

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, September 10, 2023

Passage: Isaiah 51:1-16

Memory Passage: Isaiah 51:7-8

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 51:1-16.** Identify the structure of these verses by finding repeated words, speaker changes, commands, etc.

(b) How does 51:1-16 contextually connect with 50:10-11?

(c) Who speaks beginning in v. 1, how are the hearers described, and who are the hearers?

(d) To whom are the people commanded to look (“look ... look” vs. 1c-2b), and for what purposes (“for ... for” vs. 2c-3)?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 51:1-16.** Who are the “people” and “nation” commanded to “give attention” and “give ear” (the second call to “listen” or “hear” in this section) in vs. 4-6?

(b) Yahweh’s teaching (“law”) and justice are said to be a “light to the peoples,” and the Servant is also given as “a light to the nations” (42:6, 49:6). How are these claims equally true without contradicting one another?

(c) What is the relationship between Yahweh’s righteousness (“draws near”) and salvation (“has gone out”) in v. 5?

(d) Explain the contrast made in v. 6 (cf. Ps 102:25-28 and its quotation in Heb 1:10-13).

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 51:1-16.** To whom is the third call to “listen” addressed, and what message is given to them (vs. 7-8)?

(b) Verse 9 begins with the first of three commands to “awake/wake.” Who speaks in vs. 9-11, and who is addressed?

(c) What request is made (v. 9a-d), on what basis is the request made (vs. 9e-10), and to what event does this basis refer?

(d) To whom or what do “Rahab” and “dragon” refer (v. 9; cf. 30:7; Ps 87:4)?

(e) What result will Yahweh’s people experience (v. 11)? Is this a reference only to the remnant’s return, or does it also have a future spiritual fulfillment? Explain your answer from the context.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Is. 51:1–16.** Who speaks beginning in v. 12? What reality (v. 12a), problem (vs. 12b–13a), and folly (v. 13b–g) does he address?
- (b) How does Yahweh refer to himself in v. 15? What do these three names convey about his character?
- (c) What does Yahweh promise (v. 14), and on what basis does he make this promise (vs. 15-16)?
- (d) How do the three names Yahweh uses to refer to himself in v. 15 undergird the promises he makes in v. 14?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Is. 51:1–16.** How do the references to Abraham (vs. 1–2), Eden (v. 3), and the Exodus (vs. 9–11) encourage and equip the exiled remnant in Babylon?
- (b) Using your growing understanding of Biblical theology, explain how Christ fulfills the references to Abraham, Eden, and the Exodus.
- (c) In what ways does the New Covenant apply the idea of believers being those “who know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law” (v.7a, b; consider Ps 37:31, 40:8, 119:11, Jer 31:33–34, Ez 36:24–27, etc.)?
- (d) Write down at least five practical ways Christ’s fulfillment of promises to Abraham, the restoration of Eden, and the power and faithfulness of God exhibited in the Exodus encourage you to love God, fight sin by pursuing Christ, and persevere.

DATE: Sept. 10, 2023**PASSAGE: Isaiah 51:1–16***Yahweh Comforts and Saves His People (Part I)*