

Note: Beginning with a short poem (Is 50:1-3), the Lord uses rhetorical questions to rebut Israel's claim that it was the Lord that sent them into captivity. The remaining verses (Is 50:4-11) are the Third Servant Song in which the Servant sings about what the Lord has done for him, and then he sings to the people, exhorting them to follow him.

1. In this short poem, (Is 50:1-3), Isaiah uses two metaphors to convey the Lord's reply to Israel's accusation that God had abandoned them to captivity in Babylon.
 - a. Explain how the metaphor of divorce shows abandonment. (Is 50:1)
 - b. Explain how the metaphor of selling off goods (e.g., during a bankruptcy) shows abandonment. (Is 50:1)
 - c. How does the Lord refute the people's accusations of abandonment by God? (Is 50:2)

Third Servant Song (Is 50:4-11)

2. How do we know that the Lord is preparing the Servant to speak publicly to the people? (Is 50:4)
3. Who will be the Servant's main audience? (Is 50:4)
4. What suggests that the Servant's assignment will be a difficult mission? (Is 50:5)
5. What is the response the Servant receives from his listeners when he preaches the message the Lord has given him? (Is 50:6)
6. The Servant is mishandled and humiliated by his accusers. (Is 50:5-6)
 - a. What gives the Servant the strength to continue to tolerate such behavior? (Is 50:7)
 - b. What is the Servant's nonviolent response to his accusers? (Is 50:8-9)
7. How do we know that the Servant hopes to attract followers who will also preach the Lord's words of protection to weary and oppressed people? (Is 50:4)
8. The Servant says there are typically two ways that people deal with darkness.
 - a. Name the two ways people deal with darkness. (Is 50:10-11)
 - b. What happens to those who rely on themselves to get through darkness? (Is 50:11)
9. *Challenge:* In many ways, the Third Servant Song reflects the life of Jesus. Can you find passages in the New Testament that answer the following questions?
 - a. Did Jesus have the same teacher as the Servant? (Is 50:4-5; John 1:1-3; John 8:28)
 - b. Was Jesus sent by God for a public ministry? (Is 50:4-5; John 20:21; Matt 28:19)
 - c. To whom was Jesus first sent to preach? (Is 50:5; Luke 2:22-32, 41-50)
 - d. Did Jesus receive maltreatment and humiliation from religious leaders? (Is 50:7-9; John 10:30-33)
 - e. Was Jesus' response to maltreatment a non-violent one? (Is 50:5-6; Matt 5:38-40; Matt 26:51-54)
 - f. Did God vindicate Jesus in the end? (Is 50:8-9; John 3:16-17; 1 Tim 3:16; Heb 2:9)