

Beyond Amazing

Isaiah 50:10-51:8



Hope Deferred

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?



The Story of Israel

Isaiah 50:10-51:8

50:10-11: 2 options when in darkness

Trust the LORD

Make our own fires

51:1-3: **God's rescuing love** turns grief to far greater joy

Listen: take to heart and obey, not just hear

Seek the LORD: Determination to be where the LORD is, head, heart, and hands

51:4-6: **God's rescuing love** will permanently flood space and time

My arm: A divine, personal action (Messiah)

51:7-8: **God's rescuing love** is unstoppable, no matter who or what opposes it



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

When walking in the dark...

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

Abraham: a child by Hagar

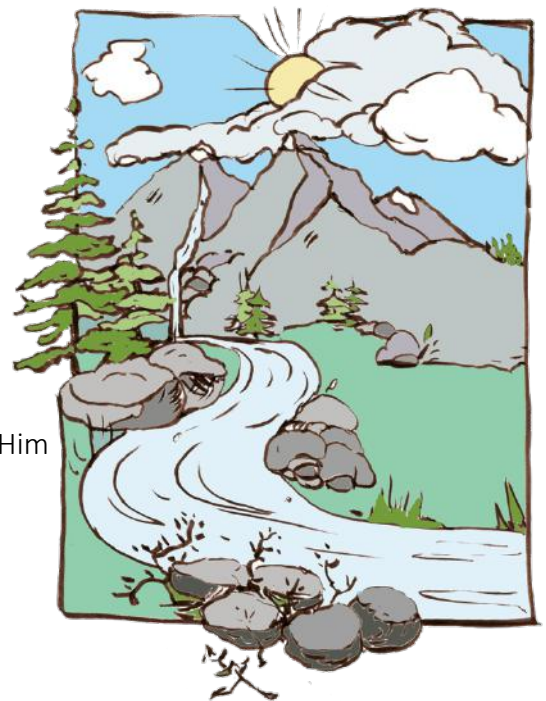
Seek God's light, not ours

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



Application

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

Refuse anything other than God's plan

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

“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*

“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*

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....” *Matthew 8:5-8, 10, 13*

When you walk in the dark and have no light...

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

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. Where have you experienced deferred or delayed hope? Or where have you give up hope? How has it affected you?
2. What do you tend to do when your hope is deferred or delayed?
3. What are examples of living by the light of our own fires, whether choosing paths that are less than God’s, or giving up hope entirely?
4. What helps you to wait on God? Who helps you to wait on God? What steps can you take this week to grow in faith and to wait on Him?
5. Who around you is finding it hard to wait on God? How can you come alongside to support and strengthen them?

Conversation Starters

An ancient proverb says, “Hope deferred makes the heart sick.” Have you seen or experienced this?

What gives you hope when things seem hopeless?