

The Saviour's Threefold Mission to the Discouraged: Reaching All Who Feel Forsaken, Forgotten Isaiah 49:14–50:03

The Saviour's threefold mission to the discouraged: Reaching all who feel forsaken, forgotten

a. His mission of revealing God's love:
Compared to a loving mother

1) God would not forget His people

- They were engraved on His hands
- They and Jerusalem's walls were ever before Him

2) God would cause His people's descendants to return and their enemies to flee

- The return to the promised land: Guaranteed by the LORD's oath
- The returning people would be a spectacular sight

- The returning people would overflow the land:
The land would be too small for the influx of returnees, and more space would be needed for them to live in

14 But Zion said,
"The LORD has forsaken me,
the LORD has forgotten me."

15 "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast
and have no compassion
on the child she has borne?
Though she may forget,
I will not forget you!

16 See, I have engraved you
on the palms of my hands;
your walls are ever before me.

17 Your children hasten back,
and those who laid you waste
depart from you.

18 Lift up your eyes and look around;
all your children gather and come to you.
As surely as I live,"
declares the LORD,
"you will wear them all as ornaments;
you will put them on, like a bride.

19 "Though you were ruined
and made desolate
and your land laid waste,
now you will be too small for your people,
and those who devoured you will be far away.

20 The children born during your bereavement
will yet say in your hearing,
'This place is too small for us;
give us more space to live in.'

- The number of returnees would be surprising, totally unexpected: Because so many had been lost due to their captivity and exile

3) God would arouse the nations to release and return His people to the promised land

- The nations would transport the returning captives

- The leaders would subject themselves to Zion

4) God would prove two great truths

- That He alone is the LORD
- That those who hope in Him will not be ashamed

b. His mission of revealing God's power to deliver His people: Compared to the strength of a mighty warrior

1) He would free, save His people from their captors

2) He would cause the oppressors to turn against one another

3) He would prove the most basic truths in all the universe: That He is...

- The LORD
- Your Saviour and Redeemer
- The Mighty One of Jacob

21 Then you will say in your heart,
‘Who bore me these?
I was bereaved and barren;
I was exiled and rejected.
Who brought these up?
I was left all alone,
but these — where have they come from?’ ”

22 This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

“See, I will beckon to the nations,
I will lift up my banner to the peoples;
they will bring your sons in their arms
and carry your daughters on their hips.

23 Kings will be your foster fathers,
and their queens your nursing mothers.
They will bow down before you
with their faces to the ground;
they will lick the dust at your feet.
Then you will know that I am the LORD;
those who hope in me will not be disappointed.”

24 Can plunder be taken from warriors,
or captives be rescued from the fierce?

25 But this is what the LORD says:

“Yes, captives will be taken from warriors,
and plunder retrieved from the fierce;
I will contend with those who contend with you,
and your children I will save.

26 I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh;
they will be drunk on their own blood,
as with wine.

Then all mankind will know
that I, the LORD, am your Saviour,
your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.”

<p>c. His mission of redeeming His people by paying the ransom: Compared to the love of a forgiving husband</p> <p>1) He had not divorced or sold them to creditors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They had left him and been sold because of their sin • They had not responded when he continually came and called them to return to Him <p>2) He always had the power to redeem (deliver) them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just as He dried up the Red Sea (Exo 14:1-31) and the Jordan River (Jos 3:14-17) • Just as He darkened the sky in the plagues of Egypt (Exo 20:21) 	<p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER 50</p> <p>1 This is what the LORD says: “Where is your mother’s certificate of divorce with which I sent her away? Or to which of my creditors did I sell you? Because of your sins you were sold; because of your transgressions your mother was sent away.</p> <p>2 When I came, why was there no one? When I called, why was there no one to answer? Was my arm too short to deliver you? Do I lack the strength to rescue you? By a mere rebuke I dry up the sea, I turn rivers into a desert; their fish rot for lack of water and die of thirst.</p> <p>3 I clothe the heavens with darkness and make sackcloth its covering.”</p>
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