

# **Isaiah**

**Chapter 50**

**Christ Church**

Fall 2025

# Isaiah 49-54

- A. Restoration of Mother Jerusalem and her children through the Servant – 49:1-26
- B. The Suffering Servant and Israel's sin – 50:1-11
- C. Almighty Yahweh will rescue His people – 51:1-16
- D. Mother Israel, bereaved of her children, will be restored – 51:17-23
- C'. Almighty Yahweh will rescue His people – 52:1-12
- B'. The Suffering Servant and the forgiveness of Israel's sin – 52:13-53:12
- A'. Restoration of Mother Jerusalem and her children – 54:1-17

- Isaiah perceives the liberation of God's people by Cyrus the Great ("Crisis C") as the model of a greater liberation, a new and lasting work by The Servant of the Lord
- v. 13 – the worldwide redemption calls for cosmic celebration



- In v. 14 we have a letdown. How can the people of God experience the solid hope of eternal salvation, yet have dead emotions?
- God goes on and on, proving Himself. He reminds us of three things

1. In vv.15-21 **He is the mindful Lord.**

Isaiah uses imagery of the Lord stretching out His hand to show us our names carved into His palm. The prophet imagines it like a barren woman who is astonished at all the children around her, gathered around their mother

ETERNALLY  
ENGRAVED

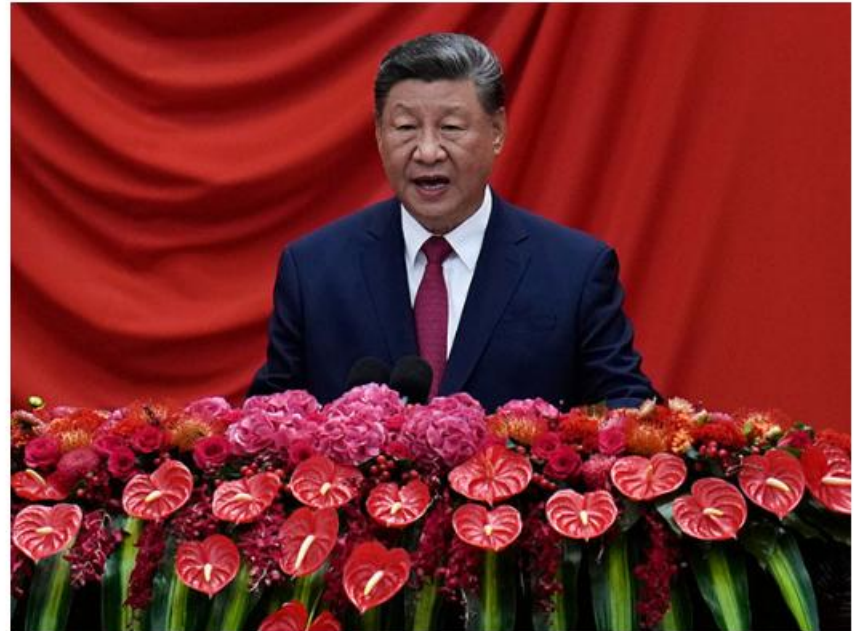


## **2. He is the triumphant Lord – vv. 22-26**

- More and more people revere the Church as their spiritual mother
- The gospel breakthroughs are accelerating
- Illustrations – The Christian Church in China, the 100-year-old East African Revival , the widespread occurrence of dreams about Jesus in the Muslim nations
- (A note regarding v. 26 – it is to be interpreted as figurative, not literal. The Lord is saying that all who oppose His people will actually bring their own destruction on their heads)

Yet...

**B** BREITBART



**CHINESE DICTATOR XI JINPING  
CALLS FOR 'STRICT LAW  
ENFORCEMENT' OVER RELIGION**

**255** *Comments*

- **3. He is the powerful Lord – 50:1-3**
- (One evidence that 50:1-3 should be taken together with 49:14-26 is the repeating of “This is what the Lord says” – see 49:22,25; 50:1)
- 50:1-3 is a classic example of a ‘RIV’



# Prophets had common Themes

1. “***RIV***” – this is a transliteration of the Hebrew word which translates to: “complaint, lawsuit, dispute.” The word was use in a legal, forensic sense, like breech of contract, divorce proceedings, etc.

- Prophets were like divorce lawyers – “Who’s at fault? What are the grounds for divorce? Custody issues?”
- Watch for ‘marital imagery’ in the prophets
- Read Deuteronomy 32:1-42

- “God is challenging His exiled people to think. They feel abandoned (49:14). And yes, they have been disciplined – but not abandoned. So, God says, “Okay, pull your mother’s divorce certificate out of the file. What does it say? What charges are there? Was it my failure as a husband that ruined the marriage, or was it your mother’s? Is it really fair to Me, is it even helpful to you, to keep blaming Me for your captivity in Babylon? Or if you feel like property that’s been sold off because My creditors were putting pressure on Me, think that one through too. Do I even have creditors?” – Ortlund, p. 331

- One lesson emerges – God is a divorced Person
  - Isaiah 50:1 with Jeremiah 3:8; Hosea 1-3



- 50:1-3 centers on the disobedience of Israel
- 50:4-11 concentrates on the obedience of The Servant
- In 49:14-26 the prophet shows that The Sovereign Lord has both the power and the will to deliver His people from their sin
- The question is - ***HOW?***
- In vv. 4-9 we're told He will do it through the obedience of His Servant, even if it means His Servant will suffer for it

- **50:4-9 The Obedience of the Servant**
  - This is the **third Song of the Servant**
  - As we saw in 49:2, The Servant will reveal God through His speech. His ears have been opened to hear God's message, and His tongue has been instructed how to teach/declare it
  - The emphasis on The Servant's speech reminds us of what is said about The Messiah elsewhere – read Isaiah 11:4;61:1
  - **\*\*Read John 5:19; 8:28; 12:49\*\***

- The result of The Servant's message is His abuse – v. 6
  - Read John 19:3; Psalm 22:6-8; Mark 15:19
- In vv.7-9 The Servant states that He will endure the abuse because He knows He will be vindicated in the end
- Those that beat Him and pull out His beard will not be able to make Him stop

- “The Servant” is synonymous with “The Lord” – v. 10
- A person’s response to the Servant is in the nature of a watershed
  - Even if you have no light – you can walk safely if you entrust yourself to The Lord in the way He has revealed
  - On the other hand, light your own fire and wind up in torment

