

Introduction: Y^o-sha^{gh}-Yah-hu (Salvation-Yahweh-He), a.k.a. Isaiah, was a prophet to God's people from 740BC to 681BC. During his ministry, in 722BC, the Assyrians attacked the ten tribes in Israel and carried the survivors into captivity. But later, a faithful remnant worshipped at Passover in Jerusalem when Hezekiah was king of Judah. (*2 Chronicles 30:6-20*) *** His prophetic ministry began with a call for people to return to God (*Isaiah 1:2-26*). In the latter half, he speaks four times about God's chosen servant who would bring His people back to Him and be a light to all nations (*Isaiah 42:1-9; 49:1-13; 50:4-11; 52:13-53:12*). He would also be the Anointed One (M^o-shee-agk) who would preach good news to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim freedom for the captives, release of prisoners from darkness, and the year of Yahweh's favor (*Isaiah 63:1-3*). Paradoxically, in the fourth chosen servant passage, He would do all this by suffering death. *** But, by His servant, Yahweh will comfort His people and have compassion on the afflicted (*49:13*). *** When Ye-shu-a^{gh} (Jesus-Savior) came the first time some two thousand years ago, he provided release from sin and idolatry. He gave the power to live by God's words of instruction given through the prophets and apostles. He did this by His life of doing good works and teaching, His sinless sacrifice for all, His resurrection, and when He sent The Holy Spirit at Pentecost. *** He has left His Church to do His work until He returns. His people are to give themselves fully to God, sacrifice for one another, and share what they have IN Him with all people with whom they come into contact (*Matthew 22:36-37; John 13:34-35; Mark 12:31*). *** In the week before He offered Himself as the sacrifice for all sins, He spoke to His followers about being faithful to do what they have been assigned to do because He could come again at any moment. *** And, this IS our HOPE in a dark world getting darker!

I. Yahweh's wandering people beg their eternally redeeming Father to part the heavens and come down.
(*Isaiah 63:15-19 – Hebrew*)

A. Look down from the glories of heaven, You who have withheld compassion, because You are our Redeemer-Father.
(*Verses 15-16*)

1. Look down from heaven, see from Thy holy and glorious habitation; where Thy zeal and Thy might? (*Verses 15a-b*)

Petition: God's people begin with a double petition for Him to see them by looking down from heaven His glorious dwelling place.

Question: Then they question Him concerning His zeal and might. They do this because they are unaware they are experiencing His discipline for going their own way due to their hard hearts.

2. The murmuring of Thy inner feelings and compassion are restrained from me. (*Verse 15c*)

Prophet: Here the prophet speaks for God's people.

3. Because Thou our Father, because Abraham has not known us; and Israel will not recognize us. (*Verses 16a-b*)

Men: Even though they were descendents of Abraham and Israel, they felt estranged from their ancestors: not known or perceived.

God: However, in spite of their wandering ways and hard hearts, they still call God their Father! Trust in God, NOT men.

4. Thou, Yahweh, our Father; redeeming us, from of old (is) Thy Name. (*Verse 16c-d*)

Covenant Name: Yahweh was the name God used to describe Himself as the covenant making and covenant keeping God. At the burning bush He told Moses that Abraham and Jacob (Israel) only knew Him as God Almighty, but now He was revealing His covenant name to them to redeem them and make them His people. (*Exodus 6:1-8*)

He is continually redeeming His people as a kinsman, buying them out of danger and distress.

Boaz-Ruth: Boaz acted as a kinsman-redeemer for Naomi's foreign daughter-in-law Ruth.

In doing this he demonstrated what Jesus would do later.

Jesus: Jesus became human when He was born of Mary in Bethlehem, true kin of all. His life, death, resurrection, ascension to rule and giving of The Holy Spirit at Pentecost are the basis of HOPE for everyone. Zechariah's inspired prophecy at John's birth, proclaimed that, even while He was still in His mother's womb, Jesus came to redeem. (*Luke 1:68-75*) May we all know of and live in Yahweh's gracious redemption.

B. Do not let us wander with hard hearts, return for Your servants who are exiled; if only You would come down as at Sinai.
(*Verses 17-19*)

1. Why Yahweh, do You cause us to wander from Thy ways; and harden our heart from fear of Thee? (*Verses 17a-b*)

Why: Again, God's people question Him. However, they are not accepting their responsibility for having wandered from His ways and no longer having reverent fear of Him.

2. Return for the sake of Thy servants and the tribes of Thy heritage. (*Verse 17c*)

Abraham: The seven-fold blessing of Yahweh when He called Abraham included making him into a great nation that would bless all the people of the earth. (*Genesis 12:1-3*) In light of this foundational word from God to their ancestor, they now implore Him to come to their aid so they may serve Him.

3. For a short time Thy holy people inherited Thy holy (place); our enemies have trodden down Thy sanctuary; we have become like those Thou never ruled. (*Verses 18-19b*)

Estranged: They are experiencing estrangement both politically and spiritually. The ten tribes of Israel were already in exile; but here Isaiah also speaks about Judah's exile in 586BC, more than one hundred years away.

4. We are those not called by Thy Name; if only Thou would part the heavens and come down; at Thy presence the mountains would shake. (*Verse 19c-[d-e – Hebrew, or 64:1a-b – English]*)

His people: They close stating they are no longer called children of their Father and Redeemer.

Day of The LORD: They are requesting Him to come down as He did at Mt. Sinai with Moses and their ancestors and the mountain shook. (*Exodus 16:16-19*) And, on the final Day of The LORD (Yahweh), He will once more shake everything and the desired of all nations will come to fill the Temple with God's glory (*Haggai 2:6-7*). The writer of Hebrews uses this prophecy to exhort and encourage Christians not to reject God's Word, but to serve Him in reverence and godly fear while awaiting the consummation of His Kingdom (*Hebrews 12:18-29*).

May we pray with the people of Isaiah's day the last words of the Bible: 'Even so, come, Lord Jesus!' (*Revelation 22:20*)
We may beg Yahweh, our redeeming Father, to come from heaven

II. Keep awake for that day the master returns, always watch that he not find you sleeping: WATCH! (*Mark 13:32-37*)

A. No one knows the time of that day, so keep awake, as servants of a journeying man to whom he had given tasks and commanded to watch. (*Verses 32-34*)

1. But concerning 'that day', no one has known: not even the messengers in heaven, nor The Son, except The Father; all of you beware, stay awake because you do not know when the time is. (*Verses 32-33*)

That day: 'That day' is the prophetic 'Day of The LORD (Yahweh)' when Messiah Jesus returns to redeem His people from all nations. This is the HOPE of all who know Him. It is also judgment of the heard-hearted people of the world.

Not known: While on earth, Jesus did not know the time of His return.

Beware: Because no one knows when Jesus will return, His people must constantly beware and awake.

2. As a journeyman having left his house, and having given each one of his servants authority for specific work, and he commanded the doorkeeper that he should watch. (*Verse 34*)

Parable: In this parable, Jesus is the man who will journey from His earthly house, giving each of His disciples a task to do to build His house – and each one must be always watching for Him.

Watch: Each Christian must perform his or her role to witness to who Jesus is and what He has done. And, each one must be growing more like Him (*Romans 8:28-30*) to be a model for those who would also become disciples. (*1 Thessalonians 1*)

HOPE: The motivation of Jesus' Second Advent gives us HOPE to be faithful in always performing our assigned tasks while we watch for His return.

Watch for The Redeemer's return

B. Watch therefore, because you do not know when the Master is coming, Who, not having come, He finds you sleeping; I say to all: be watching! (*Verses 35-37*)

1. Watch then, for you all do not know when The Master of The House is coming. (*Verses 35*)

Any time: He could come in the evening (6:00 PM), at midnight, before dawn (3:00 AM) or in the morning (6:00 AM). Notice all of the times Jesus uses are after a 'normal' human workday. Christians are always 'on call'!

Master: The Master is The Savior-Lord sent by the Father-Redeemer (*Isaiah 63*).

Watch: Be continually vigilant in watching for the return of The Redeemer Zechariah prophesied about at his son John's birth. (*Luke 1:68-75*)

Watch for The Redeemer's return

2. Not, having come suddenly, He would find all of you sleeping. (*Verse 36*)

Sudden: Jesus' return will be as sudden as a flash of lightning (*Luke 17:24, NAS*).

NOT sleeping: Jesus reinforces His point that His disciples are to always be ready, even in the night.

3. But what I am saying to you all, I am saying to all (people): watch! (*Verse 37*)

Saying to all: Jesus made it clear to His twelve disciples that this teaching was for every person who would ever live until He returns!

Watch: If we have come to know Jesus, and are growing to be more and more like Him, we have an unshakeable HOPE as we work and watch for Him. He wants us to share our HOPE with everyone He brings into our lives.

Bottom Line: May we repent of our hard hearted self-concern, to call on The Father and His Redeemer Son to help us to stay awake; and, may we know and do the tasks we have been assigned while always watching for the sudden return of Jesus, The Redeemer.

Watch for The Redeemer's return.

Conclusion: Yahweh's wandering and hard hearted people beg their Father-Redeemer to part the heavens and come down to them in power. Jesus, God come to earth, commands His servants to continually do what He has assigned them, always awake and watching for His return (advent). This is HOPE applied for God's glory.

Watch for The Redeemer's return