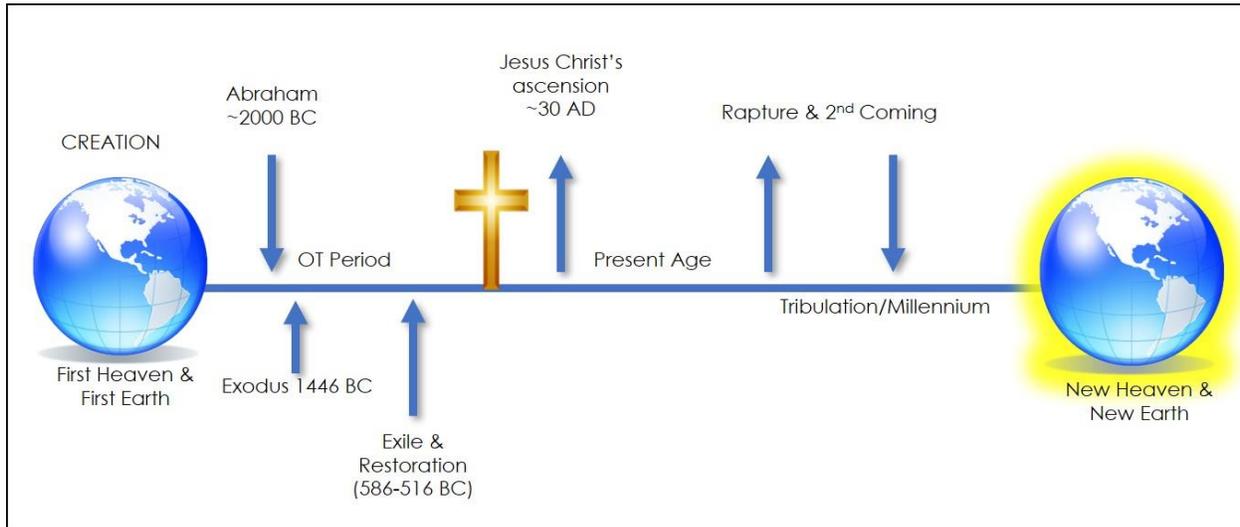# ISAIAH 51

Lesson 41: "Look to the Past to Learn How Bright is the Future"[1]

Mike Taylor

MAIN IDEA

God's saving actions in the past are the key to our hope for the future

SUMMARY OUTLINE

I. Listen to Me! The God of Abraham Will Again Create Righteousness from Nothing (51:1-6)

    A. Suffering Christians in every generation should realize that the Word of God is more permanent than the ground beneath their feet.

    B. God will establish a righteous salvation for his elect through his Son, Jesus Christ and they will live forever in a perfect world that will replace this present one.

II. Listen to Me! The God of the Exodus Will Again Make a Way for His People (51:7-11)

    A. Don't be afraid of mere mortal humans who mock you.

    B. God's miraculous workings in the past (i.e. Exodus, Red Sea) are proof that he can bring about a glorious future. That is the basis for your present hope.

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[1] Outline adapted from "Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Isaiah," by Andrew Davis.

III. How Dare You Fear Man More Than Me? Through You I Will Establish Eternity (51:12-16)

    A. It's ridiculous to be afraid of humans more than being afraid of the God who created you.

    B. Soon all you captives of Babylon will be released! You will no longer be prisoners who have been starving and death will not be your fate.

IV. Wake Up! The Time Has Come for your Tormentors to Fall (51:17-23)

    A. Don't forget that God destroyed Jerusalem and let Babylon capture you as an act of judgment because of your sinfulness.

    B. But now the time has come when you will no longer feel my wrath, instead my fury will turn to your tormentors.

APPLICATION

1. Feed your hearts on <u>God's past achievements</u> so you will have a confidence in what he will do in the future.

2. Always fear God and <u>obey him</u> more than fearing humans.

3. Keep your eyes on the future so intently that it empowers you to deal with the <u>difficulties of the present.</u>