not remote but practical and everyday.” (Motyer 1999, 369)

YAHWEH is the husband of Israel. This relationship is front and center in the book of Hosea. Hosea was instructed to marry a prostitute as an object lesson to the nation of how unfaithful they have been to their husband, YAHWEH. He is the one who sought out the relationship and He is the one who gave Himself to His people in an exclusive relationship which they have abrogated. He is the eternal one, YAHWEH, the covenant keeping God and He is their God who will do all things for the good of His glory and His name.

He is the one who will contend for His people.

Isaiah 51:22b

“Behold, I have taken from your hand the cup of staggering, The chalice of My anger; You will never drink it again.” (NASB 2020)

Those who remain after the Tribulation are those who will never again undergo the chastening of the Lord or His judgement. He says that He is the one who has taken the cup from their hand “which he himself had put there, ver. 17 and which none but himself could take out; not she herself, nor any of her sons, nor indeed could they give her any relief; but when the Lord’s time is come to favour his people, he himself will remove it.” (Gill 1810, 304)

Whatever he does is legally approved; it is not arbitrary or a kindly indulgence or concession, nor on the other hand an extravagant sentence, but only what justice itself directs. (J. A. Motyer 1996, 415)

At the end of the age, when His people finally have recognized the Servant and asked Him to deliver them, is the cup finally and fully removed. It is because His people have finally recognized the price that was paid on the cross and who paid it.

Zechariah 12:10–11

“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.” (ESV)

The Lord has already made it clear that He will be pouring His Spirit upon the remnant (Isaiah 44:3) at the end of the age. Because of that, He can promise that His people will never again drink it. There was a transfer that took place.

Because of this transfer that took place almost 2000 years ago, “They would not have to suffer in the future as they had in the past because God would provide a Savior who would suffer in their place. That the Jews have suffered terribly and will yet do so is because they have rejected the Savior that God provided.” (Constable 2003, Is 51:22)

The remnant of Israel today are those who have recognized their Messiah and placed their trust in Him. He paid the price. When the nation, as one, at the end of the Tribulation, ask for Messiah to save them, that is when they will recognize Him and that is why He can say they will never again have to drink of the cup of His anger.

Isaiah 51:23

“I will put it into the hand of your tormentors, Who have said to you, ‘Lie down so that we may walk over you.’ You have also made your back like the ground, And like the street for those who walk over it.” (NASB 2020)

As we have already examined, when Jesus Christ returns at the end of the Tribulation, He deals with those who stand against Israel and His people once and for all. He is returning as the avenger of blood. Isaiah has already pointed this out. “For the LORD has a day of vengeance, A year of retribution for the cause of Zion.” (Isaiah 34:8, NASB 2020)

No longer will the nations of the world walk all over His people, a reversal will take place. God will come and dwell with His people as promised and because of that, the nations will be willing to be servants in Israel so they can be close to the Lord. “When the LORD has compassion on Jacob and again chooses Israel, and settles them on their own land, then strangers will join them and attach themselves to the house of Jacob. The peoples will take them along and bring them to their place, and the house of Israel will make them their own possession in the land of the LORD as male and female servants; and they will take their captors captive and will rule over their oppressors.” (Isaiah 14:1–2, NASB 2020)

This is only possible because of Messiah and the reversal that takes place as a result of Him being on the throne.

Romans 10:8–10

“But what does it say? “The message is near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart.” This is the message about faith that we are proclaiming: If you declare with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with his heart and is justified, and declares with his mouth and is saved.” (ISV)

His light, His salvation is indeed near and available to all who accept it.

Salvation is a Gift

- Admit you are a sinner.
- Believe in your heart that Jesus died for your sins, was buried and He rose from the dead three days later.

- Call on the name of the Lord.

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