

# The Servant's Qualifications

Text: Isaiah 50

Date: 10-23-22 10:30 AM

## I. Jehovah answers Judah's doubts by temporarily divorcing them yet promises deliverance (Isa. 50:1-3).

Had the Lord issued a bill of divorce to the people of Judah?

This stems from the allegation Judah had made against the Lord that He had forsaken and forgotten them. Now God challenged these exiles to show them the divorce papers or provide a receipt that they had been sold to a creditor.

Alas, they couldn't produce proof of divorce or sale because Jehovah had done neither towards Zion.

"Judah was never given a bill of divorcement so Jehovah's marriage to Judah specifically and the nation generally was still binding and never dissolved (Buksbazen 387)."

It was the people's choice in following iniquity and transgressions that caused them to be sold and be brought into captivity. They alone were responsible for their actions, actions that broke the fellowship with Jehovah. In this sense the nation had divorced God, not the other way around.

God asks a series of questions with the purpose of conviction and to wake them from their spiritual slumber.

"Is my hand shortened to deliver you?" "Or does God have no power to deliver you?"

God's answers point once again to His power.

He could dry up the seas and change the rivers into a wilderness. He clothed (*covered*) the heavens with *blackness*. These examples prove God's power and sovereign control.

The nation's thought that God had rejected them was both unreasonable and impossible. Could God rescue them? Oh my yes! If He could withhold rain and dry up rivers, He can deliver His people from their captors!

## II. The Servant's qualifications prove He is the only answer to the people's spiritual issues (Isaiah 50:4-9).

"In this present soliloquy He represents Himself as totally submissive to and completely dependent upon Jehovah for His message and power to deliver it. This ideal attitude, which Jehovah desired of the nation, individuals, and of course, His prophets, was realized to its fullest extent only in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Prophet, who delivered God's final word" (Hailey 416-7).

### Qualification 1: Spokesman of God (v. 4)

Every morning as He awakes, His hearing is alert so that He can listen attentively like a disciple. He truly is both a speaker and a learner. He is instructed and illumined by the Spirit of God. He is completely obedient and His mission is to bless and help the afflicted.

### Qualification 2: Willing to serve (v. 5)

The clear word demonstrates a heart of willing submission, service, and total conformity to Jehovah.

**Qualification 3: Smitten, Stricken, and Afflicted (v. 6)**

He chose obedience amidst pain, willingness amidst torture, and stepped forward instead of running or hiding. He was in full control of the situation. The teacher of truth, deeply hated, yet He was willing to suffer for truth.

At the cross our sins met His obedience. At the cross our disobedience met His chastisement. At the cross God's justice met God's mercy. At the cross sinners were reconciled by the willingness of the righteous Servant to bear our sin in His suffering.

**Qualification 4: Steadfastly resolved (v. 7): The Servant was steadfastly resolved to follow Jehovah.**

He would set His face like a flint, a word meaning hard rock. This pictured courageous and relentless determination to do the committed task.

In Christ Alone we have the true model of service, obedience, courage, and endurance. Phil. 2:4-5; 8.

**Qualification 5: Triumphant (v. 8)**

God will be His constant help and support. Knowing this reassures Him of both the victory and the vindication.

**III. The contrast between the righteous and unrighteous (Isa. 50:10-11)**

Those who fear the Lord and walk in darkness are directed to trust the Lord and find their hope and support in God.

Their lives will characterize obedience, living by faith, and devotion to Jehovah in the face of reviling and difficulties.