

# **T**he Darkness of the Last Hours before the Light, Isaiah Ch. 50

*Who is among you that fears the Lord, that obeys the voice of His servant, that walks in darkness and has no light?*

*Let him trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God. Is. 50:10*

## **The Message Today (from the world)**

- **“I heard the news today, oh boy . . .”**
  - What are our primary sources of information and “facts?”
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_
  - What is the general consensus of the condition of the world?
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_
  - “Don’t confuse me with the truth.” The fact is . . .
    - The world’s poverty level is \_\_\_\_\_
    - Worldwide crime is \_\_\_\_\_
    - Wars (and rumors of wars) \_\_\_\_\_
  - The news media today: messengers, prophets, and princes.
    - Their tools:
      - Marketing Fear, \_\_\_\_\_
      - Marketing the apparent disparity of wealth as a statistical support for “growing poverty.” \_\_\_\_\_
      - Perception and Illusion: \_\_\_\_\_

## **The Message Today (from 2600 years ago)**

- **“From whom did you hear the news, oh boy . . .”**
  - 50:1, where are your facts? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 50:2-3, What makes you think I a powerless? \_\_\_\_\_
  - “I, (the servant),
    - *Have the voice of truth, 50:4, \_\_\_\_\_*
    - *Have been obedient through real suffering, 50:5-6*
    - *Shall yet be vindicated, though I have been humiliated, 50:6-9, \_\_\_\_\_*
  - 50:10, do you fear the news today more than Me? \_\_\_\_\_

- **Here is the Real News, 50:11; those of you who walk in this new light will be left with nothing but torment.** \_\_\_\_\_

## **The Gathering Darkness: the new light?**

- The light of this world.
  - Situational morality and ethics: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Our “own” light, our own authority: \_\_\_\_\_
  - The deception of the “heart:” (Jer.17:9) \_\_\_\_\_
  - The ashes of wooden gods, (Is.44:19) \_\_\_\_\_
- The light of eternity.
  - Absolutes, concrete moral foundations: despite the arguments from darkness. \_\_\_\_\_
  - Not “our” light, but the true light shining in the darkness, John 1:4-5, \_\_\_\_\_
  - Jesus, the light shining upon the oldest of historical truths: repentance and reconciliation. \_\_\_\_\_

## **When to be rational and logical, and when to be faithful.**

- Arguments from reliable facts tend to be the most reliable, yet the world would overwhelm us with a barrage of contradictory and minimalizing “evidence,” in order to make our faith appear irrational and unreasonable, yet . . .
  - Fiction is becoming “fact.” \_\_\_\_\_
  - Novels are believed as historical truth. \_\_\_\_\_
  - Truth is decided by “Polls.” \_\_\_\_\_
  - Convenience dictates ethics and compassion. \_\_\_\_\_
- The uniqueness of the Christian faith is that although we are asked to believe in an historical chain of miracles, it supports the most historically valid need of humanity; forgiveness: and it offers the only guaranteed pathway to salvation; \_\_\_\_\_
  - We are all \_\_\_\_\_
  - We all desire \_\_\_\_\_
  - Our \_\_\_\_\_ stands in the way.
  - The greatest of all virtues, \_\_\_\_\_ is also the most hated by the world.

*We worship a creator God who humbled himself by becoming a man, and then died as a sacrifice for our behalf. Our only requirement for salvation is to embrace that fact.*