

September 9th, 2018
 "The Lord God Helps Me"
 Isaiah 50

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

Sept 2 Ezekiel 13-15	Sept 6 Ezekiel 23-24
Sept 3 Ezekiel 16-17	Sept 7 Ezekiel 25-27
Sept 4 Ezekiel 18-20	Sept 8 Ezekiel 28-30
Sept 5 Ezekiel 21-22	Sept 9 Ezekiel 31-33

Lesson Introduction: Last week began our journey into a section of Isaiah heavily centered on prophecy concerning the Messiah. Our chapter this week will show us the contrast of the disobedience of Israel with the obedience of Christ. Although He was faced with the most daunting task in human history (bearing the sins of humanity), He went forth in perfect obedience, keeping His eyes on His Father. As we go, we will consider **Israel's continual disobedience, the perfect obedience of Christ, and the call to trust in His name, but the cost of disobedience.**

Key Memory Verses: Isaiah 50:4

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:

- **The Lord does not cast off His people, but continually calls them to obedience (V. 1-3).**
- **Christ walked in perfect obedience to His Father through perfect communion with Him (V. 4-9)**
- **Torment awaits those who follow their own way, but life for those who trust in the name of the Lord (V. 10-11).**

Isaiah 50

1 Thus says the Lord:
 "Where is your mother's certificate of divorce,
 with which I sent her away?
 Or which of my creditors is it
 to whom I have sold you?
 Behold, for your iniquities you were sold,
 and for your transgressions your mother was sent
 away.
 2 Why, when I came, was there no man;
 why, when I called, was there no one to answer?
 Is my hand shortened, that it cannot redeem?
 Or have I no power to deliver?"

Behold, by my rebuke I dry up the sea,
 I make the rivers a desert;
 their fish stink for lack of water
 and die of thirst.

3 I clothe the heavens with blackness
 and make sackcloth their covering."

4 The Lord God has given me
 the tongue of those who are taught,
 that I may know how to sustain with a word
 him who is weary.

Morning by morning he awakens;
 he awakens my ear
 to hear as those who are taught.

5 The Lord God has opened my ear,
 and I was not rebellious;
 I turned not backward.

6 I gave my back to those who strike,
 and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;
 I hid not my face
 from disgrace and spitting.

7 But the Lord God helps me;
 therefore I have not been disgraced;
 therefore I have set my face like a flint,
 and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

8 He who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who is my adversary?

Let him come near to me.

9 Behold, the Lord God helps me;

who will declare me guilty?

Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment;
 the moth will eat them up.

10 Who among you fears the Lord
 and obeys the voice of his servant?

Let him who walks in darkness

and has no light

trust in the name of the Lord

and rely on his God.

11 Behold, all you who kindle a fire,
 who equip yourselves with burning torches!

Walk by the light of your fire,

and by the torches that you have kindled!

This you have from my hand:

you shall lie down in torment.

Discussion Section 1: Israel's Continual Disobedience (V. 1-3)

-What does **verse 1** tell us about the grace and patience of God?

-What is God asking in **verse 2**?

-What is He reminding His people of in **verses 2-3**?

Note: Here in these verses, we see God assuring His people that He has not casted them off (divorced them or sold them to creditors). Although He has sent them into captivity because of their stubbornness and disobedience to His commands, He has not abandoned them, and, even now, He calls them to obedience. In **Verses 2-3**, God is asking why the people of Israel have not answered His call to obedience, even as He has continually shown His redemptive power to them. He reminds them of His power to dry up the Red Sea so that they might escape the hand of Egypt (**Exodus 14:21**), and His ability to open the river Jordan (**Joshua 4:23**). He also tells of His power to plague Egypt by turning their water to blood and causing their fish to die and the river to stink (**Exodus 7:18-21**), and how He caused complete darkness in their land (**Exodus 10:21-23**). Even in light of all these mighty works (and many others), Israel still refused to be obedient to the Lord. As we consider the stubbornness of Israel, it is important that we do not become puffed up with pride, but realize how often we have operated in the same manner. How often has the Lord been patient with us, and shown His power to redeem and save, and yet we have not listened?

Discussion Section 2: The Perfect Obedience of Christ (V. 4-9)

-Who is speaking in these verses?

-What do we see as the Messiah's primary source of strength in this passage?

-Why was He willing to endure such excessive violence?

-What can we learn from Christ's example of obedience?

Note: These verses show a clear distinction between Christ and Israel. The main way we see this distinction is in the incredible obedience of Christ as compared to the disobedience of God's people. Throughout these verses, one thing is extremely evident: Christ relied on communion with His Father for His strength and perseverance through suffering. Andrew M. Davis points out that **verse 4** makes clear that the teaching ministry

of Jesus was reliant on God the Father. The words that Jesus spoke as encouragements to the weary were "given" by God, according to **verse 4**. Our passage today states that, "**morning by morning**" the Lord awakened His Servant to hear and obey, "**as those who are taught.**" We see in the New Testament how Jesus spent time with His Father early in the morning (**Mark 1:35**), and that He accredited His teaching ministry to His Father (**John 7:16**). What an example Jesus set for us! If His earthly teaching ministry was reliant on communion with God, how much more do we need regular time with the Father?

Not only did Christ rely on His Father for the work of His ministry, but He also obediently endured great suffering by looking to Him. **Verses 5-7** speak to Jesus' willingness to suffer extreme physical violence on our behalf (**Matthew 26:67; 27:26, 30, Mark 14:65; 15:19, Luke 22:63, John 18:22**) with the Father's help, and according to His will (**Luke 22:42**). More than the physical pain was the fact that He would "**become sin for us**" (**2 Corinthians 5:21**). Yet, He "**set [His] face like flint,**" and trusted His Father in obedience, looking forward to the glory He would soon share again with Him (**Hebrews 12:2, Philippians 2:5-11, John 17:5**). As we consider Christ's reliance on His Father to fulfill His mission, may we be reminded of our desperate need to lean into Him.

Discussion Section 3: The Call to Trust in His Name, but the Cost of Disobedience. (V. 10-11)

-What hope does **V. 10** give those who are walking in disobedience?

-What warning does **V. 11** give those who continually trust in themselves?

Note: This passage closes with some sobering words. **Verse 10** gives great hope to those walking in disobedience, by reminding them that, although they walk in darkness, they need only to "**trust in the name of the Lord and rely on God.**" But **verse 11** reminds us that if we continue attempting to light our own path through our self-righteous methods, we will ultimately "**lie down in torment.**" Walking in obedience to the Lord begins when we recognize that salvation is by grace alone, through faith in Christ alone (**John 14:6, Ephesians 2:1-9**). Our efforts towards obedience will be futile when we "**walk by torches we have kindled!**"