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A Long Passage of Reassurance: Isaiah 51:1-52:12

THE REMAINDER of Part 2 is devoted entirely to reassurance. Even as God called Abraham and blessed him, He will continue to bless his descendants. He will cause His justice and His light to go out to all the world. He will comfort His suffering people. Just as He rescued them from Egyptian slavery and brought them safely through the Red Sea, He will free them again and destroy the oppressors. He will enable them to leave the land of Babylon and to take the vessels of the LORD back to Jerusalem. This they will do, not as fugitives, but with the full sanction of the authorities.

This summarizes the contents of this long passage. It presents no new idea but is filled with comfort and encouragement, leading up to its great climax in the actual departure from Babylonia.

This passage naturally divides into eight parts which may be grouped together as follows, noting the words with which each portion begins:

1. a. Listen to me (51:1)
b. Pay attention to me (51:4)
c. Listen to me (51:7)
2. a. Awake, awake (51:9)
b. It is I who comforts you (51:12)
c. Rouse yourself, rouse yourself (51:17)
d. Awake, awake (52:1)
3. How beautiful upon the mountains (52:7)