

"SPIRALING GODWARD"

Friday - Apollo 7 spacecraft <sup>suft</sup> Isaiah 51  
up with 3 men for 11 days in space - Booster engine will 200 ft. per second to speed -  
cost \$600 per day feed the astronauts -

INTRODUCTION:

Speed: Russian Runners are getting faster - Yes - we are using real bullets in the starting gun.  
Something impressive about the upward climb of a man even though it may not be

direct. Yet his progress is up -- like a coil spring -- it reaches up, even though gradual.

There are three calls to listen. As three voices in Chapter 50.

- ✓ V. 1 - Hearken - Word to Israel - Self-Ward.
- ✓ V. 4 - Hearken - Relation to Gentiles - Manward.
- ✓ V. 7 - Hearken - Relation to God - Godward.

The servant seems to be the speaker.

OUTLINE:

- I. Searching The Foundation - V. 1-3.
- II. Security in the Formula - V. 4-8.
- III. Swaping The Cup of Fury - V. 9-23.

I. Searching The Foundation - V. 1-3.

V. 1 - Hearken - Listen to me. God of your Fathers. Who is called upon? Those that follow righteousness. Not too many are there employed. Endeavor to lead a righteous life. Desire - Those that seek will find.

Not a righteousness of their own.

Look to the Rock - Foundation - hole of the pit whence ye were digged.

Not to Adam, but Abraham, the quarry whence their nation was carved or hewn.

Many benefits come in retrospection.

Pious remnant - discouraged - need direction - Where can they find help? Look back - compare the past - call to mind your unpromising beginning.

Appreciation - progression.

What will this look to the foundation do?

Magnify the grace of God - Encourage their faith. They are a part of the common

rock. Family in Ur of the Chaldees - Abraham taken out.

You who are trying to find the path today - sincere in wanting to know the secret of spiritual revelation.

You who think you can find the way alone or do not care will not be interested.

Today some men seek a new spiritual formula for religion. The Prophet surprised those of his day, don't look to the newest speculation, look unto the rock whence ye are hewn!

Plea of the prophet - return to old-time-religion!

Sophisticated intellectuals - looking to science or education. Want something NEW - want a change - and a new religion - Not an old one!

Many want a new religion for the sake of this age - new generation.

Many will follow anything if the label is new.

Do you really want to follow after righteousness? Some try to make this complicated - means: Stand up - right, or to do the right thing!

Ten Commandments tells you the right thing - old fashioned. Hunting for something glamorous, exciting, new.

You try to live the Commandments and you will find something new. Jesus lived by them, interpreted them -- now if you do not want to live the right way then go on hunting for something new.

Jesus said do this - in dealing with, neighbor, friend, or enemy - do you know a better standard.

In dealing with a moral issue - do you know a better example than Jesus?

In meeting problems, of our 20th Century - do you know anything more workable than Christianity?

All you need to do is live it - look back to the rock - a revelation of Christ in God. All honest men seek God. Seek the thing others ignore.

V. 2 - I Called Him. - Blessed him - Increased him.

Abraham was hopeless. Sarah was dead as far as child bearing went - you were raised a nation. How did this come about? Simply - Blessings of God.

I called - before he had any children - He was one and he inherited the land.

"Remnant" exile were many. I called him when he was but one. Ez. 33:24. Emphasis  
is on one - as Joseph saved whole nation - Moses brought whole race from bondage - I  
called, I helped him. Loneliness - alone - and God blessed him.

Consider him - learn from him - faith led him to be obedient.

Faith of Sarah, no small thing - she left home, dwelt in tents. I Pet. 3:6. Wife,  
Mother, Believer.

God had not changed. Still mighty - you consider your position before Abraham's  
God - You are one - just one.

V. 3 - He will comfort Zion. He comforted Abraham. Turn Barrenness into fruitful garden!  
He did this for Abraham.

King Theebaw of Burmah erected a torture house near to his palace that he might  
hear the groans of the sufferers; thus he was an excellent representative of his master  
who is indifferent to the sufferings of the race beloved of God.

Already determined to comfort.

Nebuchadnezzar - left a few in the land to be vinedressors and husbandmen -  
2 K. 25:12.

Much of Judea during the Exile period became a wilderness - music ceases from the  
land.

Church often goes through periods of depression - desert - He will make it fruitful  
- reason to rejoice.

Great blessedness - God's praises will be heard again.

What of Israel today? Land made to be fruitful.

## II. Security in the Formula - V. 4-8.

The man who wants to climb Godward first discovers a sure foundation then he will  
find formula for security.

V. 4 - Harken unto. - Attend to me - Hear of a greater blessing than just restoration of  
the land.

Who does this comfort belong? My people - My Nation - God's people those subject

unto him. Law shall proceed - Gospel be published. Light for others - Gentiles.

V. 5 - Law will bring righteousness and salvation. That they may be justified and saved. No. salvation without righteousness.

His righteousness and salvation shall soon appear. The Prophet thought it would come upon their immediate return to Jerusalem. But there was a time of 500 to 700 years yet to wait.

Arm shall judge.

Isles - Gentiles wait - Acts 11:21; 13:42.

V. 6 - One permanent thing - Salvation.

Heaven - Look up and that seems most sure to endure. Majesty - sure never to change.

Earth - Look, it seems certain and solid. Mountains sure to be everlasting.

But both are transient - Time coming see Heavens rolling away as smoke and earth shrivelling as a moth eaten garment.

Vanish away - torn as garment - This truth strikes conviction in the heart of the sinner.

2 Peter 3:7-10 "But the Heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the Heavens shall pass away with a great noise".

Earth - wax old - garment - die. What could be more worthless than a worn out garment. Mark 8:36-37. "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Heaven and earth - Type of all nature.

Why Look? They will be dissolved - Heavens like smoke driven away. Earth like garment: grew old - wear out.

Salvation -Endures forever. Much that we love and trust passes away. God's righteousness will not be abolished.

"Change and decay in all around I see,

O Thou that changest not, abide with me."

Contrast the fading - short lived glory of all things earthly. All flesh is as grass.

God's purpose cannot fail - can never become weak. Guarantee to God's people.

The only thing that abides is salvation. God has power - be sure righteousness is his purpose to deliver. External things perish - Gift of all life will go on unceasing.

V. 7 - Harken - Attention - Not Seek Righteousness as in V. 1. But those who have found - who know - who have it in their heart.

Don't be afraid - or let them disturb you - men reproach you - remember the nothingness of things and the imperishableness of God's righteousness.

V. 8 - Those who reproach you as a Christian are quickly silenced.

Moth eat them like garment.

Worm eat them like wool or woolen cloth. Two brother's of destruction.

The work and cause we serve cannot be run down by false hoods or reproaches. Their utterances will be absolutely forgotten.

Generation to generation - no obstruction. Unending.

### III. Swaping The Cup Of Fury - V. 9-23.

The foundation had to do with self. The formula with others. Now the last section looks Godward.

The Remnant Responds.

V. 9 - Awake - Arm of the Lord is Christ!

The arm or hand is benumbed, we say it is asleep.

As in ancient days. A prayer or cry for help - in captivity - sad condition.

Awake as in days of long past - that lie afar back.

His arm cut Rahab to pieces. Psa. 89:10 "Thou has broken Rahab (Egypt) in pieces, as one that is slain; Thou hast scattered thine enemies with they strong arm."

Rahab - expression for Egypt - pride - proud one - alluded to the destruction of Pharaoh's host in the Red Sea.

Wounded the terrible (Dragon?) Another symbol of Egyptian power - Great Dragon lies in the midst of the sea. Psa. 74:13.

Gen. 3:14; Rev. 12:7 - Adversaries.

V. 10 - Dried up Sea - Pathway - His arm accomplishes his purpose. Part experience. Ex. 14:21.

V. 11 - His arm brought the redeemed out singing.

Liberty - bird out of cage - delivered - Zion singing. Work of deliverance - joy - garlands of gladness upon their heads .

Homeward bound!

V. 12 - His arm has brought comfort Answer is given to their prayer. They prayed for his arm to operate in power and he answered with his grace.

I will do this - His preachers can not reach the heart - I will do it.

Will comfort those that fear a man - profane man - depravity of heart.

Man that shall die - contrast the arm that stretched forth the heavens. Lord is the maker.

Man is mortal - must die - all men must soon become the lifeless tenants of the tomb.

As grass - failty of our nature - the vault containing the remains of the royal Charlemagne was opened by the Emperor Otho - the body was found, not recline, but seated on a throne, with a crown on his fleshless brow, kingly robes covering his skeleton, a sceptre in his bony hand, a copy of the Gospels on his knee and a pilgrim's pouch fastened to his girdle.

What a humiliating picture of human dignity. Attempting to give appearance of life in midst of horrors of death.

This ghastly skeleton teaches that even Kings must die - ordinary men.

What afraid of a man that is dying - grass.

V. 13 - His arm made the Heavens and earth

Never easy - fear. Afraid of Fury of oppressor - as if he would destroy.

Pharaoh King of Egypt is but noise. King of Babylon is but noise. Fear of man - forgets God. He is above.

Israel is terrified as he sees the oppressor getting ready to assault him.

V. 14 - Captive - Forced by the enemy unto exile - bowed down - chained as a prisoner - bent by fetters.

Not die in pit. Ancient dungeons. Need patience to wait God's time - Bread not fail! What his arm will do for them.

V. 15 - His arm divided the sea REF. Great miracle wrought at the Exodus when the Red Sea was divided.

Waves roared - He stilled the sea and opened the path. Restrain by my rebuke - to make still. I am the one.

V. 16 - I give words of comfort. Put his words in the mouth of the Messiah. Word given to Prophets - To comfort his people. Comforting - I have covered Thee with shadow of my hand - special protection.

Not fall short - accomplish.

Heaven - All things become new.

V. 17 - Awaken - Direct call - It is Thou who must awaken - As out of despair - overwhelmed troubles. Recover your senses.

Cup of Fury - Jerusalem long in deplorable condition - token of displeasure.

Cup of trembling.

Cup with drugs - sediments in the bottom. When city taken by Nebuchadnezzar Temple, Royal Palace, and houses of the nobles burnt. 2 K. 25:9. Wall broken down. 2 K. 25:10.

Bulk of inhabitants carried away captive to Babylon. 2 K. 25:11.

Cup of Fury - Expression of Jeremiah also 25:15. Fall - punishment - caused them to reel.

V. 18 - No relief in slight - no guide - Those that could help failed - unsteady with cup of fury, unhappy condition.

None to guide or take her by the hand!

Awful cup.

V. 19 - Two things: 1. Desolation - Famine.  
2. Destruction - Sword.

Desolation - Wasting within produced by famine.

Destruction - Without produced by sword.

By Whom? Rather who will be sorry for Thee? Jerusalem without friends. (Only God has compassion).

Cup of Fury - rage - it is terrible - can not stand much more.

V. 20 - As a wild bull in a net - no one to comfort - every street corner dull and motionless.

Fainted - weak - lie about streets. In a net - panting, exhausted, incapable of the least resistance.

Cup of fury poured out upon them.

Fretting, raging, struggling, entangled in their condition.

Vexation to their friends - provoking God.

V. 21 - Appearance as Drunkenness.

Reeling - Cup of fury - affliction.

V. 22 - The Lord - Pleading their case.

Have we no sympathy for Israel in their trouble? Chastened child - He takes them with tears on their cheeks.

If you have been under going the cup of fury - awake - exchange it - swap it off - for his tender comfort.

Look Godward - He has taken the cup of trembling - even the dregs.

He is not limited to a particular generation - every man must discover God.  
The living one Ezek. 17:19.

He is present in fellowship with his people.

An old Mariner's chart of the east coast of North America and adjacent waters, drawn by an unknown cartographer in 1525, and now in the British Museum, has some interesting and fearful directions on it. The map maker wrote across great areas of the unexplored land and sea the following inscriptions: "Here be giants", "Here be fiery scorpions", "Here be dragons".

At some time in its career the chart fell into the hands of the scientist, Sir John Franklin. He scratched across the map "Here is God". (Christian Leader).

Remember this when you have to taste the cup of fury - "Here is God". This changes the whole chart. Leave your troubles all behind.

V. 23 - Cup will be turned over to the enemies. Keep looking Godward. Wrath will turn - God's people abused.

Love of God will come - He will be kindly disposed toward the righteous. Jer. 31:3.  
"The Lord hath appeared of old unto me saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love..."

Spurgeon (Preacher) was talking to a farmer who had on his barn a weather vane on the arrow of which was inscribed, "God is love". He said to the farmer: What do you mean by that? Do you think God's love is changeable - that it veers about as the arrow turns in the wind?"

The farmer answered, "Oh no! I mean that whichever way the wind blows, God is still love." (Christian Digest)

Cup of Fury - cup of suffering, affliction, God still loves you - keep your faith spiraling Godward.