

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
Pastor: Dwight Benoit
Sunday School Superintendent: Reverend Samuel O. Simon
Lesson By: Deacon Charles Blackmon
Lesson # 4 June 21, 2022, to June 26, 2022

Unit I: God Delivers and Restores

Subject: Back to Basics

Printed Text: Isaiah 51: 1 – 8

Key Verse:

Harken to me, Ye that follow after rightness, ye that seek the Lord: Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged (Isaiah 51: 1, KJV).

Lesson Aims:

- 1) Examine Isaiah's example of God's rich faithfulness in Israel's spiritual history.**
- 2) Feel encouraged through personal trust in God even when others speak disparagingly about our faith.**
- 3) Share the goodness and deliverance of God with others.**

Key Terms:

- 1) Arm (of God) verse 5—strength; “mine arm” (KJV); “my arm,” (NIV).**
- 2) Comfort (verse3) -Console; have compassion toward.**
- 3) Eden (verse3) reference to the garden home of Adam and Eve.**

Introduction:

“New” does not always mean “better.” A return to basic foundational principles and ideas enhances the possibility of successfully resolving problems and achieving goals. The Israelites, God's chosen people, never thought God would allow them to be, forcibly removed from their homeland and taken into captivity by a merciless regime that did not even recognize God. Israel was having a tough time trusting God and His promises after their painful experience of exile and domination. Yet, through the voice of the Servant, Isaiah to know that God can be, counted on to see His people through even the most painful and difficult, situations. God is faithful even when His children have difficulty understanding His ways and actions in their lives. In, order to bolster their confidence, God directed them to go back to “basics,” their beginnings as a nation. Verses 1 - 8 of Isaiah 51 expand on the understanding of what it means to listen to and obey the words of the Servant-Messiah.

Topic # 1

- Look Back (Isaiah 51: 1 - 3)**

Isaiah's words of comfort in chapters 40 - 66 were meant to encourage the exiled Jewish remnant in Babylon more than 150 years before they needed them. They were, exiled for 40 years in Babylon without any sign of relief. In Isaiah 51: 1 - 2, whatever God had done previously for hopeless people He would do again for His children in exile. The prophet was saying to the exiles, God is faithful; you can always count on Him. Remember how He

has brought us out in times past. The exiles would return to an Eden-like physical environment filled with joy, gladness, thanksgiving, and singing (Isaiah 51: 3). God promised Abraham that his descendant's would possess Canaan and ensure their deliverance and restoration. God was reminding the faithful exiles, If I did it back then, I can do it now and, in the future. All of us will have to endure forms of adversity. However, if we maintain a personal and intimate relationship with God, then we can look back confidently to His power and ability to deliver and restore. Even in the mist of hardships and tribulations, God's people are, called upon to put their trust in the God who promises to come among them in the future and make all things new. What God needs most is not human ability but, rather, human ability.

Topic #2

- **Universal Salvation (Isaiah 51: 4 - 8)**

Israel had reason to continue to trust in God even though the bleakness of their Babylonian captivity because God's promises are everlasting. The promises of Isaiah 51: 1 - 3 focus on the restoration of Judah after the period of captivity. Isaiah 51: 4 - 6 look forward to the glorious future when the Lord sends light to the nations. The people were, again encouraged to be attentive to the Lord's instructions. This announcement was part of God's original promise to make Abraham a blessing to all people, "And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be, blessed (Genesis 12: 2 - 3, KJV). God's great purpose for salvation had arrived to be, executed by His Servant-Messiah (Isaiah 41: 5). From God's perspective, salvation was already at work, but its fruition would come centuries ahead for Israel and humanity (Isaiah 51: 6). After the heavens, the earth and all its inhabitants pass away, God's salvation will last forever. Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the earth had passed away, and the sea no more (Revelation 21: 1, KJV). Isaiah 51: 7 - 8 are a final call to the remnant to remain faithful, do not be afraid if people reproach you and revile you, for they will be, destroyed like a garment eaten by moths, while "my righteousness will be forever and my salvation to all generations." Now, all who come to Him by faith enjoy the blessings of everlasting life. Believers can confidently endure rejection, ridicule, and adversity by looking back to His redemptive work on Calvary

Closing Thought:

Our remembering of our history with God and paying attention to His Word give us confidence that God will indeed restore us and make all things new in our lives.