

Isaiah 51:1-23 **Yahweh Comforts Zion**

The Lord Comforts Zion – A Kingdom Promise (cf. Genesis 12:1-3)

1 "Listen to Me, you who follow after righteousness, You who seek the Lord: Look to the rock from which you were hewn, And to the hole of the pit from which you were dug.

2 Look to Abraham your father, And to Sarah who bore you; For I called him alone, And blessed him and increased him."

3 For the Lord will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places; He will make her wilderness like Eden, And her desert like the garden of the Lord; Joy and gladness will be found in it, Thanksgiving and the voice of melody.

4 "Listen to Me, My people; And give ear to Me, O My nation: For law will proceed from Me, And I will make My justice rest As a light of the peoples.

5 My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth, And My arms will judge the peoples; The coastlands will wait upon Me, And on My arm they will trust.

6 Lift up your eyes to the heavens, And look on the earth beneath. For the heavens will vanish away like smoke, The earth will grow old like a garment, And those who dwell in it will die in like manner; But My salvation will be forever, And My righteousness will not be abolished.

7 "Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, You people in whose heart is My law: Do not fear the reproach of men, Nor be afraid of their insults.

8 For the moth will eat them up like a garment, And the worm will eat them like wool; But My righteousness will be forever, 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. Are You not the arm that cut Rahab apart, And wounded the serpent?

10 Are You not the One who dried up the sea, The waters of the great deep; That made the depths of the sea a road For the redeemed to cross over?

11 So the ransomed of the Lord shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness; Sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

12 "I, even I, am He who comforts you. Who are you that you should be afraid Of a man who will die, And of the son of a man who will be made like grass?

13 And you forget the Lord your Maker, Who stretched out the heavens And laid the foundations of the earth; You have feared continually every day Because of the fury of the oppressor, When he has prepared to destroy. And where is the fury of the oppressor?

14 The captive exile hastens, that he may be loosed, That he should not die in the pit, And that his bread should not fail.

15 But I am the Lord your God, Who divided the sea whose waves roared — The Lord of hosts is His name.

16 And I have put My words in your mouth; I have covered you with the shadow of My hand, That I may plant the heavens, Lay the foundations of the earth, And say to Zion, 'You are My people.'"

God's Fury Removed

17 Awake, awake! Stand up, O Jerusalem, You who have drunk at the hand of the Lord The cup of His fury; You have drunk the dregs of the cup of trembling, And drained it out.

18 There is no one to guide her Among all the sons she has brought forth; Nor is there any who takes her by the hand Among all the sons she has brought up.

19 These two things have come to you; Who will be sorry for you? — Desolation and destruction, famine and sword — By whom will I comfort you?

20 Your sons have fainted, They lie at the head of all the streets, Like an antelope in a net; They are full of the fury of the Lord, The rebuke of your God.

21 Therefore please hear this, you afflicted, And drunk but not with wine.

22 Thus says your Lord, The Lord and your God, Who pleads the cause of His people: "See, I have taken out of your hand The cup of trembling, The dregs of the cup of My fury; You shall no longer drink it.

23 But I will put it into the hand of those who afflict you, Who have said to you, 'Lie down, that we may walk over you.' And you have laid your body like the ground, And as the street, for those who walk over."

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Facts Revealed:

The Lord Comforts Zion – a Kingdom Promise (cf. Genesis 12:1-3)

✧ "Listen to Me, you who follow after righteousness, You who seek Yahweh (the Lord): Look to the rock from which you were hewn, And to the hole of the pit from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father, And to Sarah who bore you; For I called him alone, And blessed him and increased him." [Isaiah 51:1-2]

✧ The message is to God's people who follow righteousness.

✧ Their attention is focused on the history of Israel and to those first called as God's Chosen People, to the Law given at Mount Sinai.

✧ Abraham and Sarah are the example pointed out by Yahweh.

✧ For Yahweh (the Lord) will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places; He will make her wilderness like Eden, And her desert like the garden of Yahweh (the Lord); Joy and gladness will be found in it, Thanksgiving and the voice of melody. [Isaiah 51:3]

✧ The promised comfort will be accomplished in the Kingdom age when Messiah will reign from Mount Zion.

✧ At that time, the land will be restored to a blessed state like the Garden of Eden.

✧ Then joy and gladness will be accompanied with thanksgiving and melody as the people of the Saints of Yahweh will enjoy the blessings of God Most High.

✧ "Listen to Me, My people; And give ear to Me, O My nation: For law will proceed from Me, And I will make My justice rest As a light of the peoples.

My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth, And My arms will judge the peoples; The coastlands will wait upon Me, And on My arm they will trust. [Isaiah 51:4-5]

✧ The call is to the Saints of Yahweh, to the faithful of Israel.

✧ The Kingdom of Righteousness and Justice is the performance of purity that reveals the Salvation of Yahweh.

✧ Messiah will judge the people of all nations.

✧ Gentiles will trust and wait on Yahweh the Messiah Who sends forth His Law from Zion as a Light to the entire earth both the people of Israel and the gentiles.

✧ Lift up your eyes to the heavens, And look on the earth beneath. For the heavens will vanish away like smoke, The earth will grow old like a garment, And those who dwell in it will die in like manner; But My salvation will be forever, And My righteousness will not be abolished.

[Isaiah 51:6]

✧ Clear revelation that the present Heaven and Earth are temporal and will be destroyed.

[Matthew 5:17-19, 24:35, Hebrews 1:10-12, 1 John 2:17, Revelation 20:11, 21:1, 2 Peter 3:7-14, Isaiah 34:4]

✧ The concept of the earth ending was first introduced by God when Noah came out of the Ark at the end of the great flood, when God said to Noah, "While the earth remains." This statement indicated that the earth suddenly became terminal with the certainty it was no longer to last forever. [Genesis 8:22]

✧ When the earth is destroyed, all that is on the earth will also be destroyed. [Isaiah 51:6, 2 Peter 3:7-14]

✧ Even so, the Salvation and righteousness of God are eternal and will never be abolished.

✧ "Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, You people in whose heart is My law: Do not fear the reproach of men, Nor be afraid of their insults.

For the moth will eat them up like a garment, And the worm will eat them like wool; But My righteousness will be forever, And My salvation from generation to generation." [Isaiah 51:7-8]

✧ Again Yahweh calls attention to the fact that the message is for God's People, those who know righteousness and have His Law in their hearts.

✧ They are encouraged to trust in God and have no fear of men's reproach or their insults.

✧ Those who reproach and insult God's people will find that their end is destruction, but God's righteousness and Salvation are forever.

✧ Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of Yahweh (the Lord)! Awake as in the ancient days, In the generations of old. Are You not the arm that cut Rahab apart, And wounded the serpent?

Are You not the One who dried up the sea, The waters of the great deep; That made the depths of the sea a road For the redeemed to cross over? [Isaiah 51:9-10]

✧ Looking back to the history of Israel, the writer desires Yahweh to take direct action on behalf of Israel like He did in the past instances described.

Yahweh assured Isaiah that He would indeed fulfill His promises to restore Israel

✧ So the ransomed of Yahweh (the Lord) shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness; Sorrow and sighing shall flee away. [Isaiah 51:11]

✧ Yahweh repeats the promise of the redeemed returning to Zion rejoicing according to the message He gave earlier. [Isaiah 35:10]

✧ "I, even I, am He who comforts you. Who are you that you should be afraid Of a man who will die, And of the son of a man who will be made like grass?

And you forget Yahweh (the Lord) your Maker, Who stretched out the heavens And laid the foundations of the earth; You have feared continually every day Because of the fury of the oppressor, When he has prepared to destroy. And where is the fury of the oppressor? [Isaiah 51:12-13]

✧ Yahweh identified Himself as the One Who comforts Israel and revealed that He is the Creator of Heaven and Earth.

✧ Yahweh questioned Israel about their fear of mankind. [Psalm 3:6, Proverbs 29:25, Matthew 10:28, Luke 12:4-5, Hebrews 13:6]

✧ Throughout history the human oppressors have all died off in the end.

✧ Yahweh abides forever and has no end.

✧ The captive exile hastens, that he may be loosed, That he should not die in the pit, And that his bread should not fail. [Isaiah 51:14]

- ✧ Still the ones headed for captive exile spend much effort to protect themselves on their own rather than trusting in the salvation of God Most High.
- ✧ But I am Yahweh Eloheyka (the Lord your God), Who divided the sea whose waves roared — Yahweh Tsebavta (The Lord of hosts) is His name.
And I have put My words in your mouth; I have covered you with the shadow of My hand, That I may plant the heavens, Lay the foundations of the earth, And say to Zion, 'You are My people.'" [\[Isaiah 51:15-16\]](#)
- ✧ Yahweh reminded His people that His Name is Yahweh Tsebavta Who is the One Who made a road through the depths of the Sea when He divided the sea to bring Israel safely across in their departure from Egypt.
- ✧ Speaking of the Messiah, Yahweh indicated His guidance, protection, and mission from before Creation.
- ✧ Messiah spoke the message given to Him from on high, for the purpose of calling Israel back to Himself, so He can say to them, "You are My people."

God's Fury Removed

- ✧ Awake, awake! Stand up, O Jerusalem, You who have drunk at the hand of Yahweh (the Lord) The cup of His fury; You have drunk the dregs of the cup of trembling, And drained it out.
There is no one to guide her Among all the sons she has brought forth; Nor is there any who takes her by the hand Among all the sons she has brought up.
These two things have come to you; Who will be sorry for you? — Desolation and destruction, famine and sword — By whom will I comfort you?
Your sons have fainted, They lie at the head of all the streets, Like an antelope in a net; They are full of the fury of Yahweh (the Lord), The rebuke of Eloheyk (your God). [\[Isaiah 51:17-20\]](#)
- ✧ The call is to God's people who are in Jerusalem.
- ✧ The message is to those who have experienced the judgment of the Wrath of Yahweh.
- ✧ Yahweh is looking for a man who will stand in the gap as a mediator between Yahweh and Israel after His wrath has run its course.
- ✧ Israel has experienced in the Wrath of Yahweh, desolation – destruction, famine – sword.
- ✧ So Yahweh Himself will comfort His people.
- ✧ Under the Wrath of God, His people have not been able to bear it and have fainted and fallen to the ground.
- ✧ Yahweh describes their condition to be like an antelope in a net, they are full of the fury of Yahweh. This judgment is the rebuke (reprimand) of their God.
- ✧ Therefore please hear this, you afflicted, And drunk but not with wine.
Thus says Adoney Yahweh Eloheyk (your Lord, The Lord and your God), Who pleads the cause of His people: "See, I have taken out of your hand The cup of trembling, The dregs of the cup of My fury; You shall no longer drink it.
But I will put it into the hand of those who afflict you, Who have said to you, 'Lie down, that we may walk over you.' And you have laid your body like the ground, And as the street, for those who walk over." [\[Isaiah 51:21-23\]](#)
- ✧ Promise for the afflicted people of Zion.
- ✧ Adoney Yahweh Eloheyk pleads the cause of His people.
- ✧ It is time for the cup of judgment to pass from His people to the ones who have afflicted them and walked over them.
- ✧ This will be the end time judgment of the nations.