

Was My arm too short to ransom you?**Isaiah 50:1-11****Facilitator: Robert E. Fleming****I. INTRODUCTION**

Isaiah teaches about the suffering servant's unwavering obedience, the importance of trusting God during trials, and the foolishness of relying on human wisdom instead. It emphasizes that God-given wisdom comes from listening to Him and the Servant's determination is the result of God's help, not personal strength. The chapter also challenges the people of Israel to recognize their own responsibility for their suffering, which is not due to God abandoning them without cause.

The obedient suffering servant: The servant has a deep, daily relationship with God, receiving the tongue of the learned, to speak to the weary. He is not rebellious, and his determination is set in stone, because he trust in God's help and vindication, not his own strength. This servant is understood by Christian interpreters to be Jesus Christ, who learned obedience through suffering.

Trust in God over human wisdom: The chapter contrast those who trust in God with those who rely on their own human wisdom . For those who trust God, He promise to be a constant source of help, even in dark times. For those who rely on themselves, seeking their own solutions, it leads to torment and uncertainty.

God's action and Israel's responsibility: The chapter opens by addressing Israel's complaints against God, stating that their separation was not a result of a bill of divorce from God , but do to their own iniquities and transgressions. It challenges them to accept responsibility for their state rather than blaming God.

The promise of vindication: The servant will not be put to shame because God stands with Him. This is a promise that ultimately vindicate His faithful servant , even in the face of adversity and opposition.

II. Lesson: Was My arm too short to ransom you?

1. v. 1.

Isaiah is addressing the people of Israel using rhetorical questions to challenge their belief that God has abandoned them through divorce or sold them into slavery. The verse meaning Israel's exile and suffering was not caused by God's unfaithfulness but by their own sins and transgressions, which caused them to be separated from God. The Lord ask, "where is the certificate of divorce" and to which of my creditors did I sell you? To highlight that he did not sever the covenant or sell them to others; their own iniquities led to their own state.

2. v.2.

This is a rhetorical question from God, challenging the Israelite's doubt in His ability to rescue them by asking " Is my Hand so short that It cannot redeem you? Or have I no power to deliver you? These verses emphasize God's unlimited power and omnipotence, referencing His control over nature to prove He can easily deliver His people from any situation. It serves as a powerful reminder of God's steadfast commitment to redemption, even when His people have been disobedient or feel abandoned.

3. v. 3.

This describes God's power by stating He clothes the heavens with blackness and makes sackcloth their covering. The imagery symbolizes God's control over creation to bring about judgement or

to show His ability to rescue His people by reversing the natural order, like turning daylight to darkness.

4. vv. 4 & 5.

This verse describes a suffering servant who is divinely equipped with the ability to speak words of comfort and wisdom to those who are weary. The meaning is two fold: The Servant has a tongue of the learned to speak effectively and an ear to hear as a disciple, signifying both mastery and humble obedience. This passage is interpreted as a prophecy about the Messiah, specifically Jesus Christ, who daily receives divine instruction to minister to the weary, as shown by His constant listening to God and his obedient response.

5. v. 6.

This is a prophecy about a Servant who will willingly endure Intense humiliation and abuse, including beaten, having his beard pulled, and being spat upon, as a result of His obedience to God. (Matthew 26:67).

6. v. 7.

But the Master God, stays right there and helps Me. So I'm not disgraced . Therefore I set my face like a flint, confident that I'll never regret this. My champion is right here.

7. vv. 8 & 9.

The 'Servant' (a prophetic figure often identified as the Messiah) trust that God is near to vindicate Him and prove His righteousness against any accusers. It's a declaration of confidence in God's justice, portraying a courtroom scene where God acts as both the Advocate and the Judge , ready to silence any opposition and demonstrate the Servants innocence. The verse is seen as fulfilled in Jesus' resurrection, which acquitted Him of the charges against Him.

8. vv. 10 & 11.

A third party now issues a challenge. There is a choice to be made. Who fears God and will obey the words of the Servant and who wants to seek comfort their own way? The Servant has been tasked with shedding light on Israel's darkness. He has been sent into this horrific trial specifically to identify with her and offer her comfort. He modeled how to deal with despair and respond to oppressors. The observer say, let the despairing person follow the Servants example trusting in the Lord .

III. CONCLUSION

Look to the hills from whence cometh thy help, thy help cometh from the Lord, who made heaven and earth (Psalms 121:1,2).