

Ye Sold Yourselves

Isaiah 50:1 – 51:23

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~ It appears that God is continually rejecting the nation Israel in this section of Scripture; but the reality is: Israel is rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ according to Isaiah's eschatology. If you have not read our previous several reports, then I highly suggest you go back and do so now. God is making it more than clear to Israel that it was Israel's sins that were bringing about the problems and oppression in the land. Isaiah is also foretelling of Christ and His salvation in this prophetic message. Later, when Christ did come to this earth, as Isaiah had prophesied, Israel refused to even acknowledge Him. Today, Israel worships science and education. They don't even set forth God as presented in the Old Testament. No, Jesus executed His earthly ministry in Israel, but they spit on Him and executed Him. God makes it unmistakably certain for us today — in His Word — that Israel has been set aside because they reject the Lord Jesus Christ, friends. That is why they cannot have peace and safety today. No other reason. You can erroneously argue against that fact until you turn blue and fall over dead; but God is using the church as His witness today – not Israel. Now, God is not finished with the nation Israel — as we shall see. There is a wonderful plan and purpose for the nation Israel *in the future...*

Acts 2: 22ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: 23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: 24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it ~

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1 Thus saith the LORD, Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement, whom I have put away? or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away.

2 Wherefore, when I came, was there no man? when I called, was there none to answer? Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver? behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinketh, because there is no water, and dieth for thirst.

3 I clothe the heavens with blackness, and I make sackcloth their covering.

4 The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.

~ Verse four should scream like a five-alarm fire bell clanging violently and suddenly in the night. If you are ever going to speak a word in season, you're going to have to understand the Word of God properly, correctly and completely, friends. I cannot overstate the crucial need for Bible study in our lives. Most of you already know that I am a one note song - and that note is: Bible Study! That's my hang-up; and I can't think of anywhere better to get hung up in my life than right here on this matter of Holy Writ. The number one problem in the church today and the number one sin in the lives of every self-professing believer is a total and complete ignorance of the Word of God. And that means all of us.

The lack of an honest, dedicated, commitment to the study of Scripture in one's life is appalling to the Lord – I promise you that. People spend hours upon endless hours speaking religious philosophical nonsense. Abject foolishness is revealed when the unlearned proclaim they believe the Bible cover to cover. They say they believe it's God's Word, and they promise to defend it with their life, but I never see them at Bible study. Since God took the time to speak so breathlessly — from Genesis chapter one through Revelation chapter twenty-two — my assumption is there's something in here that we don't know — and He wants to communicate to us. If it really

is God's Word – and it is – then it would make sense for us to listen to Him. If God is your Father, you're going to *DESIRE* to hear Him speak to you....

5 The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.

6 I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.

7 For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.

8 He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who is mine adversary? let him come near to me.

9 Behold, the Lord GOD will help me; who is he that shall condemn me? lo, they all shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up.

10 Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.

~ God speaks a word to woo us with comfort in verse ten — and I truly need that as I type this report and you read it. Then, a harsh warning is immediately given in verse eleven against walking in the light of your own fire. So many people want to argue theology today – they love to build the fires by which they walk. Well, a phony fire gives off no heat and no light, my friends. See, what you think and what I think about the Word of God are irrelevant. Only that which God says in His Word can light a way for us; and only when it is rightly divided, correctly understood, and properly applied in our hearts and lives. We must walk in the light of the Lord Jesus Christ – Who is the light of the world. When men reject Christ, they always attempt to light their own way. Well, let me pass along what God says, and then you can read it for yourself in verse eleven, “*ye shall lie down by your fire in sorrow.*” That means eternally lost, my beloved....

11 Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourselves about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow.

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1 Harken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.

2 Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him.

3 For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

4 Harken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people.

5 My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust.

6 Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished.

7 Harken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings.

8 For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: but my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation.

9 Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon?

~ It has always seemed to me as if this is the Alarm Clock section of Scripture. It's as if Isaiah is shouting, "*Acthung, bebe!*" This is another wholly abandoned section of Scripture by the Christian today. The modern theologian just doesn't come here; because they have no light. Frankly, I believe our safari through Isaiah has revealed that his prophecy, while cited profusely amongst Christians, is altogether unfamiliar to and profoundly misunderstood by the church. Those who do wander into this thick jungle of prophecy often come to the conclusion that God is not talking about Israel anymore, but refers to the church. This marks the area of the Bible where that particular misapplication originates. Then, those prophecy mongers get all tangled-up in doctrine, and most of them die spiritually. Well, I don't think it could be any clearer that Isaiah was writing to Israel because the name Israel is called by God repeatedly. Until we understand the difference between Israel and the church, we can never understand the Bible, friends – it's just not going to happen - it's that simple.

In chapter after chapter, Isaiah begins to sound like a broken record concerning burdens and salvation. The call goes out to the lost world to take hold of the bared arm of God in redemption and receive deliverance. God's strong arm is that which will deliver Israel in the future, too. This is an area of the Bible that is so rarely read. People suffer from not understanding truths — truths that are easily mined, but rare. Most of them don't really want to know – because they don't love the Word of God as they claim they do. God's plan and purpose for the nation Israel is equally the reality that His promise for the church is; albeit in remarkably different ways from that of the church. God is saying to every sincere heart that desires to know the Lord Jesus Christ in righteousness today, "*WAKE UP.*" - in verse nine. Our salvation is much nearer than when we first believed.

These are strong and severe warnings; and a total and complete understanding of the full prophetic picture needs to be understood now – in light of these things God is saying. I have always said that prophecy requires a minimum of *ten years* daily Bible study under a competent teacher in order to correctly discern and interpret eschatology in sound doctrine. It may be longer than that – but it is no less than that. Isaiah is just a drop in the bucket compared to what follows in our Spiritual Safari prophetic leg as we traverse the entire Bible. I hope you'll stay with us....

10 Art thou not it which hath dried the sea, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over?

11 Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

12 I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass;

13 And forgettest the LORD thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? and where is the fury of the oppressor?

14 The captive exile hasteneth that he may be loosed, and that he should not die in the pit, nor that his bread should fail.

15 But I am the LORD thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared: The LORD of hosts is his name.

16 And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people.

17 Awake, awake, stand up, O Jerusalem, which hast drunk at the hand of the LORD the cup of his fury; thou hast drunken the dregs of the cup of trembling, and wrung them out.

~ Alright, our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition through the entire Bible with God's alarm clock rudely sounding-off again. I guess we hit the snooze button for a minute there? The present day condition of Israel and Jerusalem is sinful and desolate. That ought to tell us something; and that something is that there is *NO POSSIBLE WAY* they are back in that land today according to fulfilled prophecy. Let's sober up and wake up to reality. I have no desire to live in or visit Israel. Maybe you do – I don't. It may have been David's favorite place on earth, and it may be the Lord Jesus Christ's holy land – but it's not beautiful and lovely to me. God says someday that will change, and the desert will blossom like a rose - and the inhabitants will dwell every man under his own vine in peace and safety. Well, if that day arrives during my lifetime, perhaps I'll reconsider. In the meantime, turn all of these things over in your mind in prayer a few times — and see what you come up with....

18 There is none to guide her among all the sons whom she hath brought forth; neither is there any that taketh her by the hand of all the sons that she hath brought up.

19 These two things are come unto thee; who shall be sorry for thee? desolation, and destruction, and the famine, and the sword: by whom shall I comfort thee?

20 Thy sons have fainted, they lie at the head of all the streets, as a wild bull in a net: they are full of the fury of the LORD, the rebuke of thy God.

21 Therefore hear now this, thou afflicted, and drunken, but not with wine:

22 Thus saith thy Lord the LORD, and thy God that pleadeth the cause of his people, Behold, I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling, even the dregs of the cup of my fury; thou shalt no more drink it again:

23 But I will put it into the hand of them that afflict thee; which have said to thy soul, Bow down, that we may go over: and thou hast laid thy body as the ground, and as the street, to them that went over ~

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