

The Cup of the Lord's Wrath—Isaiah 51:17–52:12

Open It

1. What is the best news you have received recently?

Isaiah 51:17–52:12 (ESV)

¹⁷Wake yourself, wake yourself, stand up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the LORD the cup of his wrath, who have drunk to the dregs the bowl, the cup of staggering.

¹⁸There is none to guide her among all the sons she has borne; there is none to take her by the hand among all the sons she has brought up.

¹⁹These two things have happened to you— who will console you?— devastation and destruction, famine and sword; who will comfort you?

²⁰Your sons have fainted; they lie at the head of every street like an antelope in a net; they are full of the wrath of the LORD, the rebuke of your God.

²¹Therefore hear this, you who are afflicted, who are drunk, but not with wine:

²²Thus says your Lord, the LORD, your God who pleads the cause of his people: “Behold, I have taken from your hand the cup of staggering; the bowl of my wrath you shall drink no more;

²³and I will put it into the hand of your tormentors, who have said to you, ‘Bow down, that we may pass over’; and you have made your back like the ground and like the street for them to pass over.”

Isaiah 52

¹Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Zion; put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; for there shall no more come into you the uncircumcised and the unclean.

²Shake yourself from the dust and arise; be seated, O Jerusalem; loose the bonds from your neck, O captive daughter of Zion.

³For thus says the LORD: “You were sold for nothing, and you shall be redeemed without money.”

⁴For thus says the Lord GOD: “My people went down at the first into Egypt to sojourn there, and the Assyrian oppressed them for nothing.

⁵Now therefore what have I here,” declares the LORD, “seeing that my people are taken away for nothing? Their rulers wail,” declares the LORD, “and continually all the day my name is despised.

⁶Therefore my people shall know my name. Therefore in that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here I am.”

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

¹¹Depart, depart, go out from there; touch no unclean thing; go out from the midst of her; purify yourselves, you who bear the vessels of the LORD.

¹²For you shall not go out in haste, and you shall not go in flight, for the LORD will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard.

Explore It

2. How did Isaiah describe the plight of God's people because of their disobedience? (51:17–20)
3. What great reversal between Israel and her enemies was prophesied by Isaiah? (51:21–23)
4. To what did Isaiah call the city of Jerusalem? (52:1–2)
5. How did Isaiah communicate the fact that God did not “benefit” from the punishment His people? (52:3–5)
6. How did Isaiah say the news of God's deliverance would be greeted in Israel? (52:6–9)
7. How does God regard those who communicate His Good News? (52:7)
8. What promise did God make to the watchmen who awaited His deliverance? (52:8)
9. Who will know about the salvation of the Lord when He comforts His people? (52:10)
10. What did God require from His servants who were to leave Persia? (52:11)
11. What did God promise to His people who would be allowed to leave Persia? (52:12)

Get It

12. What happens when there is no godly leadership for God's people?
13. What does God inspire in us when He helps us?
14. In what way is the person blessed who proclaims God's Good News?

Apply It

15. How can you regain your hope when God's enemies scoff at you and other believers?