ISAIAH 50

All Poetry

Servant Song #3, Vs. 4-9 – Political and Religious Servant of the Latter-Days - Speaking to a sinful group in Israel (Servant here is a Davidic King or Joseph type figure, Christ in the Meridian of Times)

Verse 1

Thus saith the Lord:

A Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement whom I have put away?

(or) B Which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you?

(The Lord has not divorced Israel, His "Bride". The Lord assures Israel that he has also not sold the "Children" of Israel into slavery. In ancient Israel, a creditor could take a debtor's children and sell them into slavery to pay a debt – See Ex. 21:7-8; 2 Kgs. 4; 1Neh.5:1-5, UI Pg. 438)

Behold:

B For your iniquities have ye sold yourselves,

(and) A For your transgressions is your mother put away.

A Verse 2

(Lord's Hand)

Wherefore when I came, was there no man? Wherefore when I called, was there none to answer?

(See Alma 10:6 – Amulek's description of his unwillingness to hear the words of the Lord and his initial unwillingness to follow righteousness.)

Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? (or) Have I no power to deliver?

Behold:

At my rebuke, I dry up the sea, At my rebuke, I make the rivers a wilderness.

Their fish stinketh, because there is no water, (and)

Their fish dieth for thirst.

B Verse 3

(People's Darkness) (and)

I clothe the heavens with blackness, I make sackcloth their covering.

(Covering the Heavens - Darkening the Heavens - Lack of Revelation - D&C 112: 23)

(Here the servant speaks)

Verse 4 The Lord hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should

know how to speak a word in the season to him that is

weary.

The Lord wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine

ear to hear as the learned.

(This servant will know how to speak eloquently, he will know what to say and the proper time to say it. The Lord will wake this servant up each day even if he wishes to sleep and make him speak comfort to those who are weary because of the burdens of the world – Contrast this with

Is. 28:11-12 UI Pg. 443)

Verse 5 The Lord God hath opened mine ear,

(and) I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.

Verse 6 I gave my back to the smiters and I gave my cheeks to them

that plucked off the hair.

I hid not my face from shame and spitting!

C Verse 7 (For) The Lord will help me.

(Help for the Servant) (Therefore) I shall not be confounded.

(Therefore) I have set my face as a flint. (firm determination)

(and) I know that I shall not be ashamed.

D Verse 8 A He is near that justifieth me,

(Lord vindicates the Servant) B Who will contend with me?

A Let us stand together,

B Who is mine adversary, let him come near?

C Verse 9 (Behold) A The Lord God will help me,

(Help for the Servant) B Who is he that shall condemn me?

Lo, they all shall wax old as a garment,

(and) Moth shall eat them!

B Verse 10 Who is among you that feareth the Lord?

(People's Darkness) Who is among you that obeyeth the voice of his servant?

A Who is among you that walketh in darkness?

(and) B Who is among you that hath no light?

A Let him trust in the name of the Lord,

(and) B Let him stay (rely) upon his God.

A Verse 11 (Lord's Hand)

Behold:

- A All ye that kindle a fire,
- B All ye that compass yourselves about with sparks.
- A Walk in the light of your fire,
- (and) B Walk in the sparks that ye have kindled.

(Those who want "sparks" and not "light" – Those who want their own fires instead of the light of the Lord.)

This shall ye have of mine hand:

Ye shall lie down in sorrow!