

24 Can the prey be taken from the mighty,  
or the captives of a tyrant be rescued?

25 For thus says the LORD:

“Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken,  
and the prey of the tyrant be rescued,  
for I will contend with those who contend with  
you,  
and I will save your children.

26 I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh, (see 9.20)  
and they shall be drunk with their own blood as  
with wine.

Then all flesh shall know  
that I am the LORD your Savior,  
and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.”

Without God man  
always descends into  
the depth of sin. God  
removes His hand  
or allows/makes  
this to happen.

Israel's Sin and the Servant's Obedience

50

Thus says the LORD:  
“Where is your mother's certificate of divorce,  
with which I sent her away?  
Or which of my creditors is it  
to whom I have sold you?  
Behold, for your iniquities you were sold,  
and for your transgressions your mother was  
sent away.

2 Why, when I came, was there no man;  
why, when I called, was there no one to answer?  
Is my hand shortened, that it cannot redeem?  
Or have I no power to deliver?  
Behold, by my rebuke I dry up the sea,  
I make the rivers a desert;

FAITHLESS PEOPLE

24) Here is a question that must be answered. Is what is being talked about even possible? How are the defeated and weak rescued or set free?

25) The response from God is clear. It is possible because God Himself plans to intervene. God will "save your children." This may also show it is the offspring of the captives who are rescued. There is no question that this is something he can do.

26) Here is a picture of sin. It is self-consuming. Causing a person to sacrifice their own body/health for the all consuming power of sin. What starts out as personal pleasure becomes the overpowering master. This addictive state, (see also 9.20) cause a person to abandon self-preservation for the demon of momentary pleasure and eventually momentary relief from suffering. God stands in direct contrast to this. He offers deliverance through a savior who will redeem (w/His own blood) those who are of the spiritual lineage of Jacob. All Flesh shows this is a message to all of humanity and not just the nation of ISRAEL.

1) Speaking about Israel the Nation as His wife God makes it clear that it was her that caused the separation. This separation or divorce was His way of pushing her to pay for her sins. Here God wants it clear His intention is a separation to rectify the problem and not a permanent divorce. This is why Israel is taken into captivity. He plans to restore her when the problem that made this necessary is resolved. It is not His love that has proven unfaithful but hers.

2) Here God is saying he tried to reason w/her but she refused to listen, to respond, or acknowledge Him. This picture of their rejecting God is followed by God saying even though this has happened is there anything stopping Him from buying her back? Does He not have the power to restore Her? If he can dry up seas and rivers for His people then He can restore them to Himself. He can bring them to repentance through His actions.

their fish stink for lack of water  
and die of thirst.  
3 I clothe the heavens with blackness  
and make sackcloth their covering."

4 The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of those who are taught,  
that I may know how to sustain with a word  
him who is weary.

Morning by morning he awakens;  
he awakens my ear  
to hear as those who are taught.

5 The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious;  
I turned not backward.

6 I gave my back to those who strike,  
and my cheeks to those who pull out the  
beard;

I hid not my face  
from disgrace and spitting.

7 But the Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like a flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

8 He who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.  
Who is my adversary?  
Let him come near to me.

The Servant Song

THE FAITHFUL SERVANT

2b) He will use nature itself to bring them to want to come back to Him. He has removed His hand of protection and will not provide for them while they withhold their love.

3) God has gone into mourning because of His people's turning away from Him. Notice he covers or causes them to wear sackcloth. w/out Him they are poor, destitute, and suffering. They are in mourning w/out Him providing for them.

4a) Serve as one of the Servant's songs in ISAIAH. In contrast to the unfaithful wife. Here the Servant describes THE SUFFERING needed to restore His love. He wants Her to know how much he is willing to suffer to restore Her. Though she has turned away His one goal is to restore their relationship.

4) The Servant has been taught, or must learn how to communicate the truth of God so that it sustains or carries the weary. This is to be taught, (see Mt 11:28-30) so that the weary will know truth and be refreshed by it. These weary have learned to call on God as He promises to hear them as they reach out to Him daily. Here the servant hears for God the prayers of those He has taught/rescued.

5) The servant has willingly submitted to God in this matter. This being willing to hear and obey God's will and set aside His own wants and needs is shown here.

6) Here is the image of Christ's Suffering. (cf. Mt 26:67ff; 27:26ff; John 19:1ff) Jesus speaks of laying down His life for His sheep (Jn. 10:15) This is how much he will do to restore the broken relationship. This can only be a reference to Christ's suffering & surrender for all of humanity.

7) Through this the servant (Jesus) is helped by God (the Father) to endure and not be defeated and to endure the suffering. The hardest portion may have been knowing what He faced. When faced w/ the decision to carry through he sets His face toward Jerusalem w/ a complete determination that nothing will be allowed to stop Him. (Lk 9:51). The shame would have been in failing to complete His mission. God will not allow this to happen to His son & the savior of humanity.

8) Here the servant asks who will help. When push came to shove all His disciples left Him. (Mt 26:56)

3rd Servant Song

Conclusion to section

9 Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;  
 who will declare me guilty?  
 Behold, all of them will wear out like a  
 garment;  
 the moth will eat them up.

10 Who among you fears the LORD  
 and obeys the voice of his servant?  
 Let him who walks in darkness  
 and has no light  
 trust in the name of the LORD  
 and rely on his God.

11 Behold, all you who kindle a fire,  
 who equip yourselves with burning torches!  
 Walk by the light of your fire,  
 and by the torches that you have kindled!  
 This you have from my hand:  
 you shall lie down in torment.

The LORD's Comfort for Zion

51 "Listen to me, you who (pursue righteousness,  
 you who seek the LORD):  
look to the rock from which you were hewn,  
 and to the quarry from which you were dug.  
 2 Look to Abraham your father  
 and to Sarah who bore you;  
 for he was but one when I called him,  
 that I might bless him and multiply him.  
 3 For the LORD comforts Zion;  
 he comforts all her waste places

① The Servant is not alone. His strength comes from God. THE Question of Guilt is a rhetorical Question. THE answer is No One can find Him Guilty. These times Pilate said he found no Guilt in Jesus (see Jn 18:39; 19:4; 19:6) In the end the mob demands His crucifixion. They all wear out, or die, but Jesus is in the end victorious over death.

⑩-11 Here this section is concluded. It opened with the faithless people in verses 1-3 and with this was shown the contrast of the faithful servant in verses 4-9.

⑩ The open question is a call to the faithful to come to Him. He will provide light for them. Jn 8:12 Jesus declares he is the light of the world. By + trusting or turning to Jesus the come into His eternal light. (see 159.2)

⑪ Contrast to this are those who THINK THEY HAVE THE LIGHT BUT w/out THE servant are in darkness or blind. He they follow their own light and not God's. False RELIGIONS & PHILOSOPHIES are all manmade lights on a path to destruction. THESE paths away from God will led to eternal torment

Jn 8 p. 133 divides the opening section into three parts all w/a call to Listen or heed and a key sentence explaining the reason for the call.

① The opening call is to the righteous to "look to the rock." This is a call to remember their roots, where they have come from. They did not get here on their own. Their foundation helps form who they are.

② Again a backward look is called for. Here is the foundation of the promise. God did not call a nation but a man and his wife. All that has happened to create the mighty nation come from Him and His plans. The righteous are to remember this is God's hand that has done this. It is God's hand that sustains them.

③ God is always watching over His people and their land. He has turned a wilderness into a garden for His people. God causes gladness and joy by all He does for His people.