

Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.

Proverbs 13:12

Examples of delayed hope?

What do people do when hope is delayed?

What if the delay is our fault?

**Disappointment, delay, discouragement, ...
How about you? Or someone you love?
How do we live well in a world that isn't?**

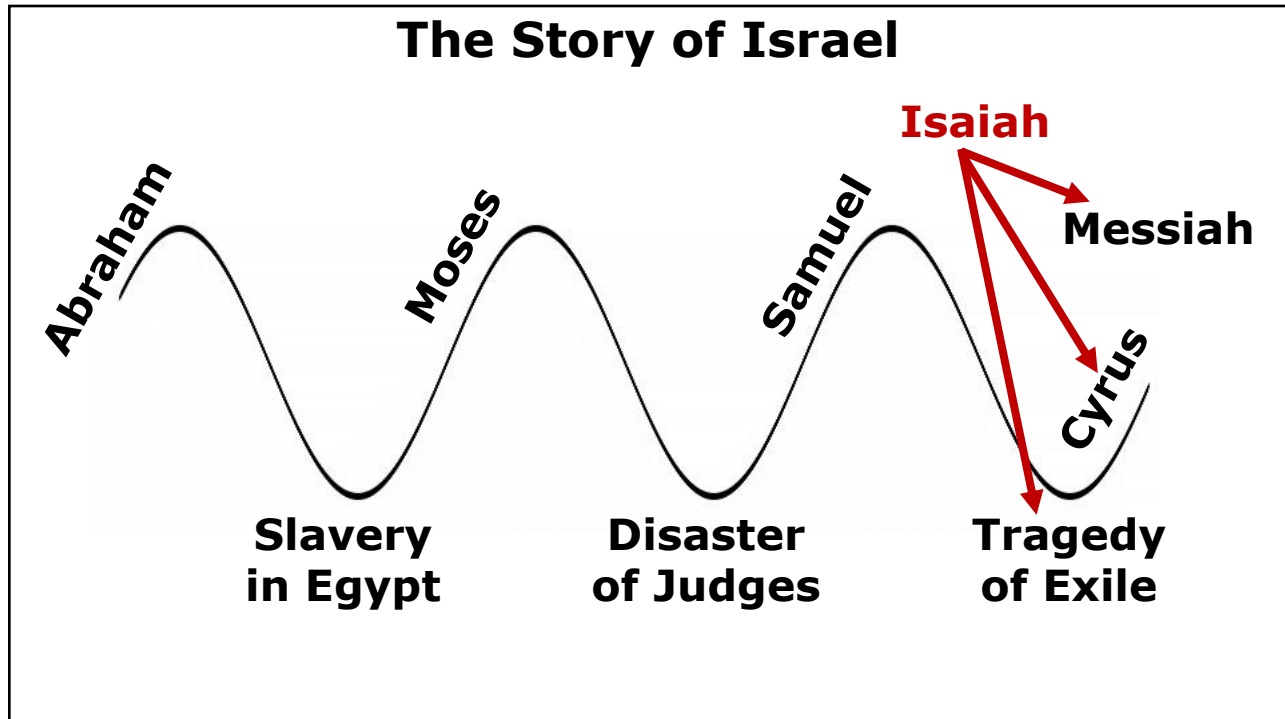
1

Beyond Amazing
Isaiah 50:10-51:8
ref.ly/Is50-51;niv



The complex block contains a QR code on the left side. To its right is a cartoon illustration of a person wearing a blue jacket and red shoes, standing in a dark, rocky cave. The person is holding a lit torch, which illuminates their face and the surrounding rocks. To the right of the cave is another cartoon illustration of a bright, sunny mountain landscape. It features a winding river, green grass, and several evergreen trees. The sky is blue with white clouds and a bright sun. In the foreground of both illustrations, there are several grey rocks and some small, bare branches.

2



3

Isaiah 50:10-11

¹⁰ Who among you fears the LORD
and obeys the word of his servant?

Let the one who walks in the dark,
who has no light,

2 options when in darkness:
trust in the name of the LORD • Trust the LORD
and rely on their God. • Make our own fires

¹¹ But now, all you who light fires
and **provide yourselves with flaming torches**,
go, walk in the light of your fires
and of the torches you have set ablaze.

This is what you shall receive from my hand:

You will **lie down in torment.**

4

Isaiah 51:1-3

**take to heart and obey,
not just hear**

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness
and who **seek the LORD** **Determination to be
where the LORD is, head, heart, and hands**

Look to the rock from which you were cut
and to the quarry from which you were hewn;

² look to Abraham, your father,
and to Sarah, who gave you birth.

When I called him **he was only one man**,
and I **blessed him** and **made him many**.

→

5

³ The LORD will surely comfort Zion
and will look with compassion on all her ruins;
he will make her deserts like **Eden**
her wastelands like **the garden of the LORD**
Joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the sound of **singing**.

**God's rescuing love
turns grief to far greater joy**

6

Isaiah 51:4-6

⁴ "Listen to me, my people;
hear me, my nation:

Instruction will go out from me;
my justice will become a light to the **nations**.

⁵ My righteousness draws near speedily,
my salvation is on the way,
and **my arm** will bring justice to the **nations**.

The **islands** will look to me
and wait in hope for **my arm** →

A divine, personal action (Messiah)

7

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
look at the earth beneath;
the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment
and its inhabitants die like flies.

But my salvation **will last forever**,
my righteousness **will never fail**.

**God's rescuing love
will permanently flood space and time**

8

Isaiah 51:7-8

⁷ "Hear me, you who know what is right,
you people who have taken my instruction to heart:
Do not fear the **reproach of mere mortals**
or be terrified by **their insults**.

⁸ For the moth will eat them up like a garment;
the worm will devour them like wool.
But my righteousness **will last forever**
my salvation **through all generations.**"

**God's rescuing love is unstoppable,
no matter who or what opposes it**

9

The Big Idea

God's rescuing love for people in trouble
is better than amazing!

**Turns grief to greater joy
Will flood time and space
Is unstoppable**

But it takes faith
to seek it, to see it, and to experience it

10

When walking in the dark...

"All you who light fires and **provide yourselves with flaming torches**, go, walk in the light of your fires..."

This is what you shall receive from my hand: You will lie down **in torment.**"

In our trouble, we so often live by "the light of our fires"

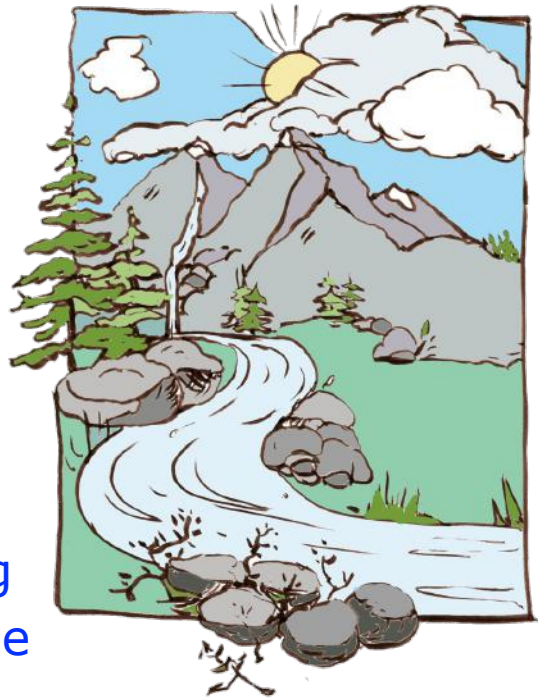
- Abraham: a child by Hagar
- Us...



11

Seek God's light, not ours

- He'll make the wilderness like the garden of Eden
- Nothing and no one can stop His rescue for people in trouble who call to Him
- We will be astounded by His glory and goodness
- **Everlasting and abounding joy will define God's people**



12

The Big Idea

God's rescuing love for people in trouble
is better than amazing!

But it takes faith
to seek it, to see it, and to experience it

13

Application

When in darkness, trust God's love,
rather than turning to lesser things

- Refuse anything other than God's plan

14

Application

When in darkness, trust God's love,
rather than turning to lesser things

**When in darkness, trust God's love,
rather than accepting lesser things**

- The complacent expect little from God
- **Faith: Expect God to do exactly as He has promised
In His timing, and in His way**

15

Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel,
"My way is hidden from the Lord;
my cause is disregarded by my God"?
Do you not know? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.
He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.
Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;

16

but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.

**They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.**

Isaiah 40:27-31

17

The Big Idea

God's rescuing love for people in trouble
is better than amazing!

But it takes faith
to seek it, to see it, and to experience it

18

"Write down the revelation
 and make it plain on tablets
 so that a herald may run with it.
 For the revelation awaits an appointed time;
 it speaks of the end
 and will not prove false.
**Though it linger, wait for it;
 it will certainly come
 and will not delay.**

Habakkuk 2:2-3

19

When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly."

Jesus said to him, "Shall I come and heal him?"

The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But **just say the word**, and my servant will be healed...."

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith." ... Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would." And **his servant was healed at that moment.**

Matthew 8:5-8, 10, 13

20

When you walk in the dark and have no light,
trust in the name of the LORD and rely on God.

For all who wait on the LORD Jesus:
he will make your deserts like Eden,
your wastelands like the garden of the Lord.
Joy and gladness will be found in you,
thanksgiving and the sound of singing.

from Isaiah 50:10 and 51:3