

SPIRITUAL RESOURCES FOR DARK DAYS -- Isaiah 50.

Intro: One of the biggest problems in interpreting this ~~verse~~ ^{chapter} is to determine who is speaking.

The eunuch expressed one of the most important questions in interpreting OT prophecy. See Acts 8:26-35, esp. v. 34.

One key in the passage is the change from "Lord" to "Lord God."

When we get down to v. 5 the language is clearly Messianic and could not apply to Isaiah. We know this from the way this passage is either quoted in the NT, or passages in the NT and the OT which show that they point to Christ.

E.g.,

- 1) V. 5 -- the background is Ex. 21:1-6; Psa. 40:6-8, which is quoted in Heb. 10:5-7.
- 2) V. 6 -- Matt. 26:67; 27:30;
Mark 15:19;
Luke 22:63-65.
- 3) V. 7 -- Luke 9:51;
John 18:11.
- 4) Vv. 8, 9 -- Rom. 8:33, 34.

So this means that the Speaker in vv. 1-9 is "the Lord," the Messiah. And when He speaks of "the Lord God," He has to be speaking of God, the Father. Thus, especially from v. 4 on through v. 9 the Son is speaking about the Father.

Then Isaiah speaks in the last two verses:

- 1) V. 10 is an exhortation for Israel's guidance and encouragement.
- 2) V. 11 is a warning, an admonition.

Outline of the chapter:

- I. THE MISERY OF ISRAEL (Isa. 50:1-3).
- II. THE MINISTRY OF THE FATHER TO THE SON FOR THEIR PEOPLE (Isa. 50:4-9). We have also the ministry of the Son on behalf of the Father for the benefit of the people of God.
- III. THE MESSAGE OF ISAIAH (Isa. 50:10, 11).

I. ~~Isaiah's~~ The misery of Israel
The Lord's Response to Israel's
Complaint (50:1-3).

A. What was Israel's complaint?

That the Lord had divorced her, that she had been sold.

B. The Lord's response.

1. There was no such bill of divorcement, nor any bill of sale. ~~which should have been illegal.~~

Cf. Deut. 24:1, 2

2. He had come to them through the prophets, but no one answered.

3. It was not that the Lord lacked the power to deliver them, or to protect them.

a. The exodus is cited as proof in v. 2 b.

b. The acts of God in nature also are cited - v. 3.

II. The Ministry of the Father to the Son (50:4-9)

We can certainly claim a verse like v. 5, but it belongs primarily to the Lord Jesus.

Cf. Jn 14:10, 24

(Cf. of the Holy Spirit - Jn 16:12, 13)

This section is for the comfort of Israel. It was a dark time for Israel, + would get darker. ^{See they refer from a practical}

A. The Word of God to the Son for His people (v. 4). stand point no v. 10!

B. The mission of Christ, the messiah (vv. 5-9)

1) His ^(the Son's) unswerving submission to the Father's will (vv. 5-7)

2) The faithfulness of the Father to the Son (vv. 8, 9).

The enemies of Israel will finally be vanquished.

III. The message of Isaiah (50:10,11)

A. Instruction (v. 10).

B. Warning (v. 11).

In view of the revelation given in vv. 1-9, they should continue to trust, to rely upon the Lord. It may still be dark, but light is ahead.

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The warning is against those who would try to create their own light (by turning to some ~~to~~ other hope, perhaps false gods, by sacrificing to them.

Concl: What are the lessons?

- 1) Our troubles are never due to any change or failure in the Lord.
- 2) The problem may be our own sin.
- 3) The Father and the Son are united in the defence and perfection of the people of God.
- 4) The Cross stands as eternal evidence that God is on our side.
- 5) When we seem to be deserted by God, and things are dark, we need to continue to trust the Lord and not turn to others for help.