

Series: Isaiah  
Title: Taught by the Prophet  
Text: Isaiah 50: 1-11  
Date: January 24, 2013  
Place: SGBC, New Jersey

Our scripture is Isaiah 50: 1-11. Let's read it together.

**Proposition:** This is Christ the Prophet describing us and describing himself and teaching us to follow him in the way he followed the Father.

Remember back in Isaiah 49: 14: But Zion said, The LORD hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. This was while as yet she was surrounded by Babylon. She blamed the LORD saying, "The LORD hath forsaken me. The LORD is to blame for me being in this bondage."

## **I. OUR SEPARATION FROM THE LORD IS OUR OWN FAULT, NOT THE LORD'S**

**Isaiah 50: 1. Thus saith the LORD, Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement, whom I have put away?**

The law said that when a man divorced his wife, he was required to give her a piece of paper stating that he had officially divorced her and for what reason. The LORD says, "Can you produce such a paper? It is not I that am to blame for you being in bondage, for you being put away."

**Isaiah 50: 1:...or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you?**

When a man was in debt and could not pay his bills, he could sell his children into servitude to his creditors to work off his debt. The LORD God owes no man anything. He has no creditors. So why had his people come into bondage?

**Isaiah 50: 1:...Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away.**

Folks will be walking directly contrary to the revealed will of God in this book. When they become separated or come into some kind of bondage or affliction, they will say, "God is sovereign, it is his will that I am where I am." That is exactly what Zion was saying.

God is sovereign. God did put them there. But God does not randomly forsake anyone. Our sins separate us from God.

Isaiah 59: 1: Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

God did not forsake Adam, Adam first forsook God therefore Adam and his race were separated because of our sin. In the days of Isaiah, God did not forsake Israel, he sent his prophets with the truth, but Israel would not hearken, Israel first forsook God therefore became separated into slavery in Babylon. In the days when our Lord Jesus came the first time, God had not forsaken Israel, Israel first forsook God therefore they were separated under slavery to Rome.

**Illustration:** Emma and Will—“Will what happened?”—9 out of 10 times he begins “Emma” or “Emma what happened?”—9 out of 10 times she begins “Will...”

Where'd we get that? Where do we get this nature to want to blame others? What would make a man use God's sovereignty to excuse our iniquity and our transgressions?

Genesis 3: 11: And [the LORD] said, [Adam] Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast THOU eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded THEE that THOU shouldest not eat? 12: And the man said, The WOMAN whom THOU gavest to be with me, SHE gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

God's grace makes his child cease playing the blame-game when God speaks to our heart and says, “Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away.” That is when we will confess to God that we have not obeyed him.

## **II. OUR NOT BELIEVING ON CHRIST, UNITING WITH HIS PEOPLE IN THE CAUSE OF HIS GOSPEL, IS NOT CHRIST'S FAULT, BUT OUR OWN**

**Isaiah 50: 2: Wherefore, when I came, *was there* no man? when I called, *was there* none to answer?**

God came into the world. God the Son, Jesus Christ, the Word, came unto his own. And he called. But no man answered his call of themselves.

John 1: 10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. 11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

They had his word which described his coming, how he would come. They claimed to believe on him—didn't they? Sure they did, they claimed to believe God and Christ is God. But then when they saw him, they knew him not. When he called, when they heard him preach the gospel, when they heard others preach the gospel, then none answered.

Why is it that men will read the scriptures, read the writings of faithful men from the past, claim they believe, claim they are waiting for the Lord to bring the gospel near to them, then when he does they either do not recognize it or they question and question and question or when finally they have opportunity to join themselves with his saint they won't answer the call? They won't unite themselves, they are not willing to suffer for his name's sake, not willing to get themselves under any commitment whatsoever when they have opportunity to do so. Why is that? You see that word at beginning of verse 2--“wherefore.” It refers back to verse 1, “for your iniquities”...“for your transgressions.” “Wherefore, when I came, *was there* no man? when I called, *was there* none to answer?

John 3: 19: And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20: For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

Here is why they would not believe him and join with his people. It was because their darkness, their evil deeds, was their religious darkness, their righteousnesses. Here is why they rejected Christ. Here is why men reject the gospel. Here is why men reject the clear teaching of the scriptures. Though they had the word of God, though they claimed to believe God, they rejected Christ and rejected his gospel because they thought they had saved themselves without God. They thought they were saved another way. Why did they need Christ or his apostles or his preachers or his people when they thought they had saved themselves? They were coming to God another way so why did they need THE WAY and the means he ordained which pleased him? Every religious man, in the scriptures, that rejected Christ when he walked this earth, rejected

him because they thought they were saved and that they were saved some other way other than Christ or his ordained means.

### **III. BUT OUR SIN AND UNBELIEF DOES NOT HINDER CHRIST FROM REGENERATING AND CALLING HIS OWN TO FAITH IN HIM.**

#### **Isaiah 50: 2...Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver?**

Romans 3: 3: For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? 4: God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

#### **Isaiah 50: 2...Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver?**

Some might argue, "If they're God's elect he can save them whether they ever believe in this life or not." No. If they are Christ's then Christ will cross their path with the gospel and quicken them to newness of life and they shall believe.

Romans 8: 29: For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30: Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Here is the reason some of the Jews did not believe.

Romans 9: 6: Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:...

Since our sins have separated us from our God this is why not all Gentiles call on him.

Romans 9: 15: For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 16: So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

Do you know who we are talking about? We are talking about our sovereign Savior! We are talking about God our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ!

#### **Isaiah 50: 2...behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea,...**

He made this whole world a sea in Noah's day, then at his word he dried it up. He dried up the Red Sea and led Moses and Israel across then drown Pharaoh and his army in it.

#### **Isaiah 50: 2:...I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinketh, because *there is no water*, and dieth for thirst.**

He turned the Nile River in Egypt and all their waters into blood. He dried up the Jordan so the people went across on dry ground.

#### **Isaiah 50: 3: I clothe the heavens with blackness, and I make sackcloth their covering.**

Exodus 10: 21: And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt. 22 And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days: 23 They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

Isaiah 46:9: Remember the former things of old: for I *am* God, and *there is* none else; I *am* God, and *there is* none like me, 10: Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *the things* that are not *yet* done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: 11: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken *it*, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed *it*, I will also do it.

#### **IV. HE CALLS HIS OWN BECAUSE THE GLORY IN BRINGING HIS REDEEMED TO BELIEVE THE GOSPEL GOES TO THE PROPHET, CHRIST JESUS.**

**Isaiah 50: 4: The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to *him that is weary*:...**

That is spoken of Christ. Christ has the tongue of the learned. Next is what he does to his people who are weary. Christ did waken morning by morning, he was eager to serve the Father when he walked this earth. But Christ also does this next thing for his people through the gospel.

**Isaiah 50: 4:...he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.**

Christ wakens his people morning by morning with his tongue by his gospel, by his tongue of the learned. It is Christ who receives the glory for calling his people through the gospel. Christ wakeneth the ear of his people to hear as the learned through the preaching of the gospel.

**This is very important to get: his glory, his glory now in the ascension glory of our Redeemer is to be Head of his church, that he might fill all in all.** He is King, High Priest and as it says here, Christ is the Prophet, the Preacher, the Shepherd over all his under-shepherds.

Luke 4:18: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor;...to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19: To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

This is the acceptable year of the Lord—the day of grace—the gospel age—“**After that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.**” (1 Cor 1: 21)

Hebrews 1:1: God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Hebrews 2: 3: How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

2 Timothy 2: 2: And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

John 17:20: Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;...

He told his ambassadors, when they drag you before the synagogues, prisons, kings and rulers for my sake: Luke 21: 15: I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.

There now, at the right hand of the Father, in glorified human nature, all power in heaven and earth is given to Christ the Prophet to fill all in all. That is why he said, “Go forth and preach, and lo I be with you always.” He sends his apostles and pastors and teachers and he draws his people to hear. He quickens his own by the Holy Spirit. He ministers to his people thereby. Because it pleased God to do so to stain vain man’s pride!

Ephesians 4: 8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

That is what Christ declared he did in Isaiah 49 when he asked, “Shall the lawful captive be delivered?” And said, “Yes, I the LORD shall do it.” Isaiah chapter 49 tells us how he did it. He is about to speak of it again in our text. He led captivity captive and after he did he gave gifts unto men.

Ephesians 4: 11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, SINCE THE PROPHET HAS Poured OUT HIS SPIRIT ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST, FROM THAT DAY ON, EVERY SINNER SAVED IS SHOWN TO HAVE BEEN SAVED BY HIM SENDING SOMEONE TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THEM. The apostle Paul is the only exception but he was an apostle called directly by Christ. But the Lord even sent Ananias to Paul.

For some reason men always want to talk about their experience of grace. If that is the case with you, we will have to take your experience and lay it beside the book. If it is not found in the book to be the manner in which God saves in these last days then we will have to keep the book and discard your experience. Take all the preachers and the multitudes who say they were called in some other way and lay them down by the book. If their calling does not match the book then we have to throw the experiences of all the preachers and the multitudes away and keep the word of God. Now, this is the day we live in, so I want to know how is God pleased to save his people, don’t you? “After that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.” (1 Cor 1: 21)

Why? “That no flesh should glory in his presence.” The only time Christ’s Presence comes in preaching is in the preaching Christ has sent which gives him all the glory—by that preaching, no flesh glories in his presence. Let’s see that. What does Christ our Prophet do as the gospel is being preached? Peter is preaching and Peter tells what Christ does through the preaching of the gospel.

Acts 3: 18: But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled. 19: Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, WHEN THE TIMES OF REFRESHING shall come FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD; 20: And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: [the time of refreshing, regenerating, washing comes from the presence of the Lord when through the gospel God sends Jesus Christ the Prophet making men repent and be converted and brought to see Christ has blotted out their sins] 21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, [till all his people be called—till we all come unto the fullness of the stature of Christ—till his whole body be called out as we just read in Ephesians 4. Restitution of his elect means we were robbed in sin but Christ shall make full restitution to us by him giving each of his redeemed the riches of his gospel and grace making us complete in him.] which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. [Isaiah being one of those prophets in our text] 22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A PROPHET SHALL THE LORD YOUR GOD RAISE UP, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. 23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear THAT PROPHET, shall be destroyed from among the people. 24 Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of THESE DAYS. 25 Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. 26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, [God having raised Christ up from the dead sent Christ to bless them right then and there as Peter stood lifting up his voice together with the Voice of Christ Jesus, as Christ the Prophet preached Peter] in turning away every one of you from his iniquities. [the iniquities of trying to come to the Father in other ways] 4: 1: And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, 2 Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3: And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide. [these were those who were walking in sparks they had kindled, they believed they were saved another way so they were grieved that Peter taught the resurrected Prophet Jesus Christ and the work he performs through his gospel] 4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

Are you weary of Satan's assaults?—Christ the Prophet knows how to minister to you. Are you weary of slander and backbiting?—Christ the Prophet knows how to minister to you. Are you weary from the death of a loved one?—Christ the Prophet knows how to minister to you. Are you weary from being persecuted by your own family and loved ones?—Christ the Prophet knows how to minister to you. Are you weary from being betrayed by a friend?—Christ the Prophet knows how to minister to you. Are you weary of your sin?—Christ the Prophet bore the sins of his people and put them away, he knows how to minister to you. Are you weary as death approaches?—Christ the Prophet knows how to minister, he has been there too. Christ the Prophet "knows how to speak a word in season to *him that is weary*:" because he has been touched with the feelings of all our weariness.

**V. HAS HE OPENED YOUR EAR THROUGH THIS WORD? NEXT, CHRIST SHOWS US BY EXAMPLE WHAT HE DID WHEN THE LORD GOD OPENED HIS EAR. LET'S HEAR HIM AND FOLLOW HIM.**

**Isaiah 50: 5: The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear,...**Like the willing bond servant—he came down to serve for his people—will you come down at his word and serve for his people?

**Isaiah 50: 5:...and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back...**he was faithful to him that called him. Will you be rebellious? Will you turn away your back?

**Isaiah 50: 6: I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting...**He was sent to bear the cross, to suffer for God to declare God just and the Justifer and to bear the sin of his brethren, to bring all his elect to God. Now, he calls us to take up our cross and follow him, it will mean suffering, but will you suffer with him?

**Isaiah 50: 7: For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. 8 He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who is mine adversary? let him come near to me. 9 Behold, the Lord GOD will help me; who is he that shall condemn me? lo, they all shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up.** Christ trusted the Father to justify him after he had been made sin for his people therefore he was resolute setting his face like a flint. And three days after his death he was justified in the Spirit. He was raised from the dead and all his people were justified in him. NOW, will you trust him that he has justified you? Will you trust that he has put your sin away? That he will protect you as you confess him and bear witness of his name in this earth?

Everything the Father did for Christ as he trusted the Father while he bore the sins of his people and satisfied justice, Christ is now doing for all those he calls to trust him and go forth glorifying his name before men as we spread forth his gospel.

Romans 8: 31: What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

#### **LASTLY, HERE IS CHRIST'S APPLICATION: HE SPEAKS TO TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE.**

To those whose ear he has opened by this gospel, Christ our Prophet says, **Isaiah 50: 10: Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.**

To those who think they have saved themselves, Christ our Prophet says, **Isaiah 50: 11: Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourselves about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow.**

Everyone under the sound of my voice falls into one of those two categories. Those who say they see apart from being called by Christ the Prophet through his gospel will go on in the sparks they have kindled. The Pharisee's said to him one day, "Are we blind also?" He said, "If you would say you were blind you would have no sin, but now you say you see so your sin remains." But those who confess they are blind, in darkness, to whom Christ the Prophet has taught, will hearken to the voice of his servant preaching this gospel now, and trust the name of the Lord and stay on their God.

Now hearken! Trust in the name of the Lord and stay upon your God. I pray that God, Christ the Prophet, give you grace to believe on him.

Amen!