

Through the Bible

ISAIAH - 2

Zac Poonen

They that wait upon the
LORD, shall mount up
with wings...



..Like **EAGLES**

ISAIAH 40:31

Illustrations by Vinay Kuruville

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IS 40: 12



Who has
measured the
waters in the
hollow of His
hand



IS 40: 12

Who has
marked off the
heavens by
the span?



IS 40: 12

Who has
weighed the
mountains in a
balance?

CHAPTER 40:12 TO 17 SPEAK ABOUT THE **CONTROL** GOD EXERCISES OVER THE WHOLE **UNIVERSE**. HE CREATED EVERYTHING FROM **NOTHING**. VERSE 13 IS QUOTED IN 1 CORINTHIANS 2:16: "WHO HAS TAUGHT THE HOLY SPIRIT, OR AS HIS COUNSELLOR INFORMED HIM?"

ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH ARE AS **NOTHING** BEFORE HIM (VERSE 17). ALL THE INHABITANTS OF THE WORLD ARE ALL **LESS** THAN NOTHING AND MEANINGLESS. WE MUST SEE THIS **SOVEREIGN** RULE OF GOD, IF WE ARE TO SERVE HIM **EFFECTIVELY** AND **FEARLESSLY** -- ESPECIALLY WHEN WE GO TO **DIFFICULT** PLACES WHERE PEOPLE APPEAR TO BE SO POWERFUL BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE BEHIND THEM AND OPPOSE US AS WE SEEK TO SERVE THE LORD. WE MUST REMEMBER THESE VERSES THEN AND TRUST IN THE **TREMENDOUS** POWER OF GOD TO **PROTECT** US AND TO **PRESERVE** US.



CHAPTER 40:21, 22: "DON'T YOU KNOW AND HAVE YOU NOT HEARD? IT IS HE WHO SITS ABOVE THE **CIRCLE** OF THE EARTH." THIS WAS WRITTEN 2700 YEARS AGO AND ISAIAH CLEARLY MENTIONS HERE THAT THE EARTH WAS **NOT** FLAT, BUT SPHERICAL. THAT WAS HUNDREDS OF YEARS BEFORE ANYONE ELSE ON EARTH BELIEVED THIS. SOLOMON ALSO MENTIONS THE SPHERICAL NATURE OF THE EARTH IN PROVERBS 8:27 (NASB).

JESUS ALSO IMPLIED THAT THE EARTH WAS **SPHERICAL** BY REFERRING TO IT BEING DAY IN SOME PLACES AND NIGHT IN OTHER PLACES WHEN HE **RETURNS** FROM HEAVEN (LUKE 17:31, 34)

He has named the

STARS

IS 40:26

CHAPTER 40:26: "LOOK AT THE ONE WHO CONTROLS THE STARS. HE HAS GIVEN THEM ALL NAMES." ISAIAH WAS GIVEN A VISION NOT ONLY OF GOD'S AWESOME **HOLINESS** (CHAPTER 6), BUT ALSO OF HIS ALMIGHTY **POWER**. THESE ARE THE TWO **VISIONS** OF GOD THAT WE MUST ALWAYS HAVE BEFORE US WHEN WE **SERVE** HIM.

They that wait upon the
LORD, shall mount up
with wings...



...Like **EAGLES**
ISAIAH 40:31

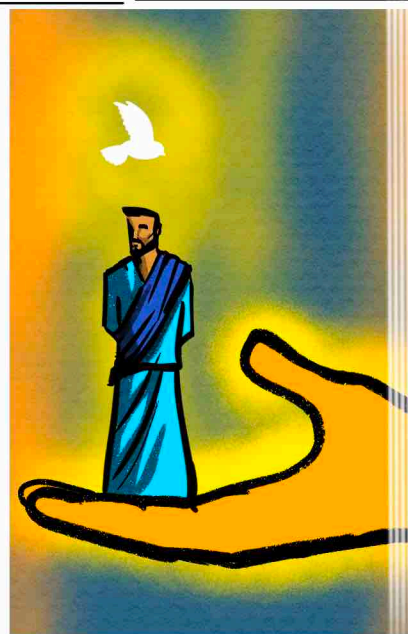
"I am your God. I
will strengthen
you. I will help you.
I will uphold you
with My right
hand."

ISAIAH 41:13

CHAPTER 40:29--31 TEACHES US THAT THIS ALMIGHTY GOD WHOM WE WORSHIP AND SERVE WILL GIVE US STRENGTH WHEN WE ARE **WEAK**. I WANT TO ENCOURAGE YOU YOUNG PEOPLE: FROM EARLY YOUTH, LEARN TO WAIT UPON THE LORD IN SIMPLE **TRUST** FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS. YOU WILL GAIN NEW STRENGTH, AS THIS VERSE SAYS. OR AS ANOTHER TRANSLATION PUTS IT: "THOSE WHO **WAIT** ON THE LORD WILL **EXCHANGE** THEIR STRENGTH" IN THE LORD'S SERVICE YOU NEED THE LORD'S STRENGTH TO SEE YOU THROUGH. WE WHO SERVE THE LORD REALLY NEED TO TRUST THE LORD TO GIVE US **SUPERNATURAL** STRENGTH FROM ABOVE, HIS RESURRECTION POWER - NOT ONLY IN OUR SPIRIT BUT IN OUR **BODIES** TOO.

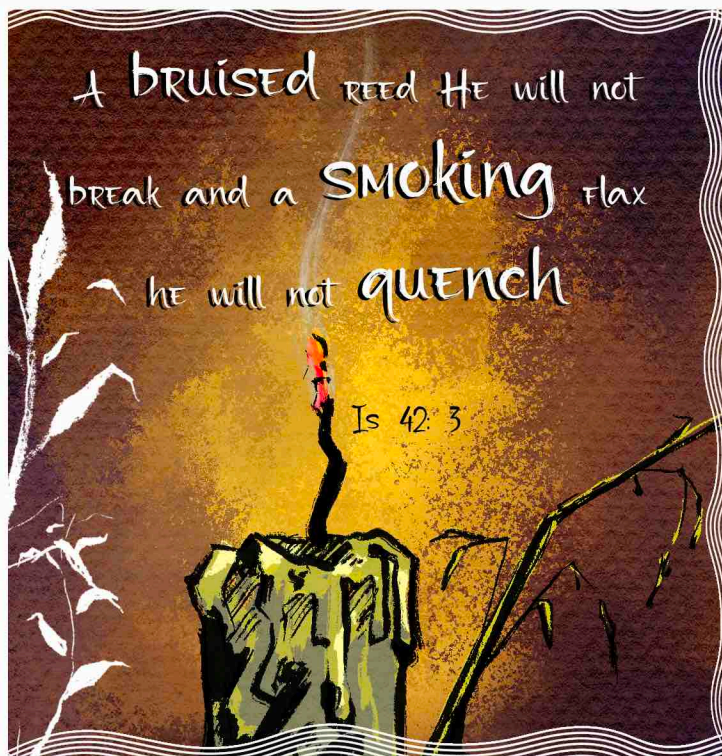
CHAPTERS 40 TO 46 HAVE BEEN A **PRECIOUS** PORTION OF SCRIPTURE TO ME, IN MY SERVICE FOR THE LORD. I WOULD ENCOURAGE ALL OF YOU WHO SERVE THE LORD TO MEDITATE ON THESE CHAPTERS SERIOUSLY. THERE ARE SOME **TREMENDOUS** PROMISES HERE FOR THOSE WHO ARE **WHOLEHEARTEDLY** SEEKING TO SERVE GOD WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THAT FIRST TRUE SERVANT OF JEHOVAH, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

I WILL OPEN
RIVERS
IN DESOLATE HEIGHTS
and
SPRINGS
IN THE VALLEYS
IS 41:18



CHAPTER 42 SPEAKS OF JESUS AS THE **SERVANT** OF JEHOVAH WHO IS ANOINTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. THE HOLY **SPIRIT** IS ONE OF THE MAIN THEMES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT AND THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ALSO ONE OF THE MAIN THEMES IN ISAIAH 40 TO 66. "BEHOLD MY SERVANT WHOM I UPHOLD." A TRUE SERVANT OF GOD IS ONE WHO IS UPHELD BY **GOD**, NOT BY MONEY OR BY AN ORGANISATION OR ANY HUMAN AGENCY. THE LORD IS THE ONE WHO SHOULD UPHOLD US AT ALL TIMES.

CHAPTER 41:17, 18: WHEN THE AFFLICTED AND NEEDY (GOD IS ALWAYS INTERESTED IN LISTENING TO THE CRY OF THOSE WHO ARE **POOR** IN SPIRIT) ARE SEEKING FOR **WATER** (THAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT), WHEN THEIR TONGUE IS PARCHED, AND THEY SAY, 'O GOD, I CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,' I THE LORD WILL ANSWER THEM. I WILL OPEN RIVERS IN THEIR LIVES, SPRINGS IN THE MIDST OF THEIR LIVES. I'LL MAKE THEIR LIFE LIKE POOLS OF WATER. AND THEIR DRY LIFE WILL BECOME LIKE A FOUNTAIN OF WATER. THESE PROMISES HAVE BEEN A TREMENDOUS BLESSING AND **ENCOURAGEMENT** TO ME FOR MANY YEARS -- AND I PASS THEM ON TO YOU.



CHAPTER 42:5--7: THE LORD TELLS US: "I HAVE CALLED YOU IN **RIGHTEOUSNESS**. I HAVE CALLED YOU TO OPEN **BLIND** EYES, TO BRING OUT PRISONERS FROM THE **DUNGEON**." THIS IS A GREAT MINISTRY.

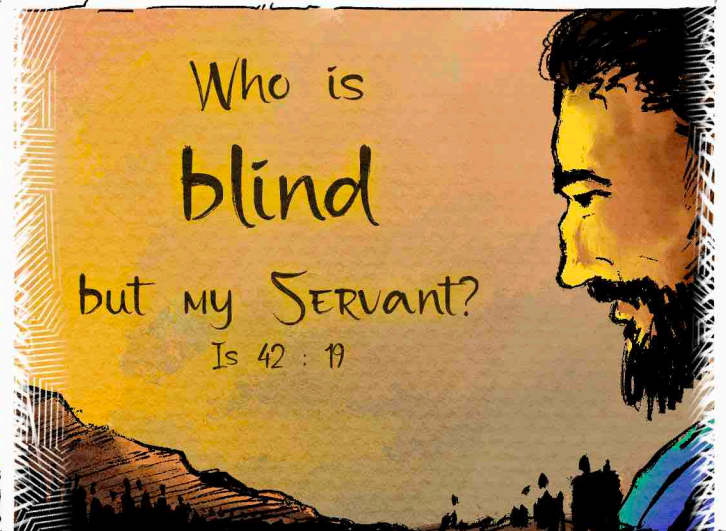
THE LORD WILL **NEVER DISCOURAGE** ANYONE WHO HAS MADE A **MESS** OF HIS LIFE BUT WILL ENCOURAGE HIM AND HEAL HIM. THE LORD WILL NOT PUT OUT THE WICK OF A CANDLE THAT IS ABOUT TO DIE. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE WILL BLOW IT INTO A **FLAME**. GOD IS INTERESTED IN HELPING **WEAK** BELIEVERS WHO HAVE FAILED. HE IS INTERESTED IN HELPING THOSE WHO ARE **DISCOURAGED** AND **DEPRESSED** AND TO **LIFT THEIR SPIRITS**. A TRUE SERVANT OF THE LORD WILL ALWAYS HAVE A SIMILAR MINISTRY OF ENCOURAGEMENT, LIFTING THE SPIRITS OF THOSE WHO ARE DEPRESSED AND DISCOURAGED AND WHO FEEL **HOPELESS** AND ARE **FED UP** WITH LIFE. LET US ALL SEEK FOR SUCH A MINISTRY BECAUSE PEOPLE **NEED** IT EVERYWHERE.

"I will **NEVER**
give My Glory to
another "

Is 42 : 8

Who is
blind
but my **SERVANT**?

Is 42 : 19



WE MUST **NEVER** TAKE ANY **GLORY** TO OURSELVES IN OUR **MINISTRY**. TO TAKE THE CREDIT OR THE GLORY TO OURSELVES IS A VERY, VERY SERIOUS CRIME. IT IS **WORSE** THAN STEALING **MONEY**. GOD MAY **BLESS** YOU AND YOUR MINISTRY AND USE YOU **MIGHTILY**. BUT HE WILL **NEVER** GIVE HIS GLORY TO ANYONE. ONCE WE START **TOUCHING** THE GLORY OF GOD WE WILL **DESTROY** OURSELVES, LIKE MANY **SERVANTS** OF THE LORD HAVE BEEN **DESTROYED**. ONCE WE START **PROMOTING OURSELVES** BEFORE **PEOPLE**, DRAWING PEOPLE TO **OURSELVES** INSTEAD OF TO THE **LORD**, AND TAKING **CREDIT** FOR WHAT **GOD** DID, WE ARE ON VERY **DANGEROUS** GROUND. THIS IS HOW THOUSANDS HAVE **LOST** GOD'S **ANOINTING** ON THEIR LIVES.

THIS LOOKS LIKE A **PUZZLING** VERSE, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT REFERS CLEARLY TO **JESUS** (AS WE CAN SEE FROM VERSE 1). IT MEANS THAT A TRUE SERVANT OF GOD WILL BE **BLIND** AND **DEAF** TO MANY THINGS THAT HE SEES AND HEARS AROUND HIM. HE DOESN'T GO AROUND LOOKING FOR **SIN** IN **OTHERS**. THE PHARISEES WERE LIKE BECAUSE THEY ARE **JEALOUS** OF HIS MINISTRY. DON'T BE LIKE THEM. BE **DEAF** AND **BLIND** TO MANY THINGS THAT YOU HEAR AND SEE AROUND YOU. DID YOU HEAR THAT SOMEONE MADE A **FALSE** ACCUSATION AGAINST YOU? IF YOU WERE **DEAF** YOU WOULD NOT HAVE HEARD IT. BE "DEAF" THEN! ISN'T IT GOOD FOR A SERVANT OF THE LORD TO BE "BLIND" TO **ATTRACTIVE** WOMEN? YOU HAVE EYES, BUT YOU DON'T SEE. YOU ARE "BLIND"! YOU HAVE EARS, BUT YOU DON'T HEAR! BECAUSE YOU DO NOT **JUDGE** BY WHAT YOUR EYES SEE OR WHAT YOUR EARS HEAR. THIS IS HOW **JESUS** LIVED AND THIS IS HOW WE MUST LIVE TOO (ISAIAH 11:3).

When you pass through the waters,
it
will not
overflow you for
God will be
with you

Isaiah 43:2

CHAPTER 43:1--5: "WHEN YOU PASS THROUGH THE RIVERS (**DIFFICULT** SITUATIONS) THEY WILL NOT OVERFLOW YOU. WHEN YOU WALK THROUGH THE FIRE IT WILL NOT HURT YOU NOR WILL THE FLAME BURN YOU. I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD. YOU ARE PRECIOUS IN MY SIGHT. I GAVE EGYPT FOR YOUR RANSOM." TO US HE SAYS, "I GAVE YOU THE BLOOD OF MY SON FOR YOUR RANSOM. THEREFORE YOU ARE PRECIOUS IN MY EYES. DON'T BE AFRAID." THE WORD "DO **NOT** BE AFRAID" (OR "FEAR NOT") WERE THE WORDS THAT JESUS SPOKE TO HIS DISCIPLES. IN THE DAYS THAT WE LIVE IN, THIS IS THE WORD THAT WE NEED TO HEAR FROM THE LORD: "DON'T BE AFRAID. I AM WITH YOU." CHAPTER 43:10, 11: "YOU ARE MY WITNESSES, I AM THE LORD. THERE IS NO SAVIOUR BESIDES ME." CHAPTER 43:18, 19, 25: "DON'T THINK ABOUT YOUR PAST LIFE. FORGET THE THINGS THAT ARE BEHIND. I WILL DO SOMETHING NEW. I WILL MAKE A **WAY** IN THE **WILDERNESS** AND **RIVERS** IN THE DESERT. LOOK TO THE FUTURE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR **PAST** FAILURES. I AM THE ONE WHO **WIPES** OUT YOUR **TRANSGRESSIONS** AND I WILL NOT REMEMBER YOUR SINS ANY MORE." CHAPTER 44:3: "I'LL POUR **WATER** ON THE THIRSTY GROUND. I'LL POUR MY **SPIRIT** ON YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN AND MY BLESSING ON YOUR DESCENDENTS."

You are **MY** servant.
You will **NEVER**
be forgotten by
ME

Is 44:21



CHAPTER 44:28 TO 45:6 IS A PROPHECY ABOUT KING **CYRUS**. OVER 100 YEARS BEFORE **CYRUS** WAS EVEN BORN. WE READ OF THIS BEING FULFILLED IN THE BOOK OF **EZRA**

CHAPTER 44:21: IT IS EASY TO FEEL **LONELY** AND FORGOTTEN WHEN WE ARE **FAITHFUL** TO THE LORD OR WHEN WE ARE SERVING HIM IN SOME **LONELY** PLACE. BUT GOD ASSURES US THAT HE WILL NEVER **FORGET** US. THIS IS OUR **COMFORT**. AT TIMES WHEN YOU THINK THAT YOUR PRAYERS ARE NOT BEING HEARD, REMEMBER THIS **PROMISE**: "YOU WILL **NOT** BE **FORGOTTEN** BY ME."

Can the clay say to
the potter, 'What
are you doing?'

Is 45:9

CHAPTER 45:9: "WOE UNTO THE MAN WHO QUARRELS WITH HIS MAKER. CAN THE CLAY SAY TO THE POTTER, 'WHAT ARE YOU DOING?' " DON'T **ARGUE** WITH GOD IN THE WAY HE DEALS WITH YOU. HUMBLE YOURSELF AND **ACCEPT** HIS DEALINGS WITH YOU. IF HE TAKES YOU THROUGH **DIFFICULT** SITUATIONS, IT IS TO MOULD YOU INTO A **USEFUL VESSEL** FOR HIS GLORY. DON'T **COMPLAIN** OR **GRUMBLE**.



CHAPTER 45:17: "YOU WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME OR **HUMILIATED** TO ALL ETERNITY." **JESUS** WAS HUMILIATED, AND WE MAY BE HUMILIATED THAT WAY TOO. BUT FROM THE **ETERNAL** STANDPOINT, WE WILL NEVER BE PUT TO SHAME, IF WE **FOLLOW THE LORD**.



CHAPTER 46:4 - GOD PROMISES, "EVEN TO YOUR OLD AGE I WILL BE THE SAME . EVEN WHEN YOUR HAIRS BECOME GRAY I WILL CARRY YOU. I CREATED YOU, I **MADE** YOU AND I WILL **CARRY** YOU. I WILL DELIVER YOU." GOD **COMPARES** HIMSELF WITH **IDOLS** HERE. IDOLATERS CARRY THEIR GODS BUT OUR **GOD CARRIES US!** DO YOU CARRY YOUR **GOD** OR DOES YOUR **GOD CARRY YOU?** THAT IS THE QUESTION.



CHAPTER 47:8 IS QUOTED IN REVELATION 18:7 AND REFERS TO **BABYLON (FALSE CHRISTIANITY)** SITTING AS A QUEEN AND SAYING, "I WILL NOT SIT AS A WIDOW." IT REFERS TO A **COMFORT-LOVING** CHRISTIANITY THAT DOES NOT **KNOW** GOD, AND THAT DOES NOT WALK IN **HUMILITY**.

God ^{has}
tested
us ^{in the}
FIRES
OF
affliction

Is 48 : 10



CHAPTER 48:10, 11: "BEHOLD, I HAVE **REFINED** YOU, BUT NOT AS SILVER. I HAVE TESTED YOU IN THE FURNACE OF **AFFLICTION**. FOR MY **OWN** SAKE I WILL ACT FOR HOW CAN MY NAME BE PROFANED." AFFLICTION IS A **TESTING** PROCESS MEANT TO TEST OUR **FAITHFULNESS**. TESTING WILL NOT BE FOREVER. GOLD, AFTER IT IS PURIFIED IN THE FIRE, IS FINALLY MADE INTO A **CROWN** FOR A KING. ONE DAY GOD WILL TAKE US AND MAKE US PART OF **HIS** CROWN. HE DOES THIS FOR HIS OWN NAME'S SAKE.

*I am the Lord who teaches you to
profit, who leads you in the way you
should go.*

Is 48:17

"I AM THE LORD WHO TEACHES YOU TO PROFIT, WHO LEADS YOU IN THE WAY YOU SHOULD GO. IF ONLY YOU HAD LISTENED TO MY **COMMANDMENTS** AND PAID **ATTENTION** TO THEM, YOUR **WELL-BEING** WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE A RIVER, AND YOUR **RIGHTEOUSNESS** LIKE THE WAVES OF THE SEA." EVERYTHING THAT GOD ASKS US TO DO IS FOR OUR OWN PROFIT AND WELL-BEING. AND WHEN THE LORD LEADS US, WE WILL "NOT THIRST EVEN WHEN GOING THROUGH THE DESERTS. HE WILL MAKE **WATER** TO FLOW FROM THE **ROCK**" (48:21). BUT FOR THE **WICKED** THERE WILL NEVER BE ANY PEACE" (48:22).



CHAPTER 49:2: "HE HAS MADE MY MOUTH LIKE A SHARP SWORD." WHEN WE SPEAK GOD'S WORD, IT CAN AT TIMES BE LIKE A SHARP SWORD



Look! I have
inscribed
you on the
palm of my
hand

Is 49:16

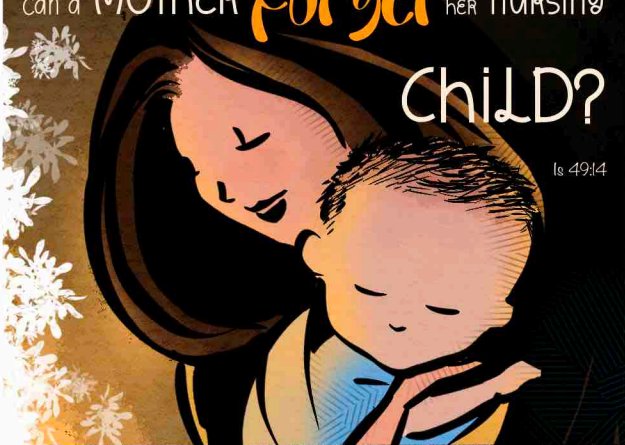


THEN HE SPEAKS OF THE TEMPTATION TO BE DISCOURAGED, "LORD, I HAVE WASTED MY LIFE. I HAVE NOT SPENT MY STRENGTH USEFULLY." (VERSE 4). A SERVANT OF THE LORD CAN BE TEMPTED TO BE DISCOURAGED FREQUENTLY. PAUL WAS. BUT HE NEVER GAVE INTO IT. THE LORD SAYS, "DON'T WORRY. I AM GOING TO USE YOU. I AM GOING TO MAKE YOU A LIGHT TO THE NATIONS" (VERSE 6).

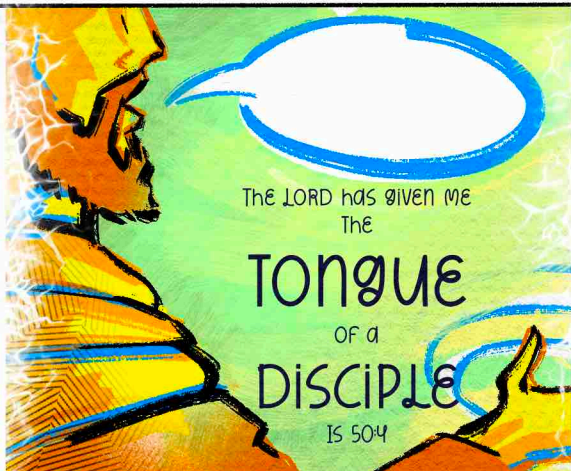
GOD THEN SAYS, "I HAVE INSCRIBED YOU ON THE PALMS OF MY HANDS" (VERSE 16). THAT IS A PROPHETIC REFERENCE TO THE HOLES THAT WOULD REMAIN IN THE PALMS OF JESUS' HANDS EVEN AFTER HIS RESURRECTION. OUR NAMES HAVE BEEN INSCRIBED IN THOSE HOLES!

Can a MOTHER **forget** her nursing
CHILD?

Is 49:14



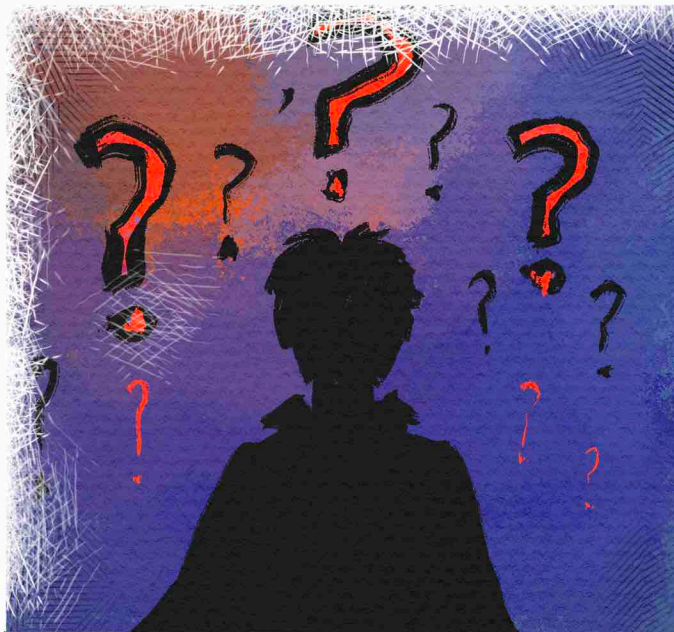
CHAPTER 49:14, 15: "ZION SAID 'THE LORD HAS FORGOTTEN ME'. CAN A WOMAN FORGET HER NURSING CHILD AND HAVE NO COMPASSION ON THE SON OF HER WOMB? EVEN THESE MAY FORGET, BUT I WILL NOT FORGET YOU." WHEN GOD WANTS TO SHOW THAT HIS LOVE IS GREATER THAN ANY HUMAN LOVE, THE GREATEST EXAMPLE OF HUMAN LOVE HE FINDS ON EARTH IS THAT OF A MOTHER FOR HER CHILD. HE DOESN'T SAY, "CAN A HUSBAND FORGET HIS WIFE?" -- BECAUSE HUSBANDS MAY FORGET THEIR WIVES OFTEN! WIVES WILL FORGET THEIR HUSBANDS TOO. BUT A MOTHER CAN NEVER FORGET HER NEWLY-BORN CHILD. AND HE GOES ON TO SAY THAT EVEN IF A MOTHER FORGETS, HE WILL NOT FORGET US. THAT PROMISE IS ENOUGH TO COMFORT AND ENCOURAGE US ALL THROUGH OUR EARTHLY LIVES.



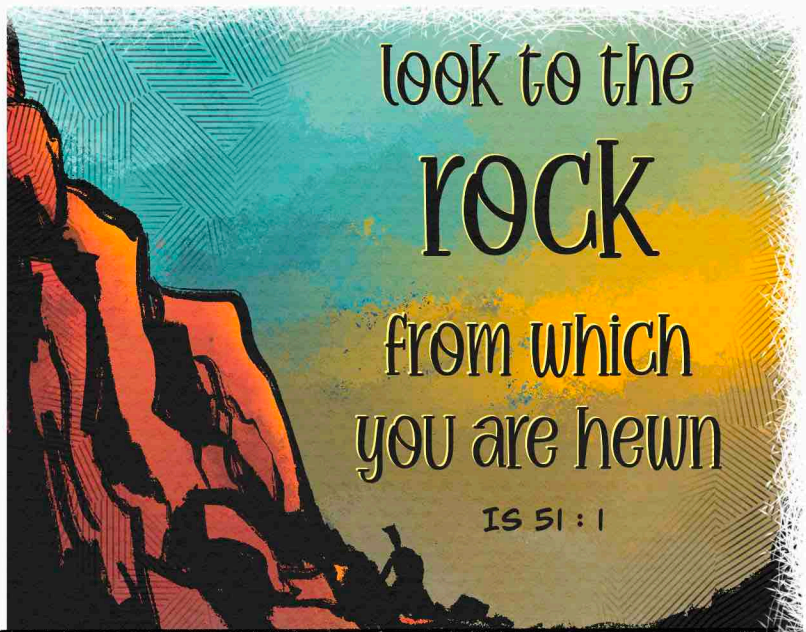
CHAPTER 50:4 IS A PROPHECY ABOUT JESUS. IT SAYS HERE THAT JESUS WOULD HAVE A DISCIPLINED TONGUE WHICH HE WOULD USE TO COMFORT WEARY PEOPLE WITH WORDS IN SEASON. THE TONGUE IS THE MAIN PART OF OUR BODY THAT GOD USES AND SO EVERY SERVANT OF GOD MUST DISCIPLINE ITS USE. WE READ HERE THAT JESUS WOULD WAKE UP EVERY MORNING TO LISTEN TO WHAT THE FATHER HAD TO SAY (VERSE 4).



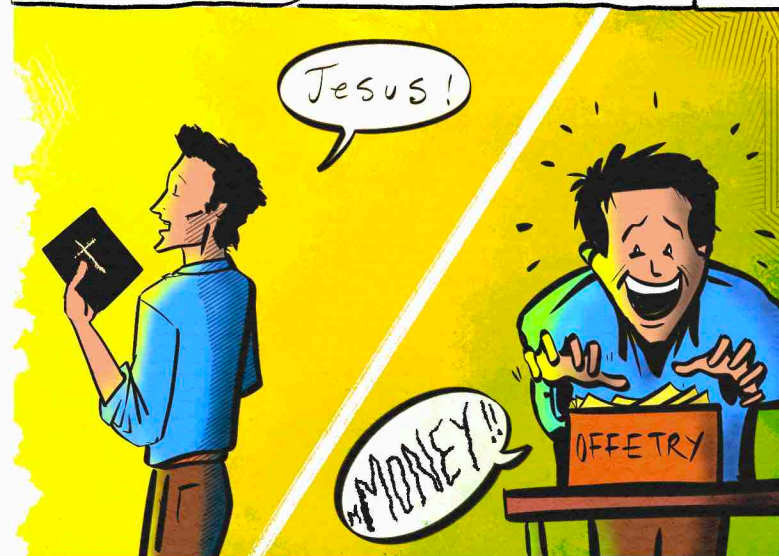
HE ACCEPTED HIS FATHER'S WILL EVEN WHEN THAT INVOLVED ALLOWING OTHER PEOPLE TO SLAP HIM AND HIT HIM AND SPIT ON HIM (VERSES 5, 6). AND WHEN PEOPLE DID ALL THIS, JESUS "SET HIS FACE LIKE A FLINT" (VERSE 7), NOT TO TAKE REVENGE ON THEM OR TO THREATEN THEM BUT TO FORGIVE THEM AND BLESS THEM. HE KNEW THAT HE WOULD NOT BE ASHAMED BECAUSE THE ONE WHO VINDICATED HIM WAS ALWAYS NEAR (VERSE 8). EVERY SERVANT OF GOD CAN SAY THESE WORDS "WHO WILL FIGHT WITH ME? LET US STAND TOGETHER." HAVE YOU GOT A CASE AGAINST ME? DO YOU WANT TO TAKE ME TO COURT? "THE LORD GOD WILL HELP ME. WHO IS THERE TO ACCUSE ME AND CONDEMN ME? THEY WILL ALL WEAR OUT LIKE A GARMENT." (VERSE 9).



CHAPTER 50:10: EVEN WHEN YOU FEAR THE LORD, AND OBEY THE VOICE OF JESUS HIS SERVANT, THERE COULD STILL BE TIMES WHEN THE LORD WILL ALLOW YOU TO GROPE IN THE DARK WITHOUT LIGHT, IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH. WHAT SHOULD YOU DO AT SUCH TIMES? TRUST IN GOD TOTALLY.



CHAPTER 51:1: "THOSE WHO SEEK THE LORD, THOSE WHO PURSUE RIGHTEOUSNESS, LOOK TO THE ROCK FROM WHICH YOU ARE HEWN AND THE QUARRY FROM WHICH YOU WERE DUG." WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET THE PIT WE WERE IN, WHEN THE LORD FOUND US -- THE HOPELESS CONDITION WE WERE IN BEFORE WE WERE SAVED. IF WE REMEMBER THAT, WE WILL NEVER DESPISE OTHER PEOPLE.



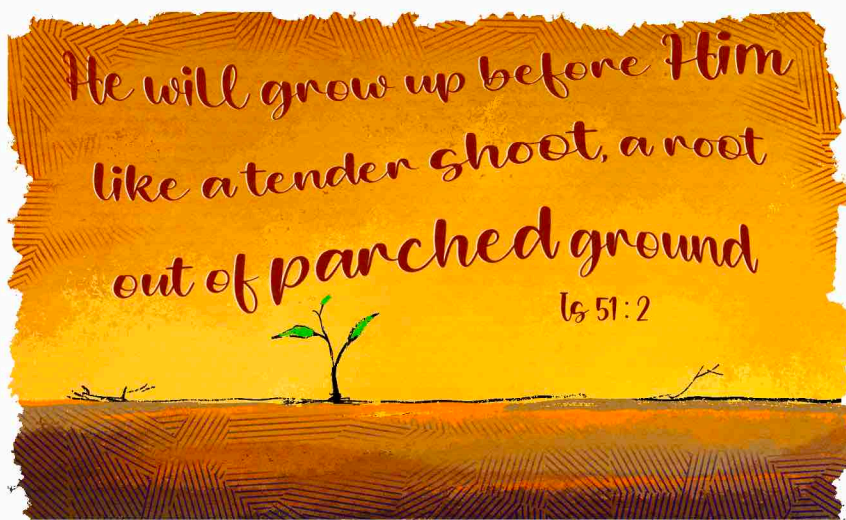
CHAPTER 52:5: THE LORD SAYS, "MY NAME IS CONTINUALLY BLASPHEMED THE WHOLE DAY LONG." THIS VERSE IS QUOTED IN ROMANS 2:24. THE NAME OF JESUS IS DISHONoured IN MANY PLACES, NOT AS MUCH BY THE HEATHEN AS IT IS BY THE WAY MOST CHRISTIANS LIVE.



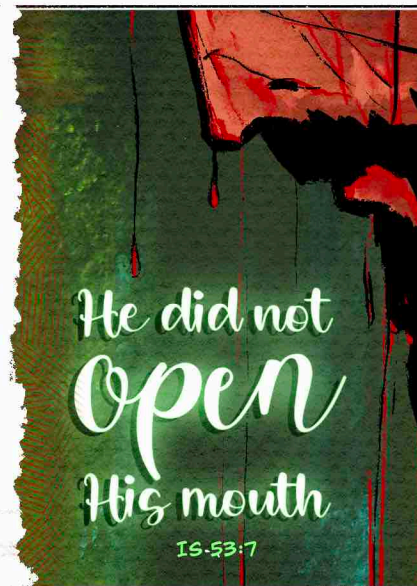
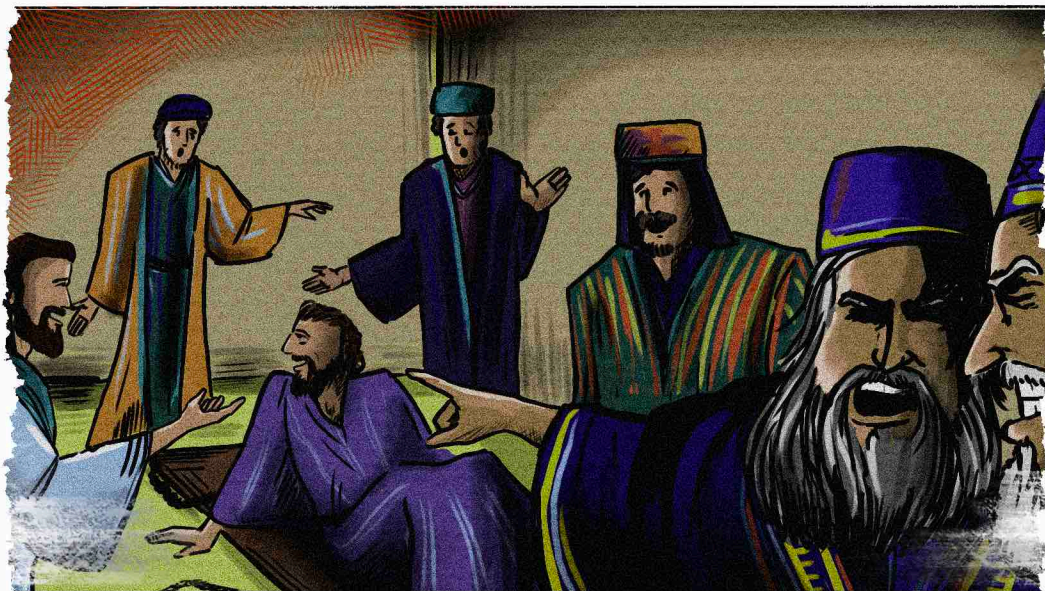
52:7 SAYS 'YOUR GOD REIGNS.' (VERSE 7). THE GOOD NEWS IS NOT JUST THAT JESUS DIED FOR OUR SINS, BUT ALSO THAT HE IS NOW REIGNING, HAVING ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH. THAT IS THE FULL GOSPEL WE ARE TO PROCLAIM.



CHAPTER 52:13, 14 TEACH US THAT WHEN JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS HIS FACE WAS SO DISFIGURED BY THE BEATINGS THAT HE RECEIVED THAT IT DID NOT LOOK LIKE THE FACE OF A HUMAN BEING AT ALL. THE PICTURES THAT WE HAVE ALL SEEN OF JESUS HANGING ON THE CROSS WITH A BEAUTIFUL FACE ARE NOT TRUE. JESUS WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PERSON THAT EVER WALKED ON THIS EARTH. BUT WHEN HE HUNG ON THE CROSS, HIS FACE WAS SO DISFIGURED THAT IT WAS THE UGLIEST FACE OF ALL. CHAPTER 53 IS THE CENTRAL CHAPTER OF THIS SECTION OF ISAIAH AND IS THE CHAPTER OF THE CROSS. HE WAS NOT ATTRACTIVE TO MEN WHEN HE HUNG ON THE CROSS. WE READ THAT "HE HAD NO APPEARANCE THAT WE SHOULD BE ATTRACTED TO HIM" (VERSE 2). THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL IS NOT ATTRACTIVE TO MAN EVEN TODAY.



CHAPTER 53 IS THE CENTRAL CHAPTER OF THIS SECTION OF ISAIAH AND IS THE CHAPTER OF THE **CROSS**. THE CHAPTER BEGINS WITH A QUESTION: "WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR MESSAGE?" WHO IN ISRAEL WOULD BELIEVE WHAT ISAIAH PROPHESED THAT THE MESSIAH WOULD COME, NOT WITH POWER, BUT AS A **DESPISED** PERSON, AS A ROOT OUT OF A **DRY** GROUND? "HE GREW UP BEFORE HIS FATHER" (VERSE 2). THE SECRET OF JESUS' LIFE WAS THAT HE DID **NOT** LIVE BEFORE THE FACE OF **MEN** BUT BEFORE THE FACE OF HIS **FATHER**. HE WAS NOT ATTRACTIVE TO MEN WHEN HE HUNG ON THE **CROSS**. WE READ THAT "HE HAD NO APPEARANCE THAT WE SHOULD BE ATTRACTED TO HIM" (VERSE 2). THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL IS NOT ATTRACTIVE TO MAN EVEN TODAY. CHRIST WAS NOT ACCEPTED BY THE WORLD IN THE FIRST CENTURY; AND HE IS **NOT** ACCEPTED BY THE WORLD IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY EITHER. THE CHRIST THAT SOME CLAIM TO **APPRECIATE** TODAY IS A **FALSE** CHRIST, AND NOT THE REAL ONE WHO SPOKE AGAINST **SIN**, AGAINST THE LOVE OF **MONEY**, AND TAUGHT PEOPLE TO LOVE EVEN THEIR **ENEMIES**. THE **REAL** CHRIST IS **DESPISED**, **FORSAKEN** AND **REJECTED** EVEN TODAY.



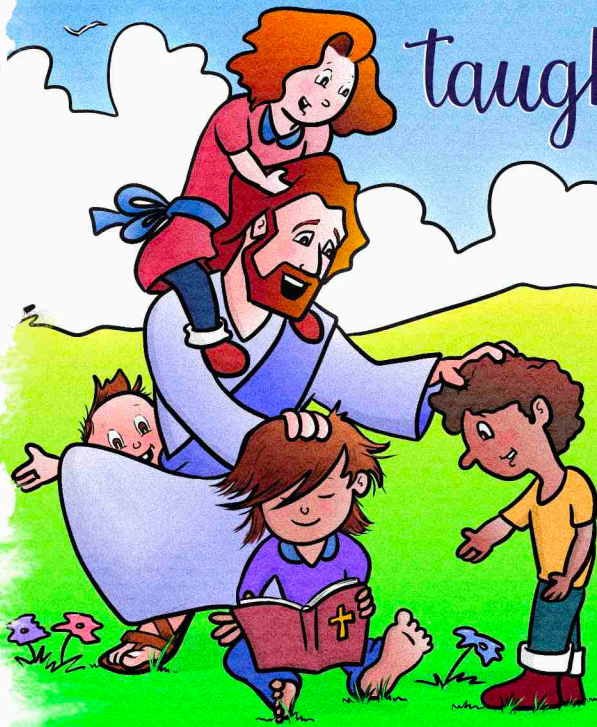
AND IF YOU FOLLOW THE REAL CHRIST, I ASSURE YOU THAT YOU WILL FACE THE **SAME REJECTION** BY THE WORLD THAT HE FACED. YOU WILL BE **DESPISED** EVEN BY MUCH OF **CHRISTENDOM**, JUST AS **JESUS** WAS BY MOST OF THE **RELIGIOUS** PEOPLE OF HIS DAY.

IT WAS **NOT** THE **GREEKS** AND **ROMANS** WHO **DESPISED** JESUS AND **REJECTED** HIM, BUT THE **PHARISEES** (THE **FUNDAMENTALISTS** OF HIS DAY). WHO HAS A HEART TO ACCEPT THE WORD OF THE **CROSS** -- EVEN TODAY? WE CAN BE EXCITED WHEN WE HEAR THE WONDERFUL PROMISES OF **BLESSING** THAT ARE FOUND IN THE SCRIPTURES. BUT THE WORD OF THE **CROSS** COMES ALONG WITH THE PROMISES IN THE **SAME PACKAGE**. YOU CANNOT HAVE ONE WITHOUT THE OTHER. ONE REASON FOR THE SHALLOWSNESS IN THE LIVES OF MANY CHRISTIANS TODAY IS THAT THEY HAVE TRIED TO CLAIM THE **PROMISES WITHOUT** TAKING UP THEIR **CROSS**.

NOTICE THAT IT SAYS THREE TIMES IN VERSE 7 THAT JESUS WAS SILENT. "HE DID NOT **OPEN** HIS MOUTH. HE WAS SILENT. HE DID NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH." AS BELIEVERS, WE MUST KNOW HOW TO OPEN OUR MOUTHS WIDE AND SHOUT TO THE LORD AT TIMES WHEN WE **PRAISE** AND THANK HIM. WE MUST ALSO KNOW HOW TO KEEP OUR MOUTHS **SHUT** WHEN WE ARE **INSULTED**, **CRITICISED** AND **SLANDERED**. JESUS KNEW HOW TO PRAISE HIS FATHER AND HE ALSO KNEW HOW TO BE SILENT. UNFORTUNATELY, IT IS THE OTHER WAY ROUND WITH MANY CHRISTIANS. THEY ARE **SILENT** WHEN IT COMES TO SHOUTING GOD'S **PRAISES** IN THE MEETINGS; BUT THEY DO KNOW HOW TO SHOUT AND DEFEND THEMSELVES WHEN SOMEONE **ACCUSES** THEM OR HURTS THEM. BUT THAT IS THE CHARACTERISTIC OF AN **UPSIDE-DOWN** WORLD, AND **CHRISTIANS** MUST BE **DIFFERENT**.

All your children will be

taught of the Lord



And the
well-being of your
children will be
great

IS 54:13

CHAPTER 54:13 IS A PROMISE FOR OUR CHILDREN: "ALL YOUR SONS WILL BECOME **DISCIPLES** OF THE LORD (DISCIPLED BY THE LORD), AND THE WELL-BEING OF YOUR SONS WILL BE GREAT." THE LORD GAVE THIS PROMISE TO MY WIFE AND TO ME SEPARATELY, IN JUNE 1968, **BEFORE** WE HAD ANY CHILDREN -- AND WE HAVE CLAIMED IT FOR ALL FOUR OF OUR SONS AND SEEN IT FULFILLED.

THIS IS A **WONDERFUL** PROMISE FOR ALL PARENTS AND I WANT TO ENCOURAGE ALL **PARENTS** TO CLAIM IT IN JESUS' NAME, SAYING, "LORD, I WANT **ALL** MY CHILDREN TO BECOME DISCIPLES OF THE LORD AND THEIR SPIRITUAL **WELL-BEING** TO BE GREAT." THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT YOUR CHILDREN WILL NEVER BECOME SICK, OR THAT YOUR CHILDREN WILL NEVER HAVE THE **STRUGGLES** THAT MANY TEENAGERS OFTEN GO THROUGH. BUT IT DOES MEAN THAT THEY WILL FINALLY **COME THROUGH** TO THE LORD. **CLAIM IT AND DON'T GIVE UP.**



IS 55:1

Everyone who **thirsts**,
come to the waters;

IN 55:1, WE READ AN INVITATION: "EVERYONE WHO **THIRSTS**, COME TO THE WATERS; AND YOU WHO HAVE NO MONEY COME ... BUY WITHOUT MONEY AND **WITHOUT COST**." THIS IS AN INVITATION TO ACCEPT THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL. THE GOSPEL MUST ALWAYS BE OFFERED "WITHOUT CHARGE", AS WE READ IN 1 CORINTHIANS 9:18. IT IS A GREAT **SHAME** THAT SO MANY EVANGELISTS TAKE OFFERINGS IN PUBLIC GOSPEL MEETINGS **BEFORE** PREACHING THE GOSPEL.

CHAPTER 54:15, 17: "IF ANYONE COMES TO FIGHT YOU, HE WILL BE **ROUTED** FOR I AM ON YOUR SIDE. NO **WEAPON** TURNED AGAINST YOU SHALL SUCCEED. AND YOU WILL HAVE JUSTICE AGAINST EVERY **COURTROOM** LIE. THIS IS THE HERITAGE OF THE SERVANTS OF THE LORD. THIS IS THE BLESSING I HAVE GIVEN YOU." (LIVING). THESE WONDERFUL PROMISES ARE FOR ALL WHO SERVE THE LORD. I PRAISE THE LORD THAT FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS I HAVE EXPERIENCED THE FULFILMENT OF THESE PROMISES. EVERY **EVIL** THING THAT OTHERS HAVE SOUGHT TO DO AGAINST ME HAS ONLY WORKED FOR **MY GOOD**, TO MAKE ME MORE LIKE CHRIST. JESUS WAS **FALSELY** ACCUSED -- AND SO WERE **PETER** AND **PAUL**. IF YOU **FOLLOW** THE LORD **WHOLEHEARTEDLY**, YOU TOO WILL FACE SUCH FALSE **ACCUSATIONS** FROM THOSE WHO ARE CONVICTED BY YOUR MESSAGE AND FROM THOSE WHO ARE JEALOUS OF YOUR MINISTRY. MANY MAY BELIEVE THEIR ACCUSATIONS. LET THEM DO SO. DON'T BE DISTURBED. GOD WILL SHUT THEIR MOUTHS ONE DAY AND VINDICATE YOU. "THEIR **VINDICATION** IS FROM ME," SAYS THE LORD. YOU DON'T HAVE TO **DEFEND** YOURSELF. **GOD** HIMSELF WILL DEFEND YOU.

As the
heavens
are
higher
than the
earth,
so are
GOD's
ways
higher
than
your
ways
IS 55:9

IN VERSES 8, 9 THE LORD SAYS, "MY THOUGHTS ARE **NOT** YOUR **THOUGHTS** NOR ARE YOUR WAYS MY WAYS," DECLARES THE LORD. AS THE HEAVENS ARE **HIGHER** THAN THE EARTH, SO ARE MY **WAYS** HIGHER THAN YOUR WAYS." THIS TEACHES US THAT OUR **HUMAN** WAY OF THINKING IS **EARTHLY** AND WE HAVE TO LEARN **GOD'S** WAYS FROM HIM THROUGH HIS WORD, IF WE ARE TO **SERVE** HIM **EFFECTIVELY**.



VERSE 11: "MY WORD WHICH GOES FORTH FROM MY MOUTH WILL **NOT** RETURN EMPTY." AFTER OUR WAY OF THINKING HAS BEEN RENEWED AND ALIGNED WITH GOD'S WAY, THEN WE CAN SPEAK FORTH HIS WORD -- AND THAT WORD WILL NEVER RETURN EMPTY. WE MUST NEVER PREACH OUR **OWN** IDEAS OR THE TEACHINGS OF PSYCHOLOGY -- AS MANY ARE DOING IN CHRISTENDOM TODAY. OUR MESSAGES MUST BE **ROOTED** IN THE BIBLE, SO THAT THE FAITH OF PEOPLE CAN REST ON THE WORD OF GOD AND NOT IN HUMAN REASONING. IN ALL MY SPOKEN AND WRITTEN MINISTRY THROUGH THESE MANY YEARS, I HAVE ALWAYS SPOKEN AND WRITTEN FROM THE **BIBLE** ALONE -- BECAUSE GOD'S WORD IS MORE **RELIABLE** THAN MY WORD. BE A MAN OF THE WORD IN YOUR PREACHING.



VERSE 7 WAS QUOTED BY JESUS IN MARK 11:17, "MY HOUSE SHOULD BE CALLED A HOUSE OF **PRAYER** FOR ALL PEOPLE."

MANY PREACHERS HAVE TURNED THE CHURCH INTO A PLACE TO MAKE **MONEY** FOR THEMSELVES -- JUST LIKE THE SELLERS OF SHEEP AND DOVES IN THE TEMPLE, IN JESUS' TIME. AND THE LORD WILL TURN THEM OUT ONE DAY. THE CHURCH IS A HOUSE OF PRAYER AND **NOT** A PLACE OF **BUSINESS**.

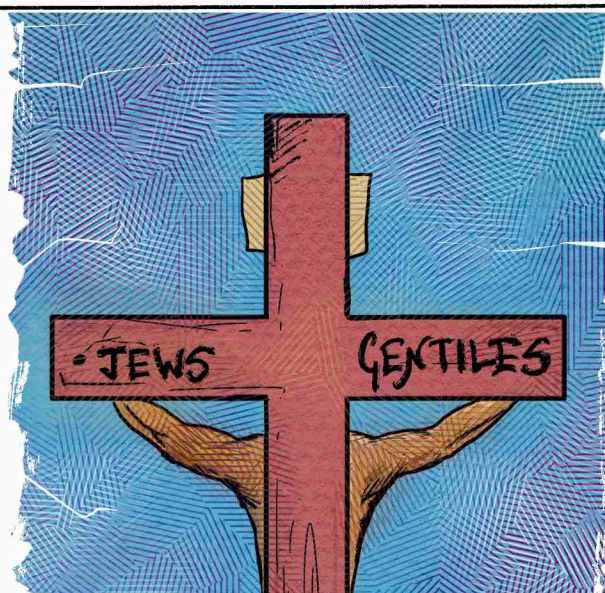


IN VERSES 10 AND 11, GOD SAYS THAT HIS SERVANTS HAVE BECOME **BLIND** (WITHOUT SPIRITUAL **DISCERNMENT**) AND **DUMB** -- LIKE WATCHDOGS THAT DO NOT **BARK** EVEN WHEN THE **THIEF** COMES. THE **SHEPHERDS** OF GOD'S PEOPLE HAVE BECOME **GREEDY** FOR MONEY AND **SEEK** THEIR **OWN** AT EVERY TURN. WHAT A PICTURE OF THE **PATHETIC** STATE OF AFFAIRS IN MUCH OF CHRISTENDOM TODAY!

The righteous man perishes and no man takes it to heart.



CHAPTER 57:1: "THE **RIGHTEOUS** man perishes and **NO** man takes it to heart." Godly people are becoming **SCARCE** in the world **TODAY**. But hardly anyone seems to be **CONCERNED** about it. The greatest **NEED** of the hour is for **GENUINELY** godly men.

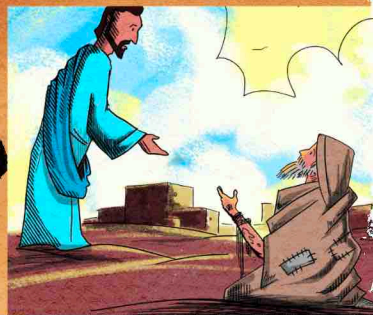


VERSE 19:
"PEACE, PEACE,
TO HIM WHO IS
FAR AND TO HIM
WHO IS NEAR."
THIS IS QUOTED
IN EPHESIANS
2:17 AS A
PROPHETIC
REFERENCE TO
THE FACT THAT
JEWS AND
GENTILES WOULD
BE BROUGHT
TOGETHER IN
ONE BODY BY
CHRIST.

VERSE 15: HERE GOD SAYS THAT THERE ARE ONLY **TWO** PLACES WHERE HE LIVES: IN **HEAVEN** AND IN THE **HEART** OF A **HUMBLE**, LOWLY PERSON. WE CAN HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF THE **CREATOR** OF THE **UNIVERSE** LIVING IN OUR **HEARTS**, IF WE ARE **HUMBLE** AND LOWLY.



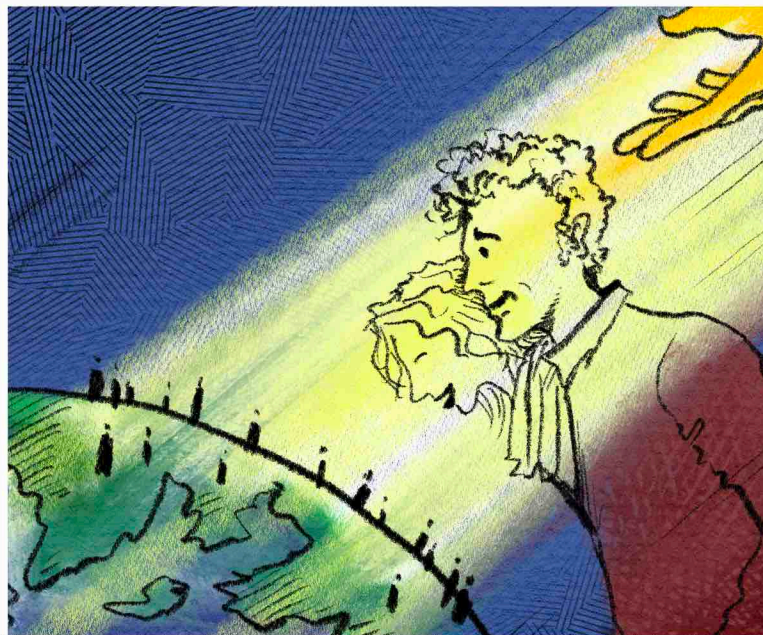
VERSES 20, 21: "THE **WICKED** ARE LIKE THE TOSSEING **SEA** THAT TOSSES UP **MUD** (FROM THE BOTTOM). THERE IS NO **PEACE** FOR THE **WICKED**." WICKED PEOPLE NEVER SEEK FOR **PEACE** IN RELATIONSHIPS BUT ALWAYS BRING UP **OLD** MATTERS THAT WERE BURIED IN THE PAST TO **DISTURB** THE RELATIONSHIP. THIS IS OFTEN THE CASE WITH **WICKED HUSBANDS** AND **WIVES**.



CHAPTER 58 SPEAKS ABOUT THE RIGHT WAY TO FAST. GOD SAYS THAT TRUE FASTING IS NOT A RITUAL BUT SOMETHING THAT SHOULD LEAD TO OUR SHARING OUR BREAD WITH THE HUNGRY, CARING FOR THE POOR AND NAKED, PUTTING AN END TO POINTING FINGERS AT OTHERS (ACCUSING THEM), AND GIVING OURSELVES FOR OTHERS (SERVING THEM).



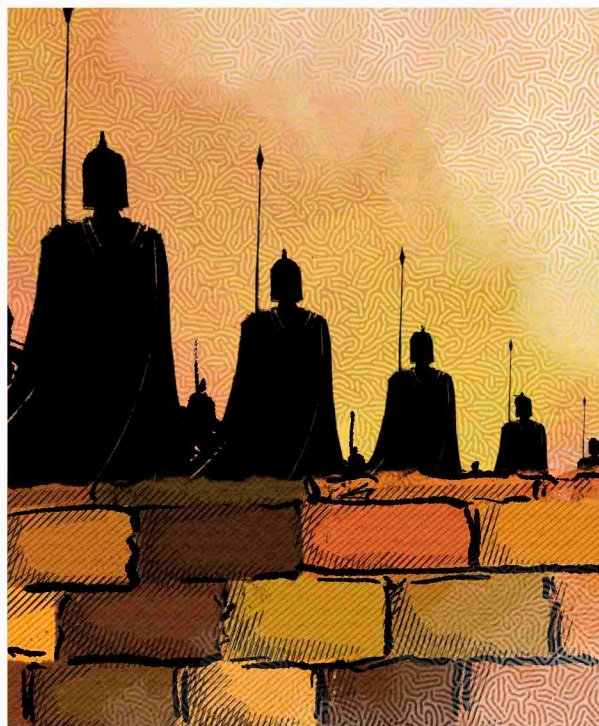
CHAPTER 59 VERSE 19 (KJV): "WHEN THE **ENEMY** COMES IN LIKE A **FLOOD**, THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD WILL LIFT UP A **STANDARD** AGAINST HIM." GOD WANTS THE CHURCH TO BE LIKE A **BANNER** THAT ALWAYS STANDS AGAINST SATAN IN **SPIRITUAL WARFARE**.



CHAPTER 60:1: "**ARISE, SHINE**, FOR YOUR LIGHT IS COME AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD HAS RISEN UPON YOU." THIS IS A PROPHETIC REFERENCE TO THE GLORY OF GOD THAT WE CAN HAVE IN OUR LIVES IN THIS NEW-COVENANT AGE. "THE **LORD** HIMSELF WILL BE OUR LIGHT AND OUR **GOD** WILL BE OUR **GLORY**"

365 : 1
FAVOUR : JUDGEMENT

CHAPTER 61:1, 2: THESE VERSES ARE A **PROPHETIC** REFERENCE. THIS IS THE PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE THAT JESUS TURNED TO WHEN HE PREACHED HIS FIRST SERMON IN THE SYNAGOGUE IN NAZARETH. NOTICE THAT JESUS STOPPED WITH PROCLAIMING "THE FAVOURABLE YEAR OF THE LORD" NOTICE ALSO THE PROPORTION OF GOD'S FAVOUR IN RELATION TO HIS JUDGEMENT. IT IS A WHOLE YEAR OF FAVOUR AS OPPOSED TO JUST A **SINGLE** DAY OF JUDGEMENT. THAT IS A **PROPORTION** OF 365:1 IN FAVOUR OF GRACE.



CHAPTER 62:3, 4 CONTINUE TO SPEAK OF THE **BRIDAL** RELATIONSHIP THAT WE HAVE WITH OUR LORD. IN VERSES 6, 7, THOSE WHO ARE CALLED TO BE **WATCHMEN** ON THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM (THE CHURCH) ARE URGED TO KEEP ON **WARNING** AND **EXHORTING** GOD'S PEOPLE.



CHAPTER 63:8 & 9 SPEAK OF OUR SAVIOUR BEING "**AFFLICTED** IN ALL OUR AFFLICTIONS" AND OF HOW "HE SAVES US BY HIS PRESENCE." BUT THEN IT GOES ON TO WARN US IN VERSE 10 OF THOSE WHO **REBELLED** AGAINST AND **GRIEVED** HIS HOLY SPIRIT, SO THAT THE SPIRIT TURNED AROUND AND BECAME THEIR **ENEMY!** THAT IS A WARNING FOR ALL OF US TO LIVE IN FEAR. THE **SPIRIT** SEEKS TO LEAD US INTO A LIFE OF **REST** AS HE LED THE ISRAELITES INTO CANAAN (VERSE 14), BUT WE MUST RESPOND TO HIS CALL.





IN 1 CORINTHIANS, IT IS WRITTEN THAT GOD HAS PREPARED WONDERFUL THINGS FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM, WHEREAS IN ISAIAH IT IS WRITTEN THAT HE HAS PREPARED THESE THINGS FOR THOSE WHO **WAIT** FOR HIM. FROM THIS WE LEARN THAT THOSE WHO **LOVE** HIM WILL ALWAYS **WAIT** FOR HIM. WE LEARN MANY THINGS WHEN WE COMPARE SCRIPTURE WITH SCRIPTURE. THIS PASSAGE IS **NOT** REFERRING TO WHAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR HIS PEOPLE IN HEAVEN, BUT RATHER TO THE WONDERFUL BLESSINGS OF THE NEW COVENANT THAT HE HAS PREPARED FOR HIS PEOPLE **RIGHT NOW**.

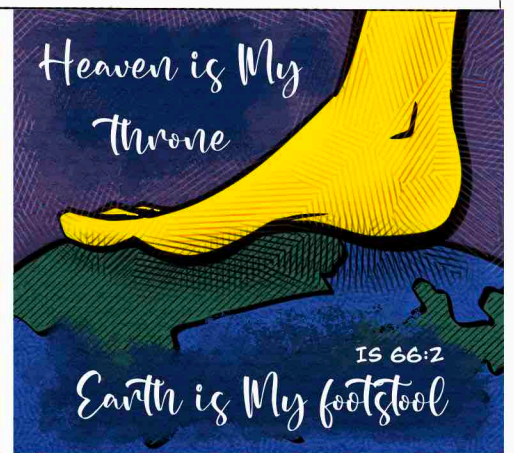
VERSE 5: "YOU MEET HIM WHO **REJOICES** IN DOING **RIGHTEOUSNESS**". GOD LOVES TO MEET WITH THOSE WHO NOT ONLY DO **RIGHTEOUSNESS** BUT WHO **REJOICE** IN DOING IT. BUT THEN IT REMINDS US IN VERSE 6 THAT "ALL OUR **RIGHTEOUS DEEDS** ARE LIKE A **FILTHY GARMENT**." SO OUR **BEST DEEDS** ARE LIKE THE **FILTHIEST RAGS** IMAGINABLE IN GOD'S EYES, FOR HE IS SO UTTERLY HOLY. WE MAY CALL SOME PEOPLE **GOOD**, BUT NO-ONE IS TRULY **GOOD** IN GOD'S EYES. ONLY GOD HIMSELF IS TRULY **GOOD** (MARK 10:18). CHRIST'S **RIGHTEOUSNESS** MUST THEREFORE **CLOTHE** A PERSON IF HE IS TO BE **ACCEPTED** BY GOD.



CHAPTER 65:5: HERE GOD EXPRESSES HIS **DISGUST** WITH THOSE WHO ARE **SELF-RIGHTEOUS**. SUCH PEOPLE ARE AS DETESTABLE TO GOD AS **SMOKE** GOING INTO ONE'S **NOSE**.



GOD IS **MORE EAGER** TO HEAR US AND TO **ANSWER** OUR PRAYERS THAN WE ARE TO HEAR.



GOD LOOKS WITH FAVOUR ONLY AT THOSE WHO ARE **BROKEN** AND HUMBLE IN THEIR SPIRITS AND WHO **TREMBLE** AT EVERY COMMAND IN HIS WORD



IN VERSE 13, GOD FURTHER ENCOURAGES SUCH PEOPLE BY SAYING THAT HE WILL COMFORT THEM "AS A **MOTHER** COMFORTS HER CHILDREN."

FINALLY IN VERSES 22--24, WE READ OF THE **NEW HEAVENS** AND THE **NEW EARTH** THAT WILL BE ESTABLISHED WHEN THE LORD RETURNS. THOSE WHO ARE ABRAHAM'S **SPIRITUAL SEED** WILL HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, WHILE OTHERS WILL BURN IN **HELL** WITH A FIRE THAT WILL NEVER BE QUENCHED.

INDEED ISAIAH IS A WONDERFUL **NEW COVENANT** BOOK IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

