

<u>Isaiah 1-5</u> Introduction How can one be spared judgement and live happily ever after?	<u>Isaiah 6-39</u> New Creation God will rule over a new, perfect and eternal creation	<u>Isaiah 40-55</u> New relationship God will restore his people from exile to a permanent relationship	<u>Isaiah 56-66</u> Who God will choose the humble and reject the proud
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Isaiah 40-55 explained in under 60 seconds:
youtu.be/z-S3q76crLM

Isaiah 40-48
'I'm coming to get you!'
 YHWH tells his people he will act to fix their relationship

Isaiah 49-55
'Here's the plan!'
 YHWH's suffering servant will bear the penalty for sin, permanently fixing their relationship

Isaiah 51:9-52:12 (NIVUK)

⁹ Awake, awake, arm of the LORD,
 clothe yourself with strength!
 Awake, as in days gone by,
 as in generations of old.
 Was it not you who cut Rahab to pieces,
 who pierced that monster through?
¹⁰ Was it not you who dried up the sea,
 the waters of the great deep,
 who made a road in the depths of the sea
 so that the redeemed might cross over?
¹¹ Those the LORD has rescued will return.
 They will enter Zion with singing;
 everlasting joy will crown their heads.
 Gladness and joy will overtake them,
 and sorrow and sighing will flee away.
¹² I, even^a I, am he who comforts you.
 Who are you
 - that you fear mere mortals,
 human beings who are but grass,
 - ¹³ that you forget the LORD your Maker,
 who stretches out the heavens
 and who lays the foundations of the earth,
 - that you live in constant terror every day
 because of the wrath of the oppressor,
 who is bent on destruction?
 For where is the wrath of the oppressor?
¹⁴ The cowering prisoners will soon be set free;
 they will not die in their dungeon,
 nor will they lack bread.
¹⁵ For I am the LORD your God,
 who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar –
 the LORD Almighty is his name.



Sunday 15 March 2026

i. 'Wake up, God, and rescue us!'
(51:9-11)

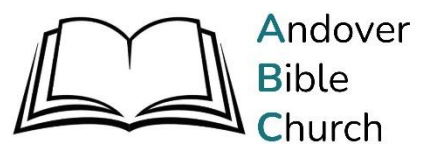
- 'didn't you do the 1st Exodus?'
(Rahab = Egypt cf. Psalm 87:4)

- 'didn't you promise a 2nd
 Exodus [in Isaiah 35:10]?'

ii. 'I'm already awake and acting!'
(51:12-16)

- 'why fear men instead of your
 maker?'

- 'you will be saved by your
 maker!'



^a NIV supplies *even* but the Hebrew is *I, I*

Isaiah 49-55 'Here's the plan!'

YHWH appoints JC who will bear the penalty for sin,
permanently fixing their relationship
(JC = Jacob's Champion = Jesus Christ)

49:1-13

JC will accomplish
God's global
salvation

49:14-50:3

'I haven't
forgotten you – I
will restore you!'

50:4-11

JC will suffer but
will ultimately be
vindicated

iii. 'You're asleep, not me!'

(51:17-23)

- 'drunk from my wrath'

- 'no children to console
you...'

- '...because they have
passed out'

- 'But I will no longer
give you my wrath'

¹⁶ I have put my words in your mouth
and covered you with the shadow of my hand –

I who set the heavens in place,
who laid the foundations of the earth,
and who say to Zion, "You are my people."

¹⁷ Awake, awake! Rise up, Jerusalem,
you who have drunk from the hand of the LORD
the cup of his wrath,
you who have drained to its dregs
the goblet that makes people stagger.

¹⁸ Among all the children she bore
there was none to guide her;
among all the children she brought up
there was none to take her by the hand.

¹⁹ These double calamities have come upon you –
who can comfort you? –
ruin and destruction, famine and sword –
who can^b console you?

²⁰ Your children have fainted;
they lie at every street corner,
like antelope caught in a net.
They are filled with the wrath of the LORD,
with the rebuke of your God.

²¹ Therefore hear this, you afflicted one,
made drunk, but not with wine.

²² This is what your Sovereign LORD says,
your God, who defends his people:
'See, I have taken out of your hand
the cup that made you stagger;
from that cup, the goblet of my wrath,
you will never drink again.

²³ I will put it into the hands of your tormentors,
who said to you,
"Fall prostrate that we may walk on you."
And you made your back like the ground,
like a street to be walked on.'

Tone confusion

Suppose a friend reads 51:12-23 and
doesn't yet feel very *comforted*. How
might you persuade them that this is
part of a *comforting speech* by YHWH?

^b Dead Sea Scrolls, Septuagint, Vulgate and Syriac; Masoretic Text / *how can I*

51:1-8 'I will restore you permanently!'	51:9-52:12 'I should wake up? No, you should wake up, to your wonderful future!'	52:13-53:12 JC will bear God's wrath for the sins of many	54:1-17 'You will flourish in a safe and secure relationship with me!'	55:1-13 'So, will you come back to me?'
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52 Awake, awake, Zion,

clothe yourself with strength!

Put on your garments of splendour,

Jerusalem, the holy city.

The uncircumcised and defiled

will not enter you again.

² Shake off your dust;

rise up, sit enthroned, Jerusalem.

Free yourself from the chains on your neck,

Daughter Zion, now a captive.

³ For this is what the LORD says:

'You were sold for nothing,

and without money you will be redeemed.'

⁴ For this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

'At first my people went down to Egypt to live;

lately, Assyria has oppressed them.

⁵ 'And now what do I have here?' declares the LORD.

'For my people have been taken away for nothing,

and those who rule them mock,'^c declares the LORD.

'And all day long my name is constantly blasphemed.

⁶ Therefore my people will know my name;

therefore in that day they will know that it is I who foretold it.

Yes, it is I.'

⁷ How beautiful on the mountains

are the feet of those who bring good news,

who proclaim peace,

who bring good tidings,

who proclaim salvation,

who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'

⁸ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;

together they shout for joy.

When the LORD returns to Zion,

they will see it with their own eyes.

⁹ Burst into songs of joy together,

you ruins of Jerusalem,

for the LORD has comforted his people,

he has redeemed Jerusalem.

iv. 'You should wake up to your amazing future!' (52:1-10)

- 'a reversal of status!'

- 'I am greater than your captors!'

- 'I'm great at rescues!'

- 'I know my people's *current* suffering...'

- '...and in the future my people will know me!'

- Good news:

i. 'God is back!!'

^c Dead Sea Scrolls and Vulgate; Masoretic Text *wail*

ii. 'everyone will know God!!'

¹⁰ The LORD will lay bare his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see
the salvation of our God.

v. 'The 2nd Exodus will be
leisurely!' (52:11-12)

¹¹ Depart, depart, go out from there!
Touch no unclean thing!
Come out from it and be pure,
you who carry the articles of the LORD's house.

¹² But you will not leave in haste
or go in flight;
for the LORD will go before you,
the God of Israel will be your rear guard.



Initial reaction

What do you make of the *structure*
and *flow* of God's response to Judah's
'wake up, God, and save us'?

For reflection on Isaiah 51:9-52:12

- 51:9-11 1. To what extent do you pray like this for God to complete his eternal rescue? Why?
 2. How willing are you to 'sue' God for his promises like this?
- 51:12-16 3. What particular descriptions of God's creator-power do you find encouraging? Why?
 4. Why do you struggle to connect God's (a) creatorness with his (b) promise to complete a
 2nd Exodus? What might help make this jump?
- 51:17-23 5. What do you make of the imagery of drunkenness from God's wrath?
 6. How does it feel to hear God promise that he will no longer pour out his wrath on his
 people in 51:19-21?
- 52:1-10 7. In what setting or with what imagery do you visualise these 'awake, awake' verses?
 8. Which parts do you need help to read devotionally?
- 52:11-12 9. What prior assumptions help you to understand the *leisure* within these verses?
 10. How do you feel about the overall *structure and flow* of 51:9-52:12 as a whole?
- Prayer 11. Are there particular areas which you need to repent of or pray for?

Bonus Bible-handling for Isaiah 40-55

1. How would you describe the genre of Isaiah 40-55? How might that fit the *Art Gallery* analogy?
2. Isaiah 40-55 repeats certain themes over and over. What might the function be of this literary choice?
3. How does Isaiah use the theme of idols in Isaiah 40-55? Some preachers indicate *rebuke* – to what extent do you agree with this?