

# Isaiah

The Mission to the Weary  
Isaiah 50

1



## Introduction

This passage is the second of four “Servant Songs” in the book of Isaiah (42:1-25; 49:1–13; 50:1–11; 52:12–53:12). This one is “The Mission to the Weary.”

2


 A decorative graphic featuring the word "Isaiah" in a stylized font, overlaid on a background of Hebrew text from the Bible.
 

Isaiah

# Introduction

Four times in this passage the Servant refers to the “Lord God” who sent Him on His mission. In each reference the Servant tells how the “Lord God” met His every need as He carried out His assigned duties (v. 4, 5, 7, 9). As the Scripture and outline show, His mission was twofold: to preach to the weary and to suffer for the weary.

3


 A decorative graphic featuring the word "Isaiah" in a stylized font, overlaid on a background of Hebrew text from the Bible.
 

Isaiah

# Isaiah 50:1:3

Thus says the Lord: “Where *is* the certificate of your mother’s divorce, Whom I have put away? Or which of My creditors *is it* to whom I have sold you? For your iniquities you have sold yourselves, And for your transgressions your mother has been put away. <sup>2</sup> Why, when I came, *was there* no man? *Why*, 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? Indeed with My rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness; Their fish stink because *there is* no water, And die of thirst. <sup>3</sup> I clothe the heavens with blackness, And I make sackcloth their covering.”

4



Isaiah 50:1

Thus says the Lord: "Where *is* the certificate of your mother's divorce, Whom I have put away? Or which of My creditors *is it* to whom I have sold you? For your iniquities you have sold yourselves, And for your transgressions your mother has been put away.

Like Hosea, God's redemption is compared to the love of a forgiving husband. Although the Israelites were guilty of serious sin, the Lord had not divorced or sold them to their creditors. There was no certificate, nothing in the history of Israel to suggest that God had ever severed connections with His people. They were sent away from their homeland and sold into captivity because of their sins, not because God had divorced them.

5



Isaiah 50:2

Why, when I came, *was there* no man? Why, 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? Indeed with My rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness; Their fish stink because *there is* no water, And die of thirst.

God had continually reached out to be reconciled with His people. But few responded when He called. This is not because God does not possess the power to redeem, but their failure to listen. His power had been proven when He dried up the Red Sea and provided water in the wilderness.

6



## Isaiah 50:3

I clothe the heavens with blackness, And I make sackcloth their covering.”

The Israelites’ captivity and discouragement was due to their own sin. Jesus’ mission was to reach the discouraged and redeem them back to Himself.

Today God still reaches out to those who are disheartened. He reaches out in love to be reconciled with all who feel forsaken, broken, alienated or forgotten.

7



## Isaiah 50:4

“The Lord God has given Me The tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak A word in season to *him who is weary*. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear To hear as the learned.

Messiah’s mission was to preach to the weary. Sin and death wear at the soul. This fallen world calls people to sinful desires, empty philosophy, false values, and improper actions. All these leaves one tired and empty.

In that darkness, Jesus came and preached that which the Father told Him to speak.

8



Isaiah 50:4b-5

He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear To hear as the learned. The Lord God has opened My ear; And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn away.

Jesus' ministry was draining. We see a practical lesson here. Each morning the Father would awaken Jesus to teach Him. Jesus' response was that He inclined His ear to learn and responded in obedience to instruction. He did not turn away from His Mission to save us.

If Jesus needed to learn from the Father, then we definitely need to spend time be instructed by God's Word every day!

9



Isaiah 50:6

I gave My back to those who struck *Me*, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.

Jesus was obedient to His mission to suffer for the weary. When Christ died on the cross, He willingly gave Himself up to die as the ransom for the people's sins. He suffered as their *substitute* - in their place and on their behalf. Willingly, He offered His back to be scourged, beaten until there was very little flesh left. He offered His cheek to the sinners of the world, and they pulled out His beard. Voluntarily, He offered His face to be spat upon by all who rejected Him as God's Servant, the Savior of the world.

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Isaiah 50:7

“For the Lord God will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.

Here again we find the “Lord God” or “God Almighty” helping Messiah. As He suffered for the weary, the Father helped and strengthened Jesus. In the face of shame, rejection, and abuse by sinful men, Jesus knew that He was loved, accepted, and glorified by the Father. In the face of temptation to turn away from the cross, Jesus found the strength to set His face towards the cross. Though He faced a shameful death being crucified as a common criminal, He was not ashamed. It is through His sufferings that we praise and worship Him!

11



Isaiah 50:8-9

*He is* near who justifies Me; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand together. Who *is* My adversary? Let him come near Me.  
<sup>9</sup> Surely the Lord God will help Me; Who *is* he *who* will condemn Me? Indeed they will all grow old like a garment; The moth will eat them up.

In His trial on earth, Jesus was falsely accused. Jesus knew that the Father would vindicate Him right. The “Lord God” would justify Him because He was sinless. The weary of the earth who placed their trust in Him would be saved, but the Savior’s accusers would be like a garment that falls apart due to age or from being eaten by moths. They will face the judgment of the Lord God.

12



Isaiah 50:10

“Who among you fears the Lord? Who obeys the voice of His Servant? Who walks in darkness And has no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord And rely upon his God.

Jesus’ mission demands a decision from every person. Since He has come to the world as the Savior, people cannot avoid making a decision concerning Him. People either accept or reject the offer of salvation. In fact, a person’s avoidance is this decision is to reject Christ.

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By sending the Savior into the world, the Lord God has shown that He longs for every person in the world to be saved from the bondages of this life, from discouragement, and from weariness.

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Because of so great a salvation, God demands that people fear and obey the Word of Christ.

As the Scripture points out, God gives two words of warning:

1. The person who walks in darkness must trust in the name of the Lord and rely on Him.

15



Isaiah 50:11

Look, all you who kindle a fire, Who encircle *yourselves* with sparks: Walk in the light of your fire and in the sparks you have kindled - This you shall have from My hand: You shall lie down in torment.

2. The person who reject Jesus will face God’s judgment. All who reject the light of the Savior and walk by their own light will lie down in torment. This a picture of eternal punishment due to their unbelief and rejection of the Savior.

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# So What ...

Are you tired and discouraged?

Find your rest in Jesus. If you have not trusted in Jesus for your salvation, you should do so today!

For the believer, learn to rest in Him!