

# More Encouragement for those Walking in Darkness

## Isaiah 51

### **Introduction**

Every follower of Jesus will have times when we are trusting God, but are not yet seeing God fulfill His promises. At times like this we can be discouraged and disillusioned.

Isaiah writes chapters 50 and 51 to help Israel during a time when she is walking in darkness: knowing God's promises for the nation, but not seeing those promises fulfilled (50:10).

In ch.51 Isaiah gives 5 encouragements for Israel — and for us:

### **Remember that God brings about dramatic reversals (vv.1-3)**

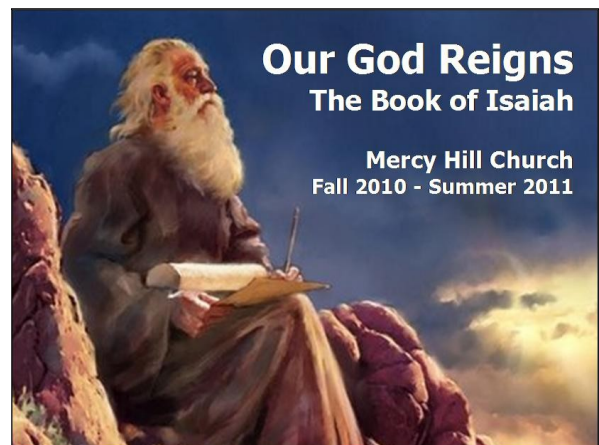
### **Understand that God's promises will surely be fulfilled (vv.4-8)**

### **Call upon God with earnest, honest prayer (vv.9-11)**

"If we don't get passionate with God in the face of disappointment, then cynicism slips in, and our hearts begin to harden. We begin a living death." Paul Miller, *A Praying Life*, p.198.

### **Overcome fear by remembering who God is (vv.12-16)**

### **Wake up to how God's forgiveness guarantees the promise (vv.17-23).**



## **HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING**

*(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)*

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

In the past, how have you responded to times when God has not yet fulfilled His promises? How will you respond differently now?

Which of the five encouragements was most helpful to you? Why?

Which of the five encouragements was most puzzling, or difficult, to you? Why?

What's your take-away from this message? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

