

"SOLILOQUY GRAPHIC"

Isaiah 50

INTRODUCTION:

We have tonight some questions for backsliders and Jehovah pleading with Israel for rejecting Christ.

This is a poem of the 3rd, "Servant Song".

Servant is described as speaking to himself in monologue or soliloquy. He talks of the scorn, his patience, abuse heaped upon him.

In the soliloquy the servant is free from all national limitations. As orelli says, the servant is willing to listen as God speaks and always willing to utter whatever God commands.

Some feel that Chapter 50 is made up of short fragments which collectors regarded as too precious to be lost. Therefore, the subject matter is divided as follows:

Verse 1-3 A rebuke to the Exiles.

Verse 4-9 Account of the servant and his humiliation.

Verse 10-11 Exhortation to weak believers generally, giving encouragement and warning.

There is one other idea worth our consideration. Using the same divisions -- a suggestion has been made that three speakers are to be found in this order:

1. Jehovah Speaks. Verse 1-3. The breach in relationship.
2. Servant Speaks. Verse 4-9. Path he must take for redeeming his people.
3. Holy Spirit Speaks. Verse 10-11. Counsel to those of the day and doom to those of the night.

✓ My outline:

Divide Chapter 50 into 3 Sessions of the soliloquy. (Talk to oneself, think aloud, address and imaginary audience.)

- I. Session One - Verse 1-3.
- II. Session Two - Verse 4-9.
- III. Session Three - Verse 10-11.

I. Session One - Verse 1-3.

Verse 1 - Where is the bill of your Mother's divorcement? Challenge. Zion is the mother, Jews are the children, God the husband or father. Jer. 3:14.

He had been a husband and not put them away.

True - they are now separated from him - from the altar - from the temple.

Who is at fault?

Like husband he had power to put them away.

Matt. 19:8 - Under the law and because of the hardness of their hearts - Moses allowed a man a divorce. Cut off. His wife is found unfaithful, by giving her a bill of divorcement.

Bill - Evidence he had put her away, by her husband. Deut. 24:1.

Such bills are given with ease by heartless men. They have no feeling about a sacred bond.

Some men ought to be put in the position of Adam. When the Lord caught him in sin. Gen. 3:12. He said it was "that woman" whom thou gavest to me. Blamed all the trouble on "that woman" - now he could have run off and looked for another woman, like some of you today, but he was stuck with that woman - there were no others. Be a good thing for some of you, want 3 or 4 wives.

God demands these backsliders in Babylon to produce a bill of divorcement. Show where I cut you off!

You have willfully divorced yourself by your transgressions. Where is the proof that God is to blame? He had been a father to them. Plain - it was their fault they were cast off - Matt. 21:34. Jer. 35:15. 2 Chro. 36:16-17.

Which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you?

Have I sold you at any time? Man's children could be sold to meet legal obligations, debts. Matt. 18:25

The law had no pity on a hard pressed father. Permission under law to settle debt. Exod. 21:7, Neh. 5:5.

Jehovah - Did I sell you because of my poverty?

Did I sell you to become rich?

If I have sold you, Name the creditors.

How can backsliders answer? Why separated from God - who is at fault.

Father, power to sell children as slaves for debts. Not able to pay. I K. 4:1.

Why, were you sold? Give account of your misery.

Don't attribute it to God. Heb. 12:10.

Your own iniquities - specific evil - sold for your transgressions - rebellious children - sin penalty. Basic of all their sorrow - ruin themselves - brought divorce.

Sold to Babylonians for their own profit. Hebrews 12:10.

Verse 12 - When did Jehovah come and look for a welcome?

"When I came".....Prophet looks toward Messiah.

Not - Sinai - descended to give law.

Messiah - no man - no welcome - John 1:11. "He came unto his own and His own received Him not". Cause of sorrow. Their iniquities.

Matt. 21:33-43. Parable of vineyard. Time for fruit. Keeps beat servants, killed, stoned. Sent his son, slew him. (Story).

When I called - None answered.

Not respond or refused to respond. No answer backslider dissatisfied with his condition still refuses to repent. Calls men to a happy life not answer.

Today - Talk by the Bible - Word.

By Ministers - Preachers - Samuel though Elie called him. 2 Cor. 5:18-20

By Events - Providence - Purposes.

By voice of Conscience.

Men neglect to answer or proud men despise the call. Ears - can give attention.
(Room full of people.) Train your ear to hear one conversation - depends upon your will. "If any man hear my voice I will come in and sup with him..."

Is my hand shortened? Burden of this backsliding is not due to a lack of power on God's part. He is able to save unto the uttermost.

You have sold out - are you beyond his redemption point? Beyond the reach of his arm? Is his hand too short to rescue you? Is his blood too weak to save?

Think of your distance from God?

Can not save yourself.

Shortened hand - sign of weakness!

I can still redeem. Have I no power to redeem?

Evidence - Remember: When he pleases he dries up seas. He caused fish to perish (river to blood) - He caused eclipse. Red sea and Jordan.

Exod. 14:21 - Ex. 7:18.

Wilderness into rivers - prosperity.

Verse 3 - Deliverance from Egypt. Ex. 10:21. Luke 21:25. God can assert his power and leave all nature in absolute darkness. Gen. 1:3. He gave light. Total eclipse. Sudden - total darkness.

II. Session Two - Verse 4 - 9.

Soliloquy of the servant - perhaps 700 years before Christ.

Verse 4 - Speaks of His wisdom. Tongue that is taught. Luke 2:46, 47. Even at 12 years old.

John 8:23 - Never man spake like this man.

Trained tongue - well taught tongue - the Father taught him.

Words in Season - Proverbs 25:11 "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver".

Some people have a gift for speaking. "Words in Season".

Tryon Edwards, "Words are both better and worse than thoughts; they express them and add to them, they give them power for good or evil; they start them on an endless flight, for instruction and comfort and blessing, or for injury and sorrow and ruin."

Not just the saying of a word is the need of the hour but saying the right words is the need of every hour.

May be a word of cheer.

May be a word of warning - counsel that is wise.

May be a word of comfort.

Too many know how speak wrong word. People talk about their friends, next door neighbors, never find a good word in Season for friends or foe, weather or beast. Deliver me from such! Exile you in the great swamp of this city. For you are dismal indeed!

(Right words) to him that is weary - Help some one in need, real purpose of right words, no display or show off your knowledge of gossip.

Rudyard Kipling tells of a man - "All the years I have known so and so, I've never known him to say whether he was cold or not, wet or dry, sick or well. But I've never known him to forget a man who was."

Are we using our gift of speech to complain or meet needs of others?

Do we use our language to tell of greatness of Christ?

Account for the stewardship of your speech.

Spurgeon: "That which lies in the well of your thought will come up in the bucket of your speech".

No man talks higher than he thinks!

Read Book of James on this subject.

Ear of the learned to receive instruction: Ez. 3:17. Need to awaken morning by morning - Masters words. For daily instruction.

Verse 5 Servants obedience - attentive - Hath informed me of my duties.

Not rebellious. Willing to do father's will at the cost of suffering.

Heb. 10:5-10.

As a good man understands God's truth he will undertake service for him.

Shrinks not.

Perpetual Service - Ex. 21:6 Boring of the ear. Contrast between the true servant and professed servant. They did not hear, ear not open, rebellious from womb.

Test your own experience. Open ear but your spirit has followed by being rebellious.

Verse 6 - Servants Suffering - Three Things.

First, His back to the smiters.

Gave - He'd not - Sufferings voluntary! Submitting to indignity.

Lev. 14:16. Law of Moses.

John 17:31. Fulfilled prophecies. Roman custom, Those who were crucified were previously scourged. Often the sufferers expired under the severity and torture.

Dr. Geikie: "Jesus was now seized by some of the soldiers standing near, and after being stripped to the waist, was bound in a stooping posture, his hands behind his back to a post, or low pillar, near the tribunal. He was then beaten till the soldiers chose to stop, with knots of rope or plaited leather thongs, armed at the ends with acron-shaped drops of lead, or small sharp pointed bones. In many cases not only was the back of the person scourged - cut open in all directions; even the eyes, the face, and the breast were torn and cut, and the teeth not seldom knocked out.

The judge stood by, to stimulate the sinewy executioners by cries of "Give it to him"! But we may trust that Pilate, though his office required his presence, spared himself this crime.

Under the jury of the countless stripes, the victims, sometimes sank amidst screams, convulsive leaps and distortions, into a senseless heap; sometimes ~~did~~ dying on the spot, sometimes were taken away, an unrecognizable mass of bleeding flesh,

to find deliverance in death, from the inflammation and fever, sickness and shame".

Few N. T. readers appreciate the sufferings of Jesus in the Judgment Hall.

Second, Plucked out his beard

Insulting and extremely painful.

2 Sam. 10:5.

Beard was accounted honourable in the East. Pulled it out like a savage - outrageous - Lam. 3:30.

Matt. 5:39.

Third, Spitting in his face.

Contemptuous.

Matt. 26:67, 27:30.

Job 30:10

Christ underwent all of this suffering. Back - Cheeks - Face.

Verse 7 - Face Like Flint - Courage - Confidence. Dependence upon God the Father.

"Lord will help me". He was helped. Luke 22:43. No one needed any help any more than He did.

Like flint - no wavering in purpose. Resolutely. Luke 9:51; Ezek. 3:8-9.

His confidence - "Steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem".

Luke 4:8. Temptations - Rebuffed Satan.

Scottish Peasant - Dying as a martyr on the scaffold said, "I came here to die for Christ, and if I had as many lives in my hand as I have hairs on my head, I would lay them all down for Christ."

"Not Be Ashamed" - Assurance.

Work for God is work that we should not be ashamed of - not disappointed.

Verse 8 - God will make his innocense known.

All opposition and opposers - Jesus went about his work in this manner. Who will oppose. Who will dispute with Christ. God will justify. Paul - Rom. 8:33.

"Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect?"

Verify Christ by his resurrection.

Not a deceiver, blasphemer.

Acts 3:14; 2:23.

By the Resurrection God acquitted Christ of blasphemy on which he has been condemned and proclaimed his holy, undefiled, Heb. 7:26. Stands with.

Verse 9) - (Who) will contend with or condemn?

Who will come in conflict with him?

Contrast - terrible figure - like a moth - eaten garment - ruined garment.

Part of a man's wealth in the East constituted a change of raiment. This was always liable to the inroads of the moth. Used often in the Scripture as a image. Wax old.

God is sole judge of all men.

Idle for accuser to stand. Contend - condemn. God will help the innocent whom he has acquitted.

III. Session Three - Verse 10-11.

This soliloquy is the voice of the Holy Spirit. Comfort is offered.

(Light and darkness) in this verse - means prosperity and adversity. Remnant of faith pass through the darkness - great tribulation.

Some feel this is addressed to the Exiles - Others to the church.

Not clearly seeing the way, yet no doubt of duty. Every person with doubts is bid to put aside his doubts and trust.

Messiah will be your example. Obey the voice of the servant.

(Christ) cried out in dark -- "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

No light - bright sunshine. You are not wholly without light. Guidance will come.

(Wicked) walk in darkness and end in darkness.

Remedy - let him trust in the Lord. Rest upon the Lord and his covenant with his people. 2 Thess. 1:6-7.

Wait in prayer.

Who - feareth - let him hearken to voice of servant. Who - darkness - let him trust - lean, prop himself up upon God.

Word to Despondent - David "Rest - Joy of My Salvation".

Elijah - Juniper Tree.

Disease - Lowness of Spirit - Depression from a diet or local disturbance.

Physical state has much to do with this.

Trials - mental perplexity of the home.

Advice: Keep on trusting the Lord - Tunnel may be dark - there is an end.

Stay - Not momentary grasp upon the Lord, but lean whole weight - acquaint yourself with him.

Verse 11 - Man made "Sparks" - Church Membership.

Cain equally went to the place of worship as did Able. Form is another spark.

Sinners are warned not to trust in self.

They create a fire and walk in that light. Own righteousness. Offer their own sacrifices - Nadab and Abihu - Conceit.

Trust self.

Make the best of it while it lasts he tells them. Dissappointment will come.

They miss the everlasting light. Lie down in sorrow. Jer. 3:25. James 3:6.

Stirring up strife - sparks - condemned by the fire they create.

Punishment will come in the next world - little tapers - gratification of self in worldly enjoyments.