

**CALVARY PANDAN BIBLE-
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

DHW BIBLE CLASS

LESSON 50

ISAIAH

CHAPTER 50

Theme: "Another Rebuke unto
Repentance"

THEME VERSES

Isaiah 50:10 (KJV) "*Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.*"

INTRODUCTION

The rebuke of the LORD was needful especially when the rebellion of Israel continues unabated. It is love that constrains the LORD to exhort Israel unto repentance and restoration. Here the LORD justifies Himself in punishing Israel. Sometimes when God's people are chastised, they do not realise that they deserve it. Their sins blind them to the follies of their ways. They justify it or try their best to explain it away.

They do not see the hand of God in their punishment. They might even blame the ones whom God used to punish them as the evil ones and think that they themselves are the innocent ones. Such attitude precludes

repentance. They will not repent because they refuse to acknowledge that they have sinned. This is the saddest state to be in as they bear the Name of God, yet remain in sin and refuse to turn from it and back unto God. Such delusions are common today too. Pride and self righteousness are often the root cause for such a hardened heart.

Regardless of what chastisement is used, they would not see their sins. In chapter 50 of Isaiah, the LORD placed all His cards on the table as they say. He revealed in clear terms that it was Israel's own sins that brought about her own destruction. It is not the fault of God at all. It is not because God's power is not able to help or protect Israel. God refuses to help Israel.

Sadly many churches today have the same mindset as Israel. They refuse to see the sins in their own lives. They have blinded themselves into thinking that they are right and others are wrong even though what they are doing is clearly against the teaching of God's Word. The Charismatics belong to this category. They call themselves Christians and they sincerely believe that when the LORD returns, they will hear from Him "well done" but in reality, they would be rejected as workers of iniquity! Another group would be the ones who teach that the Bible has mistakes. They sincerely believe that it is God honouring to teach that the God of the Bible did not bother to preserve His holy and perfect Word and allow man to copy His perfect Word with

mistakes. Many believe them and they sincerely think that this is a God honouring doctrine! In reality, they are rejecting the clear teaching of the Bible that the Bible will always be perfect, inerrant and infallible through the ages and not one jot or tittle would be lost! These professing believers would receive a very rude shock when the LORD returns.

OUTLINE

1. Israel Deserved to be Punished! (vv. 1-3);
2. From Isaiah to Christ (vv. 4-9);
3. Return and Trust in the LORD (vv. 10-11);

COMMENTARY

Israel Deserved to be Punished! – 50:1-3

The LORD began by highlighting the issue of divorcement. How could God divorce Israel? Divorce was given by God because of the hardness of man's heart. Here God says that He has already issued the bill of divorcement to the mother of Israel i.e. to the forefathers of Israel. This divorcement does not mean that God's plan of salvation has been thwarted. What it means is that God does not want Israel to be His witness on earth any more for Israel has been presenting to the world a false witness of Christ.

The covenant of the LORD with Israel is made up of two parts. The first part depends entirely upon God's

faithfulness and that is the plan of salvation for mankind culminating in the first coming of Christ. This aspect is not dependent upon Israel's obedience or disobedience. The second aspect of this covenant has to do with blessings and God's protection. This is dependent upon Israel's obedience. If Israel obeys God's Word, then God would bless her as she bears the right image of God to the world. However, when Israel bears the witness of idolatry to the world, that God is made of wood and stones, then God will curse Israel. Part of the curses would include allowing Gentile nations to oppress Israel and ultimately take Israel out of the Promised Land and into exile (see Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28)!

Israel was told by the LORD that it was based upon her many sins that God has sold her into slavery i.e. captivity. It was because of her transgressions against the clear teaching of God's Word that the bill of divorcement was finally issued! When Israel was in exile, she ceased to be a nation as she was no longer in the Land of Promise. This does not mean that God had deserted Israel. God was with the remnant like Daniel and Ezekiel for they were given revelations from the LORD as recorded for us in the two wonderful books of Daniel and Ezekiel.

God's hand is not too short to help Israel in time of trouble. God not wanting to help Israel is different from God not being able to help Israel. God's power is one of omnipotence. He rebuked the Red Sea and the

water dried up. God can do anything in this world that He likes. He dried up waters at will and fish die and they stink. He can clothe the heavens with blackness i.e. with thick dark clouds obliterating the sun like the three days and nights that He did in Egypt. Sackcloth is the covering describing the mourning that follows with the obliterating of the sun.

God has allowed Israel to be punished severely by the Gentile nations because of her many sins and transgressions. Israel must realize and acknowledge this fact before repentance can begin. Otherwise, she will remain in exile. The LORD can deliver her at anytime but He refuses to do so as Israel is still in sin and continues to refuse to change her sinful ways.

From Isaiah to Christ – 50:4-9

Suddenly the LORD changes gear and it is no longer Isaiah that is speaking but the Lord Jesus Christ. The first personal pronoun from verse 4 to verse 9 refers to Christ even though it could be the feelings of Isaiah. The reason is that these verses do not fit the context of what Isaiah had just written and the change is too sudden. Such sudden changes are common though in prophetic literature.

Christ's humanity is referred to here. He will come to do the Father's Will even though the Father's Will requires Christ to die on the cross of Calvary. Christ allowed Himself to be whipped and abused. He did not shy away from the shame and spitting that He had to bear because of the sins of the redeemed. Christ says that He will

not flinch. He will set His face as a flint i.e. hardened. His soul and determination will not allow any opposition to sway Him from what His Father wanted Him to do! He knows that His death will not be in vain. It will accomplish all that the Father has willed.

The heavenly Father will never leave Him. Christ might suffer and die alone on the cross but He will never be lonely. His heavenly Father will always be there to see Him through successfully no matter how difficult the sacrifice of Christ might be. It is true that when Christ was on the cross He did cry to the Father, "My God, My God why hast Thou forsaken me?" This forsaken must not be interpreted that God has deserted Christ. What it meant was that God His heavenly Father allowed cruel wicked men to persecute Him and did not lift one finger to help even though He has all the power on earth to help.

Christ and His heavenly Father will come up on top and be victorious at the end. Did Christ not defeat death and the Devil on the cross? All that Christ did on the cross would accomplish God's Will even though it may have the appearance of defeat initially. But in death victory was assured by Christ for all of God's elect!

Return and Trust in the LORD – 50:10-11

Turning his attention back to Israel, Isaiah called on those who fear the LORD to turn from their darkness and trust in the LORD. Come back to God and stay with Him. Do not turn back to idols. The way of darkness will

bring sorrow and destruction. Trusting in the LORD means to obey God's Word. There is no other way to return but to repent and turn away from sin and come back to God.

The alternative is also presented by Isaiah in verse 11. To those who stand by their idols and continue to offer before the fires of their idols, the warning is that these shall stand by what they continue to do against God and bear the penalty that will befall them in time to come. They will lie down in sorrow. This will be the end of those who stubbornly hold onto their idolatry and sin. Amen.

- 2. Why is it so difficult for the Charismatics to see that they are wrong and that they are deceiving others and are being deceived? Please explain.

DAILY READINGS & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Daily Readings

MONDAY: Isaiah 50:1-11

TUESDAY: Isaiah 50:1-11

WEDNESDAY: Isaiah 50:1-11

THURSDAY: Isaiah 50:1-11

FRIDAY: Isaiah 50:1-11

- 3. Do you think that those who believe that the Bible has mistakes will ever repent and turn from the errors of their ways and return to the truth? What about the leadership in Life BP Church, will they repent and turn from their sins?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. If you are chastised by God, do you think that you are sensitive to know that you are being chastised and turn from your sins?

- 4. Have you ever doubted God's ability to deliver you from difficult times? How do you understand God's deliverance from difficult times?

5. How do you feel when you think of Christ's sufferings, and that He suffered because He wanted to save you from your sins? How does that make you feel as you think and meditate on Christ's sufferings before and on the cross of Calvary?

6. What makes idolatry so enticing that grown men with much learning and worldly wisdom are held under their spell and are snared by them? Are there idols in your life?

7. Do you think that the Charismatic movement would one day become a God honouring movement or is the movement condemned to end in sorrow?

8. What lessons have you learnt from this chapter about God's Word and about yourself?
