CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Isaiah Chapter 51 — The Lord’s Comfort and Everlasting Salvation

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Isaiah Chapter 51 is a chapter of:

Comfort.

Remembrance.

Righteousness.

Salvation.

Courage.

Deliverance.

Restoration.

The chapter repeatedly calls God’s people to:

Listen.

Look.

Remember.

Awake.

Trust.

Israel has passed through:

Judgment.

Exile.

Fear.

Oppression.

Desolation.

Yet God now directs their attention away from:

Their present weakness.

Toward:

His past faithfulness.

His eternal righteousness.

His everlasting salvation.

His covenant promises.

His sovereign power.

The chapter begins:

> **“Listen to Me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord.”**

These are people who:

Want God.

Seek righteousness.

Long for restoration.

Yet they may be tempted to look at their smallness and conclude:

Nothing great can happen again.

God tells them:

Look backward.

Look to:

Abraham.

Look to:

Sarah.

Abraham began as:

One man.

Yet God blessed him and made him:

Many.

The lesson is clear.

God does not need:

Large beginnings.

He can multiply:

What appears small.

He can restore:

What appears barren.

He can make Zion’s wilderness:

Like Eden.

Then God moves from:

Abraham.

To:

The nations.

His instruction will go out.

His justice will become:

Light.

His righteousness draws:

Near.

His salvation is:

Coming.

Then comes one of the great contrasts in Isaiah.

The heavens will:

Vanish.

The earth will:

Wear out.

People will:

Die.

But:

“My salvation will last forever.”

Everything visible appears:

Permanent.

Yet is temporary.

God’s salvation appears:

Invisible.

Yet is eternal.

Then God addresses:

Fear.

His people fear:

Human reproach.

Human insults.

Oppressors.

God says:

Do not fear:

Mortals.

Why?

Because humans are:

Temporary.

Like garments eaten by:

Moths.

But God’s righteousness lasts:

Forever.

The people then cry:

“Awake, awake, arm of the Lord.”

They remember:

Egypt.

The sea.

The dragon.

The Exodus.

They are essentially praying:

God, do again what You did before.

Then God answers in effect:

I have not been:

Asleep.

The deeper problem is that His people have:

Forgotten.

Verse 12 says:

“I, even I, am He who comforts you.”

Then the Lord asks:

Why are you afraid of man?

Why have you forgotten:

Your Maker?

The fear of the oppressor grows when the memory of:

God.

Shrinks.

The chapter then turns toward:

Jerusalem.

Jerusalem has drunk:

The cup of divine wrath.

The city staggers under:

Judgment.

Her children are:

Faint.

Her leaders are:

Helpless.

Her suffering is:

Severe.

But God announces:

“I have taken out of your hand the cup that made you stagger.”

Judgment will not remain:

Forever.

The cup is removed.

God will:

Defend His people.

The chapter therefore moves from:

Remembering Abraham.

To:

Everlasting salvation.

To:

Freedom from fear.

To:

A new Exodus.

To:

Divine comfort.

To:

The removal of wrath.

The central truth of Isaiah 51 is:

The Lord calls His people to remember His faithfulness to Abraham, trust His everlasting salvation, refuse the fear of temporary human oppressors, remember His mighty acts of deliverance, receive His personal comfort, and believe that the same God who allowed Jerusalem to drink the cup of judgment can remove that cup and restore His afflicted people.

I. LOOK TO THE ROCK FROM WHICH YOU WERE CUT

Isaiah 51:1 — Remember Your Spiritual Origins

> **“Listen to Me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord: Look to the rock from which you were cut, and to the quarry from which you were dug.”**

God speaks to people who:

Pursue righteousness.

Seek Him.

Yet He tells them:

Look back.

Remember:

Where you came from.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 32:4

The Lord is called the Rock whose work is perfect and whose ways are just and faithful.

1 Corinthians 10:4

Paul uses rock imagery in connection with Christ and God’s sustaining provision for His people.

Genesis 15:5

God took Abraham outside, showed him the stars, and promised descendants too numerous to count.

Spiritual Principle

Faith gains strength by remembering:

God’s beginnings.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When the future looks too small, remember what God has already built from almost nothing.

II. LOOK TO ABRAHAM AND SARAH

Isaiah 51:2 — One Man Became Many

> **“Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who gave you birth. When I called him, he was only one man, but I blessed him and made him many.”**

Abraham was:

One.

Sarah was:

Barren.

Yet God created:

A nation.

Cross References

Genesis 12:1

God called Abraham to leave his country and go where God would lead him.

Genesis 17:5

God changed Abram’s name to Abraham because he would become the father of many nations.

Hebrews 11:8

Abraham obeyed God’s call by faith even though he did not know the final destination.

Spiritual Principle

God specializes in:

Multiplying small beginnings.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never confuse smallness with impossibility when God is the One giving the promise.

III. ONE MAN, MANY DESCENDANTS

The phrase:

> **“Only one man.”**

Emphasizes:

Human limitation.

Then:

> **“I blessed him and made him many.”**

Emphasizes:

Divine power.

Spiritual Principle

God does not need:

Large numbers.

To begin:

Large works.

IV. ZION’S DESERT WILL BECOME EDEN

Isaiah 51:3 — Comfort for the Ruins

> **“For the Lord will comfort Zion; He will comfort 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.”**

Notice:

All her ruins.

God sees:

Every broken place.

And speaks:

Comfort.

Desert becomes:

Eden.

Wasteland becomes:

Garden.

Silence becomes:

Singing.

Cross References

Isaiah 35:1

The wilderness and desert are promised joy and blossoming under God’s restoration.

Ezekiel 36:35

Ruined land is compared to the garden of Eden when God restores His people.

Isaiah 40:1

God commands comfort for His covenant people after judgment.

Spiritual Principle

God does not merely:

Repair.

He can:

Transform.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God who planted Eden can make a garden out of a place grief called permanently barren.

V. JOY RETURNS TO THE RUINS

God does not say:

There were never ruins.

He says:

I will comfort:

Them.

Spiritual Principle

Restoration does not require:

Pretending the devastation never happened.

VI. LISTEN TO GOD’S TEACHING

Isaiah 51:4 — Justice as Light to the Nations

> **“Listen to Me, My people; hear Me, My nation. My teaching will go out from Me; My justice will become a light to the nations.”**

God’s teaching moves:

Outward.

His justice becomes:

Light.

The purpose reaches:

Nations.

Cross References

Isaiah 2:3

The nations come to learn the Lord’s ways, and God’s instruction goes out from Zion.

Micah 4:2

Many peoples seek God’s teaching so they may walk in His paths.

Isaiah 42:4

The Servant establishes justice and distant lands wait for His instruction.

Spiritual Principle

God’s truth was never intended to remain:

Hidden.

VII. GOD’S RIGHTEOUSNESS DRAWS NEAR

Isaiah 51:5 — Salvation Is on the Way

> **“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.”**

Three great movements:

Righteousness:

Near.

Salvation:

Coming.

Justice:

Extending.

Cross References

Isaiah 46:13

God previously said He was bringing righteousness near and salvation would not delay.

Isaiah 42:4

The nations and coastlands wait for the Servant’s justice and teaching.

Romans 1:16

The gospel is God’s power for salvation to everyone who believes.

Spiritual Principle

God’s salvation moves:

Toward people.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When you feel far from righteousness, remember that grace announces righteousness drawing near.

VIII. THE NATIONS WAIT FOR GOD’S ARM

The arm represents:

Power.

Action.

Deliverance.

Spiritual Principle

Hope belongs in:

God’s strength.

Not:

Human power.

IX. HEAVENS AND EARTH WILL PASS

Isaiah 51:6 — Salvation Will Not

> **“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 will die like flies. But My salvation will last forever, and My righteousness will never fail.”**

Everything visible is:

Temporary.

God’s salvation is:

Permanent.

Cross References

Matthew 24:35

Jesus says heaven and earth will pass away, but His words will not pass away.

2 Peter 3:10

Peter describes the present created order undergoing dramatic final judgment and transformation.

Psalm 102:25

The heavens and earth are God’s works and can wear out, while God remains.

Spiritual Principle

Do not build eternal confidence on:

Temporary creation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The most permanent-looking thing you can see is less permanent than the salvation you cannot see.

X. GOD’S RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL NEVER FAIL

Human righteousness:

Fails.

Governments:

Fail.

Systems:

Fail.

God’s righteousness:

Never.

Spiritual Principle

Eternal security rests in:

God’s character.

XI. DO NOT FEAR HUMAN REPROACH

Isaiah 51:7 — God’s Law in the Heart

> **“Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, you people who have My law in your hearts: Do not fear the reproach of mere mortals, or be terrified by their insults.”**

God’s people may experience:

Mocking.

Criticism.

Reproach.

Insults.

But God says:

Do not fear.

Cross References

Matthew 5:11

Jesus calls His followers blessed when people insult and persecute them falsely because of Him.

1 Peter 3:14

Believers are told not to fear threats when suffering for righteousness.

Psalm 37:31

The law of God in the heart produces stability and direction.

Spiritual Principle

Human opinion should not outweigh:

Divine truth.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

If God’s law is in your heart, do not let another person’s insult become lord over your mind.

XII. PEOPLE ARE TEMPORARY

Isaiah 51:8 — Moth-Eaten Garments

> **“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.”**

Human opposition:

Temporary.

Divine salvation:

Generational.

Cross References

Matthew 6:19

Jesus warns that earthly treasures are vulnerable to moth, decay, and loss.

Isaiah 50:9

The Servant had already said His accusers would wear out like garments eaten by moths.

Psalm 119:89

God’s Word stands firmly established forever.

Spiritual Principle

Do not fear temporary people more than:

The eternal God.

XIII. THE PEOPLE CRY: “AWAKE, ARM OF THE LORD”

Isaiah 51:9 — Remembering Ancient Deliverance

> **“Awake, awake, arm of the Lord, clothe Yourself with strength! Awake, as in days gone by, as in generations of old. Was it not You who cut Rahab to pieces, who pierced the dragon?”**

The people appeal to:

God’s past victories.

“Rahab” here functions as poetic imagery connected with:

Egypt.

Proud opposition.

Chaotic power.

The dragon imagery describes:

A defeated enemy.

Cross References

Isaiah 52:1

The repeated cry “Awake, awake” soon shifts toward Zion herself, showing that God’s people also must rise in response to divine action.

Psalm 89:10

God is praised for crushing Rahab and scattering His enemies with His powerful arm.

Exodus 15:6

God’s right hand is praised for its majestic power over Egypt.

Spiritual Principle

Past deliverance gives language for:

Present prayer.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When you do not know how to pray about tomorrow, remember what God did yesterday.

XIV. RAHAB AND THE DRAGON

This language should not be reduced carelessly to:

Literal mythology.

Isaiah uses poetic imagery for:

Proud hostile power.

Especially:

Egypt.

Spiritual Principle

God’s victory over oppressive power is:

Complete.

XV. GOD MADE A ROAD THROUGH THE SEA

Isaiah 51:10 — A New Exodus Hope

> **“Was it not You who dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep, who made a road in the depths of the sea so that the redeemed might cross over?”**

The Red Sea becomes:

Evidence.

The sea did not merely:

Disappear.

It became:

A road.

Cross References

Exodus 14:21

God parted the sea so Israel crossed through on dry ground.

Psalm 106:9

God rebuked the Red Sea, dried it, and led His people through the depths.

Isaiah 43:16

God identifies Himself as the One who made a path through the mighty waters.

Spiritual Principle

God can turn:

The barrier.

Into:

The road.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The thing standing between you and freedom may become the very place where God displays His power.

XVI. THE REDEEMED WILL RETURN WITH SINGING

Isaiah 51:11 — Sorrow Will Flee

> **“Those the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.”**

What a reversal.

Exile:

Return.

Weeping:

Singing.

Sorrow:

Joy.

Sighing:

Gone.

Cross References

Isaiah 35:10

The same promise appears earlier: the redeemed return to Zion with everlasting joy.

Revelation 21:4

In final restoration, God wipes away tears and removes death, mourning, crying, and pain.

Psalm 126:5

Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.

Spiritual Principle

Sorrow is:

Real.

But for the redeemed:

Not eternal.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sorrow may travel with you for a season, but it does not have permission to cross every border into eternity.

XVII. JOY WILL OVERTAKE THEM

Usually we think of:

Trouble.

Overtaking.

Here:

Joy.

Spiritual Principle

God’s restoration can pursue His people with:

Gladness.

XVIII. GOD HIMSELF COMFORTS

Isaiah 51:12 — Why Fear Grass-Like Mortals?

> **“I, even I, am He who comforts you. Who are you that you fear mere mortals, human beings who are but grass,”**

God says:

I comfort.

Then asks:

Why fear:

Humans?

Cross References

2 Corinthians 1:3

God is praised as the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.

Psalm 103:15

Human life is compared to grass that flourishes briefly and then passes.

Isaiah 40:6

All flesh is like grass and human glory like a fading flower.

Spiritual Principle

Fear becomes distorted when:

Temporary humans appear greater than the eternal God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

If the One comforting you is eternal, do not let the one threatening you become larger in your mind than God.

XIX. FEAR OF MAN AND FORGETFULNESS OF GOD

Isaiah 51:13 — “You Forget the Lord Your Maker”

> **“That you forget the Lord your Maker, who stretches out the heavens and lays the foundations of the earth, that you live in constant terror every day because of the wrath of the oppressor, who is bent on destruction? But where is the wrath of the oppressor?”**

This verse connects:

Fear.

With:

Forgetfulness.

They feared:

Oppressor.

Because they forgot:

Maker.

Cross References

Psalm 100:3

God’s people are reminded that the Lord made them and they belong to Him.

Psalm 118:6

Because the Lord is with him, the psalmist refuses to fear what people can do.

Isaiah 40:22

God sits above the earth and stretches out the heavens, revealing His incomparable greatness.

Spiritual Principle

Fear of man increases as awareness of God:

Decreases.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The problem is not always that the enemy became bigger.

Sometimes God became smaller in our thoughts.

XX. CONSTANT TERROR

Fear can become:

Daily.

Habitual.

Controlling.

Spiritual Principle

God does not call His people to live under:

Permanent psychological rule by the oppressor.

XXI. “WHERE IS THE WRATH OF THE OPPRESSOR?”

The oppressor looked:

Permanent.

God asks:

Where is he?

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Today’s terror may become tomorrow’s question:

“Where did it go?”

XXII. THE PRISONER WILL BE RELEASED

Isaiah 51:14 — Freedom and Provision

> **“The cowering prisoners will soon be set free; they will not die in their dungeon, nor will they lack bread.”**

God promises:

Release.

Life.

Bread.

Cross References

Isaiah 61:1

The Spirit-anointed mission includes proclaiming liberty to captives.

Zechariah 9:11

God promises to free prisoners from a waterless pit because of covenant faithfulness.

Psalm 102:20

God hears the groaning of prisoners and acts to release those condemned to death.

Spiritual Principle

God sees people:

In dungeons.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A prison may restrict your movement without restricting God’s ability to find you.

XXIII. THE GOD WHO STIRS THE SEA

Isaiah 51:15 — Lord Almighty

> **“For I am the Lord your God, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—the Lord Almighty is His name.”**

Why can He:

Free prisoners?

Because He is:

Lord.

God.

Commander of:

The sea.

Cross References

Job 26:12

God displays power over the sea and crushes proud forces through His wisdom.

Jeremiah 31:35

The Lord identifies Himself as the One who established the sun, moon, stars, and roaring sea.

Psalm 89:9

God rules the raging sea and stills its waves.

Spiritual Principle

The God controlling oceans can handle:

Oppressors.

XXIV. GOD PUTS HIS WORDS IN THE MOUTH

Isaiah 51:16 — Covered by God’s Hand

> **“I have put My words in your mouth and covered you with the shadow of My hand—I who set the heavens in place, who laid the foundations of the earth, and who say to Zion, ‘You are My people.’”**

Three great gifts:

Word.

Protection.

Identity.

Cross References

Jeremiah 1:9

God touches Jeremiah’s mouth and puts His words there.

Isaiah 49:2

The Servant was hidden in the shadow of God’s hand and prepared for His mission.

Hosea 2:23

God promises restored covenant identity, saying to those once rejected:

You are My people.

Spiritual Principle

God gives His people:

A message.

A covering.

A name.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God who formed the heavens can place His Word in your mouth and still keep you beneath His hand.

XXV. “YOU ARE MY PEOPLE”

After:

Judgment.

Exile.

Fear.

Still:

My people.

Spiritual Principle

Discipline does not erase:

Covenant identity.

XXVI. JERUSALEM MUST AWAKE

Isaiah 51:17 — The Cup of Wrath

> **“Awake, awake! Rise up, Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the Lord the cup of His wrath. You who have drained to its dregs the goblet that makes people stagger.”**

Earlier:

The people said:

Awake, arm of the Lord.

Now:

Jerusalem is told:

Awake.

This is significant.

God is not:

Asleep.

His people must rise.

Cross References

Jeremiah 25:15

Jeremiah receives the imagery of the cup of God’s wrath poured out upon nations.

Revelation 14:10

The cup of divine wrath appears again in final judgment imagery.

Psalm 75:8

The wicked are pictured drinking from the cup of God’s judgment.

Spiritual Principle

God’s people cannot remain spiritually prostrate when God announces:

Restoration.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sometimes we pray, “God, wake up,” while God answers, “My child, it is time for you to rise.”

XXVII. THE CUP CAME FROM THE LORD’S HAND

This confirms:

Judgment.

Not accident.

Spiritual Principle

Israel’s exile was:

Discipline.

XXVIII. THE CUP MADE JERUSALEM STAGGER

Judgment affected:

Strength.

Direction.

Stability.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sin can produce consequences that leave entire communities reeling.

XXIX. NO CHILD COULD GUIDE HER

Isaiah 51:18 — Jerusalem Left Helpless

> **“Among all the children she bore there was none to guide her; among all the children she reared there was none to take her by the hand.”**

Jerusalem needs:

Guidance.

But no human child can:

Provide it.

Cross References

Lamentations 1:2

Jerusalem is pictured weeping with no dependable comforter among former friends.

Lamentations 1:16

The city mourns because the comforter who could restore life seems distant.

Jeremiah 30:14

Former allies fail to help during judgment.

Spiritual Principle

Human help sometimes reaches:

Its limit.

XXX. DOUBLE CALAMITY

Isaiah 51:19 — Ruin, Destruction, Famine, Sword

> **“These double calamities have come upon you—ruin and destruction, famine and sword—and who can console you?”**

The devastation is:

Comprehensive.

External:

Ruin.

Destruction.

Material:

Famine.

Military:

Sword.

Cross References

Lamentations 2:11

Jeremiah weeps over the devastation of Jerusalem and the suffering of its people.

Revelation 6:8

Sword, famine, death, and destruction appear together in judgment imagery.

Ezekiel 14:21

God describes severe judgments including sword, famine, wild beasts, and plague.

Spiritual Principle

There are wounds:

Too deep.

For merely human comfort.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When human consolation reaches its end, divine comfort becomes more precious.

XXXI. JERUSALEM’S CHILDREN FAINT

Isaiah 51:20 — Trapped and Overwhelmed

> **“Your children have fainted; they lie at every street corner, like antelopes caught in a net. They are filled with the wrath of the Lord, with the rebuke of your God.”**

The imagery is:

Helpless.

Caught.

Exhausted.

Cross References

Lamentations 2:19

Children faint from hunger in Jerusalem’s streets during siege and devastation.

Nahum 3:10

The horrors of conquest include severe suffering among the vulnerable.

Lamentations 2:21

Young and old lie fallen under devastating judgment.

Spiritual Principle

Divine judgment is:

Serious.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never make God’s wrath so soft that sin appears harmless.

XXXII. AFFLICTED, BUT NOT DRUNK WITH WINE

Isaiah 51:21 — Staggering from Judgment

> **“Therefore hear this, you afflicted one, made drunk, but not with wine.”**

Jerusalem staggers:

Not because of alcohol.

Because of:

Suffering.

Judgment.

Affliction.

Cross References

Isaiah 29:9

Isaiah uses drunkenness imagery for spiritual confusion and staggering not caused by wine.

Isaiah 28:7

The effects of actual and figurative drunkenness illustrate impaired judgment.

Isaiah 63:6

Judgment imagery again uses the metaphor of intoxication and staggering.

Spiritual Principle

Pain can make life feel:

Disoriented.

XXXIII. GOD DEFENDS HIS PEOPLE

Isaiah 51:22 — The Cup Is Removed

> **“This is what your Sovereign Lord says, your God, who defends His people: ‘See, I have taken out of your hand the cup that made you stagger; from that cup, the goblet of My wrath, you will never drink again.’”**

What a reversal.

Verse 17:

Drink.

Verse 22:

Cup removed.

God identifies Himself as:

Sovereign Lord.

Your God.

Defender.

Cross References

Jeremiah 25:17

The cup of wrath is administered under God’s sovereign judgment.

Jeremiah 25:28

The nations cannot simply refuse the cup God assigns in judgment.

Psalm 60:3

God’s people speak of drinking staggering wine in a season of judgment.

Spiritual Principle

The God who disciplines has authority to say:

Enough.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never assume the cup of discipline must remain in your hand forever when God has power to remove it.

XXXIV. GOD IS BOTH JUDGE AND DEFENDER

This is essential.

The same God who gave:

The cup.

Now takes it:

Away.

Spiritual Principle

Divine discipline and divine compassion are not:

Contradictions.

XXXV. “YOU WILL NEVER DRINK AGAIN”

In context this is a strong promise concerning:

The specific judgment being addressed.

It should not be turned into a claim that Israel would never again face any historical discipline whatsoever.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Read promises as strongly as the text gives them, but not more broadly than the context allows.

XXXVI. THE CUP PASSES TO THE TORMENTORS

Isaiah 51:23 — Justice Reverses the Oppression

> **“I will put it into the hands of your tormentors, who said to you, ‘Fall prostrate that we may walk on you.’ And you made your back like the ground, like a street to be walked on.”**

The oppressors humiliated:

Zion.

They walked upon:

Her.

But oppression will not:

Last forever.

Cross References

Zechariah 12:2

Jerusalem becomes a cup connected with judgment upon surrounding hostile nations.

Obadiah 1:15

The Day of the Lord brings a principle of just recompense: what the nations have done returns upon them.

Lamentations 3:30

The afflicted one bears humiliation and abuse during suffering.

Spiritual Principle

God sees:

Humiliation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The person being walked on may look powerless, but the Judge is still watching the street.

XXXVII. WHAT ISAIAH 51 TEACHES ABOUT REMEMBRANCE

Look to:

The rock.

Abraham.

Sarah.

The Exodus.

Spiritual Principle

Memory can become:

Fuel for faith.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When present circumstances argue against hope, answer them with remembered evidence of God’s faithfulness.

XXXVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 51 TEACHES ABOUT SMALL BEGINNINGS

One man.

Barren woman.

Large nation.

Spiritual Principle

God can multiply:

What appears insignificant.

XXXIX. WHAT ISAIAH 51 TEACHES ABOUT RESTORATION

Desert:

Eden.

Wasteland:

Garden.

Ruins:

Comforted.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God’s restoration does not merely bring you back to survival; sometimes He turns wasteland into garden.

XL. WHAT ISAIAH 51 TEACHES ABOUT SALVATION

Salvation is:

Near.

Eternal.

Generational.

Spiritual Principle

God’s salvation is more durable than:

Creation.

XLI. WHAT ISAIAH 51 TEACHES ABOUT HUMAN FEAR

Mortals:

Grass.

Garments.

Moth-eaten.

Temporary.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not give temporary people permanent control over your heart.

XLII. WHAT ISAIAH 51 TEACHES ABOUT GOD’S ARM

The arm:

Defeats Egypt.

Opens the sea.

Brings justice.

Saves.

Spiritual Principle

God’s arm symbolizes:

Active saving power.

XLIII. WHAT ISAIAH 51 TEACHES ABOUT COMFORT

God says:

> **“I, even I, am He who comforts you.”**

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The greatest comfort is not an explanation from God but God Himself.

XLIV. WHAT ISAIAH 51 TEACHES ABOUT FEAR AND MEMORY

They forgot:

Maker.

Then feared:

Man.

Spiritual Principle

Fear often grows in the soil of:

Spiritual forgetfulness.

XLV. WHAT ISAIAH 51 TEACHES ABOUT PRISONERS

They cower.

Yet:

Will be freed.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A frightened prisoner can still belong to a coming deliverance.

XLVI. WHAT ISAIAH 51 TEACHES ABOUT GOD’S WORD

He places:

His words.

In the mouth.

Spiritual Principle

God’s mission depends upon:

God’s message.

XLVII. WHAT ISAIAH 51 TEACHES ABOUT IDENTITY

God says to Zion:

> **“You are My people.”**

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Judgment may change circumstances without cancelling covenant identity.

XLVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 51 TEACHES ABOUT WRATH

The cup is:

Real.

Severe.

Divine.

Spiritual Principle

God’s comfort should never be understood in a way that denies:

God’s holiness.

XLIX. WHAT ISAIAH 51 TEACHES ABOUT MERCY

The cup is:

Removed.

Spiritual Principle

Judgment does not prevent:

Mercy.

L. WHAT ISAIAH 51 TEACHES ABOUT OPPRESSORS

They appear:

Powerful.

Permanent.

Unstoppable.

But the cup changes:

Hands.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Oppressors may control the street for a season, but they do not control the Judge.

LI. LISTEN TO ME

The chapter repeatedly calls:

Listen.

Spiritual Principle

Comfort begins with:

Hearing God.

LII. LOOK TO THE ROCK

Look away from:

Present desolation.

Toward:

Past faithfulness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sometimes faith needs to look backward before it can look forward.

LIII. ABRAHAM WAS ONE

Smallness.

Spiritual Principle

God’s mathematics does not require:

Human abundance.

LIV. SARAH WAS BARREN

Impossibility.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can begin a future in a place human strength labels empty.

LV. GOD MADE HIM MANY

Promise fulfilled through:

Divine power.

Spiritual Principle

Multiplication belongs to:

God.

LVI. COMFORT ALL HER RUINS

Not:

Some.

All.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not become overwhelmed by the number of broken places.

LVII. DESERT LIKE EDEN

Restoration reaches:

Environment.

Spiritual Principle

Grace can create:

Beauty after devastation.

LVIII. THANKSGIVING RETURNS

Why?

Because restoration produces:

Worship.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When God restores the ruined place, do not forget to restore the song.

LIX. TEACHING GOES OUT

Truth moves:

Outward.

Spiritual Principle

God’s revelation has:

Mission.

LX. JUSTICE AS LIGHT

Justice is not:

Darkness.

It reveals:

What is right.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God’s justice is part of His light to the nations.

LXI. RIGHTEOUSNESS DRAWS NEAR

God acts:

First.

Spiritual Principle

Salvation begins with:

Divine initiative.

LXII. ISLANDS WAIT

Distant lands:

Hope.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God’s saving arm is long enough to reach people far beyond Israel.

LXIII. LIFT YOUR EYES

Heaven.

Earth.

Look.

Spiritual Principle

Visible creation teaches:

Impermanence.

LXIV. HEAVENS LIKE SMOKE

Even enormous creation is:

Temporary.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not confuse size with permanence.

LXV. EARTH LIKE A GARMENT

It wears:

Out.

Spiritual Principle

Creation itself points beyond:

Itself.

LXVI. SALVATION FOREVER

The contrast is:

Sharp.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Put your greatest confidence in what survives the universe.

LXVII. LAW IN THE HEART

Righteousness becomes:

Internal.

Spiritual Principle

Truth belongs:

Inside.

LXVIII. REPROACH OF MORTALS

Words hurt.

But they are:

Temporary.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Human insults may wound your emotions without changing God’s verdict.

LXIX. MOTH-EATEN ENEMIES

Power decays.

Spiritual Principle

No human opponent is:

Eternal.

LXX. “AWAKE, ARM OF THE LORD”

The people know:

Who delivered before.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A good prayer reminds itself who God has already proved Himself to be.

LXXI. DAYS GONE BY

Faith remembers:

History.

Spiritual Principle

Testimony strengthens:

Expectation.

LXXII. RAHAB DEFEATED

Proud power:

Broken.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Every empire eventually meets a power greater than itself.

LXXIII. SEA DRIED UP

Impossible barrier:

Removed.

Spiritual Principle

God has historical evidence of doing:

Impossible things.

LXXIV. ROAD THROUGH THE DEEP

Not around:

Through.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sometimes God’s deliverance does not avoid the deep; it creates a road through it.

LXXV. REDEEMED CROSS OVER

The purpose:

Freedom.

Spiritual Principle

God opens ways so His people can:

Move.

LXXVI. SINGING INTO ZION

The destination has:

Sound.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The redeemed do not enter Zion silently; salvation deserves a song.

LXXVII. EVERLASTING JOY

Not temporary:

Emotion.

Spiritual Principle

God’s final restoration includes:

Enduring joy.

LXXVIII. SORROW FLEES

Personified as:

Leaving.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sorrow may feel permanent, but Scripture gives it an expiration date in God’s final redemption.

LXXIX. GOD COMFORTS PERSONALLY

“I, even I.”

Spiritual Principle

Comfort is not delegated away from:

God.

LXXX. MORTALS ARE GRASS

Strong today.

Gone tomorrow.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never fear grass more than the Gardener.

LXXXI. FORGETTING THE MAKER

That is the deeper issue.

Spiritual Principle

Fear becomes irrational when it forgets:

Creation.

LXXXII. CONSTANT TERROR

Fear dominates:

Daily life.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

An oppressor wins more than a battle when he occupies your imagination every day.

LXXXIII. “WHERE IS THE OPPRESSOR?”

God’s perspective changes:

Scale.

Spiritual Principle

The threat is real.

But not:

Ultimate.

LXXXIV. PRISONERS SOON FREE

God sees:

The cell.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Bars can hold a body, but they cannot prevent God from announcing freedom.

LXXXV. BREAD FOR PRISONERS

Deliverance includes:

Provision.

Spiritual Principle

God does not free His people only to:

Abandon them hungry.

LXXXVI. THE SEA ROARS BECAUSE GOD STIRS IT

Even chaos-like imagery remains:

Under authority.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The sea may roar, but it does not rule.

LXXXVII. WORDS IN THE MOUTH

God equips:

Witness.

Spiritual Principle

A protected messenger needs:

A divine message.

LXXXVIII. SHADOW OF GOD’S HAND

Protection.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The hand powerful enough to stretch heaven is gentle enough to cover His servant.

LXXXIX. “YOU ARE MY PEOPLE”

Identity restored.

Spiritual Principle

God’s final word over Zion is not:

Rejected.

But:

Mine.

XC. AWAKE, JERUSALEM

The city must:

Rise.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Comfort does not call us to permanent passivity; grace tells the fallen to get up.

XCI. THE CUP OF WRATH

Judgment was:

Real.

Spiritual Principle

Mercy means more when we remember what the cup represented.

XCII. DREGS OF THE CUP

Fully experienced.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Isaiah does not minimize the depth of Jerusalem’s suffering before announcing restoration.

XCIII. NONE TO GUIDE

Human resources:

Exhausted.

Spiritual Principle

Sometimes God allows secondary supports to fail so dependence returns to:

Him.

XCIV. NONE TO TAKE HER HAND

Loneliness in:

Judgment.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The absence of human help does not mean the absence of divine attention.

XCV. RUIN AND DESTRUCTION

External devastation.

Spiritual Principle

Sin can destroy:

Structures.

XCVI. FAMINE AND SWORD

Life itself:

Threatened.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Judgment reaches deeper than property loss.

XCVII. “WHO CAN CONSOLE YOU?”

Humanly:

No one adequate.

Spiritual Principle

Some griefs require:

God-sized comfort.

XCVIII. CHILDREN FAINT

The next generation suffers:

Consequences.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sin is never as private as the sinner imagines.

XCIX. CAUGHT LIKE ANTELOPES

No escape:

Humanly.

Spiritual Principle

Helplessness prepares the stage for:

Divine intervention.

C. “HEAR THIS, YOU AFFLICTED ONE”

Even in judgment:

God still speaks.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Affliction has not silenced the voice of God.

CI. THE SOVEREIGN LORD DEFENDS

The Judge becomes:

Advocate.

Spiritual Principle

God’s relationship with His people cannot be reduced to:

One role.

CII. CUP REMOVED

Enough.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God who knows when discipline begins also knows when it has accomplished His appointed purpose.

CIII. TORMENTORS RECEIVE THE CUP

Justice reverses:

Positions.

Spiritual Principle

Oppression has:

Consequences.

CIV. BACK LIKE A STREET

A shocking picture of:

Humiliation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God remembers every footprint left by oppression.

CV. ISAIAH 50 AND ISAIAH 51

Isaiah 50

The faithful person may walk in:

Darkness.

Isaiah 51

That person is told:

Look back.

Remember.

Do not fear.

God comforts.

Key Truth

The answer to darkness is not self-made fire but remembered truth about the eternal God.

CVI. ISAIAH 49 AND ISAIAH 51

Isaiah 49

Zion says:

> **“The Lord has forgotten me.”**

Isaiah 51

God says:

> **“I, even I, am He who comforts you.”**

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God answers the fear of abandonment with repeated declarations of personal remembrance and comfort.

CVII. ISAIAH 40 AND ISAIAH 51

Isaiah 40

> **“Comfort, comfort My people.”**

Isaiah 51

> **“I, even I, am He who comforts you.”**

Key Truth

The comfort promised in Isaiah 40 becomes deeply personal in Isaiah 51: the Comforter is God Himself.

CVIII. ISAIAH 43 AND ISAIAH 51

Isaiah 43

God makes:

A way through the sea.

Isaiah 51

The people remember:

That way.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Yesterday’s deliverance becomes today’s vocabulary for hope.

CIX. ISAIAH 51 AND THE NEW EXODUS

The chapter deliberately recalls:

Egypt.

Sea.

Road through waters.

Redeemed crossing.

Return to Zion.

This creates:

New Exodus imagery.

Spiritual Principle

The God who delivered from Egypt can bring:

A greater restoration.

CX. ISAIAH 51 AND FINAL SALVATION

Everlasting salvation.

Creation wearing out.

Sorrow fleeing.

Joy everlasting.

These themes extend beyond:

One historical return.

They point toward:

God’s final redemptive future.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Historical restoration becomes a window through which Isaiah sees salvation larger than one generation.

CXI. TEN GREAT CONTRASTS IN ISAIAH 51

1. One Man → Many Descendants

2. Desert → Eden

3. Wasteland → Garden

4. Temporary Creation → Everlasting Salvation

5. Human Reproach → Eternal Righteousness

6. Oppressor → Creator

7. Prison → Freedom

8. Sorrow → Everlasting Joy

9. Cup of Wrath → Divine Defense

10. Humiliated Zion → Comforted Zion

Key Truth

Isaiah 51 repeatedly replaces what looks permanent—desolation, fear, oppression, judgment, and sorrow—with what is actually permanent: God’s righteousness, salvation, covenant love, and comfort.

CXII. TWELVE GREAT LESSONS FROM ISAIAH 51

1. Remember What God Did with Abraham

Principle:

Small beginnings do not limit divine promises.

2. God Can Restore Ruins

Principle:

Deserts can become gardens under His hand.

3. God’s Salvation Is Everlasting

Principle:

Creation may disappear, but salvation remains.

4. Do Not Fear Human Reproach

Principle:

Mortals are temporary; God’s righteousness is eternal.

5. Remember Past Deliverance

Principle:

The God of the Exodus remains the God of redemption.

6. The Redeemed Will Return with Joy

Principle:

Sorrow is not the final destination of God’s people.

7. God Himself Comforts

Principle:

The Comforter is greater than the threat.

8. Fear Grows When God Is Forgotten

Principle:

Remembering the Maker shrinks the oppressor to proper size.

9. God Frees Prisoners

Principle:

Captivity does not exceed His authority.

10. God Gives Word, Protection, and Identity

Principle:

He puts His words in the mouth, covers with His hand, and says, “You are My people.”

11. God’s Wrath Is Serious

Principle:

Jerusalem truly drank the cup of judgment.

12. God Can Remove the Cup

Principle:

Discipline does not mean abandonment forever.

CXIII. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Who is called to listen in verse 1?

Those who pursue righteousness and seek the Lord.

Question 2

What are they told to look toward?

The rock and quarry from which they were cut.

Question 3

Who specifically are they told to remember?

Abraham and Sarah.

Question 4

How many people did Abraham begin with?

He was one man when God called him.

Question 5

What did God do with him?

Blessed him and multiplied him.

Question 6

What will God do for Zion?

Comfort her ruins and transform her desolation.

Question 7

What will her desert become like?

Eden and the garden of the Lord.

Question 8

What sounds will return?

Joy, gladness, thanksgiving, and singing.

Question 9

Where will God’s teaching go?

Out to the nations.

Question 10

What will become a light to the nations?

God’s justice and instruction.

Question 11

How long will God’s salvation last?

Forever.

Question 12

What will happen to heaven and earth?

They will pass and wear out.

Question 13

What will never fail?

God’s righteousness and salvation.

Question 14

Whom should God’s people not fear?

Mere mortals and their reproach.

Question 15

Why?

Because humans are temporary while God’s righteousness is everlasting.

Question 16

What past event do the people remember in verses 9–10?

God’s deliverance through the sea in the Exodus.

Question 17

What will happen to the redeemed?

They will return to Zion with singing and everlasting joy.

Question 18

Who comforts God’s people?

God Himself.

Question 19

What is connected with fear of the oppressor?

Forgetting the Lord their Maker.

Question 20

What will happen to the prisoners?

They will be set free and provided for.

Question 21

What does God say He put in the mouth?

His words.

Question 22

How does God describe Zion?

“You are My people.”

Question 23

What had Jerusalem drunk?

The cup of God’s wrath.

Question 24

How severe had the judgment been?

Ruin, destruction, famine, sword, exhaustion, and helplessness.

Question 25

What does God do with the cup?

He removes it from Jerusalem.

Question 26

Who receives the cup afterward?

The tormentors and oppressors.

Question 27

What is the main lesson about fear?

Remembering the Creator frees the heart from exaggerated fear of temporary human power.

Question 28

What is the main lesson about restoration?

God can turn barren ruins into places of joy and abundance.

CXIV. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 51 asks several searching questions.

Have I Forgotten Where God Brought Me From?

What has He already:

Done?

Provided?

Restored?

Changed?

Am I Discouraged Because the Beginning Looks:

Small?

Can I remember:

Abraham was one?

Is there a desert in my life where I have stopped believing:

Eden is possible?

Is there a ruin I assume can never know:

Comfort?

Am I placing too much confidence in things that:

Wear out?

Money?

Government?

Health?

Possessions?

Earthly systems?

Do I believe God’s salvation is more permanent than:

Everything I see?

Whose opinion do I fear?

Have insults become:

Too powerful?

Is human reproach shaping me more than:

God’s Word?

Am I asking God to:

Awake—

While He is calling:

Me to awake?

What past deliverance should I:

Remember?

Is sorrow making me forget:

Everlasting joy?

Am I afraid because I have forgotten:

My Maker?

Has an oppressor become larger in my mind than:

God?

Do I believe God sees:

Prisoners?

Am I willing to speak:

His Word?

Do I rest under:

The shadow of His hand?

Do I believe His declaration:

> **“You are My people”?**

Am I minimizing:

Sin?

The cup of wrath reminds me:

Judgment is real.

Am I despairing after discipline?

The removed cup reminds me:

Mercy is real.

CXV. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“When Fear Makes the Oppressor Look Bigger, Remember the Maker Who Stretched Out the Heavens”

Isaiah says:

> **“You forget the Lord your Maker.”**

Then:

You live in:

Constant terror.

Principle:

Fear often grows not because the enemy has become omnipotent, but because we have temporarily forgotten the greatness of God.

CXVI. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“God Can Build a Nation from One Man and a Garden from One Wasteland”

Abraham was:

One.

Zion was:

Ruined.

Yet:

God multiplies.

God restores.

Principle:

Neither small beginnings nor devastated endings prevent the Lord from creating a future.

CXVII. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“What Wears Out Cannot Be Your Ultimate Hope”

Heavens:

Vanish.

Earth:

Wears out.

Humans:

Pass away.

God’s salvation:

Remains.

Principle:

The wisest life anchors itself to what will still be true when everything temporary is gone.

CXVIII. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“The God Who Gives the Cup Can Also Remove the Cup”

Judgment is:

Real.

Mercy is:

Also real.

Principle:

Discipline proves God’s holiness, while restoration proves that His holiness does not cancel His compassion.

CXIX. THE ROCK OF ORIGIN

Origins matter.

Spiritual Principle

Memory gives:

Perspective.

CXX. THE QUARRY

Israel is:

Cut from somewhere.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not forget the ordinary place from which extraordinary grace brought you.

CXXI. ABRAHAM ALONE

No nation yet.

Spiritual Principle

God begins before:

Evidence.

CXXII. SARAH BARREN

No visible possibility.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Human impossibility is not divine inability.

CXXIII. ZION COMFORTED

Not condemned forever.

Spiritual Principle

Judgment can have:

An endpoint.

CXXIV. EDEN AFTER DESERT

Creation imagery returns.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God’s restoration often resembles re-creation.

CXXV. JOY FOUND THERE

Joy returns to:

A place.

Spiritual Principle

Places associated with pain can become associated with:

Praise.

CXXVI. THANKSGIVING

Restoration should create:

Gratitude.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not receive the garden and forget the Gardener.

CXXVII. LIGHT TO NATIONS

God’s justice:

Travels.

Spiritual Principle

His kingdom purpose is:

Larger than one people.

CXXVIII. SALVATION ON THE WAY

Not stalled.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

What God has sent will arrive according to His purpose.

CXXIX. THE ARM OF THE LORD

Strength made:

Active.

Spiritual Principle

God is not merely capable.

He acts.

CXXX. HEAVEN VANISHES

Even heaven as presently experienced belongs to:

Created order.

Spiritual Principle

Only God is:

Uncreated.

CXXXI. EARTH WEARS OUT

The world is:

Not eternal.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Treat temporary creation as gift, not god.

CXXXII. SALVATION DOES NOT WEAR OUT

No moth.

No decay.

Spiritual Principle

God’s salvation has no:

Expiration date.

CXXXIII. LAW IN THE HEART

Internal obedience.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Truth is strongest when it moves from tablet to heart.

CXXXIV. MORTAL REPROACH

Painful.

Still mortal.

Spiritual Principle

A person’s words can survive in memory longer than the person survives in history, but they still cannot overturn God.

CXXXV. MOTH AND WORM

Human greatness decays.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not give garment-level permanence to people God says are moth-level temporary.

CXXXVI. THE PEOPLE CALL GOD TO AWAKE

This prayer contains:

Faith.

Memory.

Longing.

Spiritual Principle

God welcomes prayers shaped by:

His past works.

CXXXVII. THE EXODUS MEMORY

The sea once blocked:

Escape.

Then:

Opened.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Yesterday’s impossible crossing can strengthen today’s impossible prayer.

CXXXVIII. REDEEMED CROSSING

God makes:

The route.

Spiritual Principle

Redemption involves:

Passage.

CXXXIX. JOY CROWNS THE HEAD

What once covered them?

Ashes.

Sorrow.

Now:

Joy.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can replace the emotional clothing of exile with the crown of joy.

CXL. SIGHING FLEES

Sighing is:

Personified.

Spiritual Principle

The final redeemed future does not include permanent sorrow.

CXLI. “I, EVEN I”

God emphasizes:

Himself.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Comfort rooted only in changing circumstances changes with the circumstances; comfort rooted in God lasts with God.

CXLII. FEAR OF MAN

A recurring biblical struggle.

Spiritual Principle

Human fear can become:

Functional idolatry.

CXLIII. FORGETTING GOD

The root beneath:

Terror.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Remembering God correctly is one of the great medicines against fear.

CXLIV. THE MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

Creation theology becomes:

Pastoral theology.

Spiritual Principle

The doctrine of creation should help frightened hearts.

CXLV. THE OPPRESSOR’S WRATH

Real.

Still limited.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The enemy may be angry, but anger does not make him sovereign.

CXLVI. COWERING PRISONERS

Fearful.

Still loved.

Spiritual Principle

God does not wait for the prisoner to become brave before announcing release.

CXLVII. NOT DIE IN DUNGEON

Death sentence:

Reversed.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can create a future beyond the place where you thought the story would end.

CXLVIII. NOT LACK BREAD

Freedom with:

Provision.

Spiritual Principle

The Redeemer considers practical needs.

CXLIX. WAVES ROAR

Powerful.

God stirs:

Them.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

What terrifies you may itself be under God’s command.

CL. WORDS IN YOUR MOUTH

Speech becomes:

Divine assignment.

Spiritual Principle

God equips those He sends.

CLI. SHADOW OF MY HAND

Same hand:

Creates.

Protects.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The hand large enough for the heavens is not too large to shelter one servant.

CLII. ZION: “MY PEOPLE”

Identity after discipline.

Spiritual Principle

Grace speaks belonging after:

Judgment.

CLIII. AWAKE, JERUSALEM

Restoration requires:

Response.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When God removes the cup, do not keep living as though it is still in your hand.

CLIV. THE DREGS

Nothing left:

Undrunk.

Spiritual Principle

Judgment was:

Thorough.

CLV. NO HUMAN GUIDE

Leadership failed.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God is not limited when every human hand is unavailable.

CLVI. CALAMITIES

The chapter does not:

Romanticize suffering.

Spiritual Principle

Biblical hope is strongest when it looks honestly at:

Pain.

CLVII. “WHO CAN CONSOLE YOU?”

Answer:

God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The question prepares us to receive the only comfort large enough for the wound.

CLVIII. CHILDREN IN THE STREET

Consequences become:

Visible.

Spiritual Principle

Collective rebellion can create collective suffering.

CLIX. AFFLICTED, NOT DRUNK

Pain itself causes:

Staggering.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God knows the difference between sin-caused intoxication and suffering-caused disorientation.

CLX. GOD DEFENDS HIS PEOPLE

Even disciplined people.

Spiritual Principle

Discipline does not transfer ownership to:

The oppressor.

CLXI. THE CUP CHANGES HANDS

Judgment turns:

Outward.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The oppressor may temporarily become an instrument, but he never becomes the Judge.

CLXII. A BACK LIKE THE STREET

Extreme humiliation.

Spiritual Principle

God remembers degrading treatment inflicted upon:

His people.

CLXIII. ISAIAH 51 IN THE FLOW OF THE SERVANT SONGS

Isaiah 49:

The Servant brings salvation to the ends of the earth.

Isaiah 50:

The Servant obeys and suffers.

Isaiah 51:

God assures His people that His salvation is everlasting and His comfort certain.

This prepares for:

Isaiah 52–53.

Key Truth

Before revealing the Servant's climactic suffering, Isaiah anchors the reader in the certainty of God's eternal salvation and covenant comfort.

CLXIV. NINE GREAT MOVEMENTS IN ISAIAH 51

1. Look Back to Abraham and Sarah

God has always been able to create greatness from small beginnings.

2. Look Forward to Zion's Restoration

Desert will become Eden and ruins will know singing.

3. Listen to God's Everlasting Salvation

Creation passes, but righteousness and salvation remain.

4. Refuse the Fear of Man

Mortals are temporary.

5. Remember the Exodus

God’s arm made a road through the sea.

6. Expect the Redeemed to Return

Sorrow and sighing will flee.

7. Receive God’s Personal Comfort

The Creator Himself comforts His people.

8. Awake from the Staggering of Judgment

Jerusalem must rise because discipline is ending.

9. Receive the Removed Cup

God defends His people and reverses oppression.

Key Truth

Isaiah 51 moves from memory to hope, from fear to comfort, and from judgment to restoration by repeatedly directing God’s people toward the everlasting character and saving power of the Lord.

CLXV. FINAL APPLICATION

Isaiah Chapter 51 begins with:

A command.

> **“Look.”**

When circumstances are:

Bad.

Sometimes we keep looking at:

The ruins.

The enemy.

The loss.

The impossibility.

God says:

Look somewhere else.

Look at:

Abraham.

One man.

Look at:

Sarah.

Barren.

Then look at:

What God did.

One man became:

Many.

Barrenness became:

Generations.

So when you say:

There is not enough—

God says:

Remember Abraham.

When you say:

Nothing can grow here—

God says:

Remember Sarah.

Then look at:

Zion.

Ruined.

Deserted.

Wasted.

God says:

I will make the desert like:

Eden.

That means your present landscape does not necessarily reveal:

Your future.

Then God says:

Look at heaven.

Look at earth.

Everything you can see will:

Wear out.

But:

“My salvation will last forever.”

That changes what should:

Frighten us.

People can:

Insult.

Mock.

Threaten.

Oppress.

But they are:

Temporary.

God’s righteousness:

Permanent.

Then the people pray:

“Awake, awake, arm of the Lord.”

God, do something.

God, move.

God, act.

Remember the sea?

Remember Egypt?

Remember the road through the water?

Do it:

Again.

Then God answers:

“I, even I, am He who comforts you.”

And then He asks:

Why are you so afraid of:

People?

You have forgotten:

Your Maker.

That may be one of the most important diagnoses of fear in Scripture.

Fear can become large when:

Memory becomes small.

You keep remembering:

The threat.

The criticism.

The enemy.

The possible disaster.

And forget:

The Maker.

God says:

I stretched out:

The heavens.

I laid:

The earth.

And you are terrified of:

A mortal?

Then He asks:

“Where is the wrath of the oppressor?”

What looks overwhelming today can become:

History tomorrow.

Then:

Prisoners are freed.

Bread is given.

God’s words are placed in:

The mouth.

His hand becomes:

Covering.

And He says:

“You are My people.”

But the chapter does not ignore:

Judgment.

Jerusalem drank:

The cup.

Sin mattered.

Wrath was:

Real.

Children suffered.

The city staggered.

Isaiah does not offer:

Cheap comfort.

He offers:

Holy comfort.

Then God says:

“I have taken out of your hand the cup.”

What words.

Enough.

The cup is:

Removed.

The Judge becomes:

Defender.

The afflicted becomes:

Comforted.

The staggerer can:

Stand.

The ruined place can:

Sing.

The desert can:

Bloom.

The prisoner can:

Leave.

The frightened heart can:

Trust.

So when your beginning seems:

Small—

Look to Abraham.

When your future seems:

Barren—

Remember Sarah.

When your life feels:

Ruined—

Remember Eden can grow in a desert.

When people insult:

Remember they are temporary.

When the enemy frightens:

Remember your Maker.

When the road is blocked:

Remember the sea.

When sorrow seems permanent:

Remember everlasting joy.

When you feel abandoned:

Remember God says:

“I comfort you.”

When discipline has broken you:

Remember God can remove the cup.

When someone has walked over you:

Remember the Judge saw:

Every step.

And when everything around you seems:

Temporary—

Hold to what lasts:

God’s salvation forever.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that You are:

Our Rock.

Our Maker.

Our Redeemer.

Our Comforter.

Our Defender.

Thank You for reminding us to:

Look back.

Help us remember:

Abraham.

Sarah.

The Exodus.

Every time You proved:

Faithful.

When our beginnings look:

Small—

Give us faith.

When our circumstances look:

Barren—

Give us hope.

Father, comfort:

Our ruins.

Turn deserts into:

Gardens.

Bring back:

Joy.

Gladness.

Thanksgiving.

Singing.

Thank You that Your salvation lasts:

Forever.

When the earth feels:

Stable—

Remind us it will wear out.

When Your salvation feels:

Invisible—

Remind us it will remain.

Father, free us from:

Fear of man.

Fear of criticism.

Fear of insult.

Fear of opposition.

Fear of oppressors.

Keep us from forgetting:

You.

When fear grows:

Restore our memory.

Remind us:

You stretched out the heavens.

You laid the earth’s foundations.

You rule the sea.

You open prisons.

You provide bread.

You make roads through:

Deep water.

Father, thank You for:

Comfort.

Thank You that You do not merely send comfort.

You say:

“I, even I, am He who comforts you.”

Comfort those who are:

Afflicted.

Grieving.

Afraid.

Exhausted.

Oppressed.

Father, put Your Word:

In our mouths.

Cover us under:

Your hand.

Remind us who we are:

“You are My people.”

Father, we acknowledge:

Your holiness.

Sin is serious.

Judgment is real.

Thank You that mercy is also:

Real.

Thank You that You can take the cup:

Away.

Thank You that discipline does not have to become:

Permanent abandonment.

Rise as:

Defender.

Bring justice against:

Oppression.

Give courage to:

The weary.

Freedom to:

The captive.

Joy to:

The sorrowful.

And help us build our lives upon:

The salvation that will never fail.

In Jesus’ name,

Amen.

Key Verse

> **“The heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and its inhabitants will die like flies. But My salvation will last forever, and My righteousness will never fail.” — Isaiah 51:6**

Central Truth

The Lord calls His people to remember His faithfulness to Abraham and Sarah, trust His power to restore desolate Zion, anchor themselves in His everlasting salvation rather than temporary creation or human opinion, remember His Exodus deliverance, receive His personal comfort, refuse the fear of mortal oppressors, and believe that the same holy God who allowed Jerusalem to drink the cup of judgment can remove that cup, defend His people, and bring them into everlasting joy.

Isaiah 51 in One Sentence

Isaiah calls those who seek the Lord to remember how God multiplied Abraham and Sarah, promises that Zion’s ruins will become like Eden, declares that God’s salvation and righteousness will outlast heaven and earth, urges His people not to fear temporary human reproach, recalls the mighty arm that opened the sea, promises everlasting joy for the redeemed, identifies God Himself as their Comforter and Maker, and concludes with the Sovereign Lord removing Jerusalem’s cup of wrath and turning judgment against her oppressors.