

6.19 All Things Put Right

the big idea: God's Restored People Shall Prosper



Trey was in his 30s and one of his top goals in life was to buy a house for his grandparents. They always rented but never owned, and he hated to see them struggle or have to move from time to time over the years.

Trey knew Grandpa Roy worked hard all his life. He got a job at a car factory as a teenager and never left. It didn't pay much, and they barely gave raises, but he was able to provide just enough to make ends meet for his wife and kids.

Trey knew Grandpa Roy deserved more, and he was close to meeting his goal of putting a down payment on a home for his grandparents when Grandpa Roy became ill. He was di-

agnosed with a terminal disease, and not given much longer to live. Trey was crushed. He loved his grandfather so much and wanted to see him have a life of ease in his older years. He went to visit his grandfather and was crying uncontrollably.

Grandpa Roy comforted him. "God knows when it's time for me to go, and I don't want you feeling bad about a thing. I am so very proud of you, and my heart is full seeing your life turn out the way it has. God is faithful and I am grateful. I remember how it felt to have absolutely nothing. To see my grandson successful and happy is more than I could hope for, and I praise God for every moment."

from your Bible

Isaiah 49:18–23, NIV—Lift up your eyes and look around; all your children gather and come to you. As surely as I live," declares the LORD, "you will wear them all as

ornaments; you will put them on, like a bride.¹⁹ "Though you were ruined and made desolate and your land laid waste, now you will be too small for your people, and those who devoured you will be far away.²⁰ The children born during your bereavement will yet say in your hearing,

'This place is too small for us; give us more space to live in.'
21 Then you will say in your heart, 'Who bore me these? I was bereaved and barren; I was exiled and rejected. Who brought these up? I was left all alone, but these—where have they come from?'" 22 This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "See, I will beckon to the nations, I will lift up my banner to the peoples; they will bring your sons in their

arms and carry your daughters on their hips. 23 **Kings will be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers. They will bow down before you with their faces to the ground; they will lick the dust at your feet. Then you will know that I am the LORD; those who hope in me will not be disappointed."**

Scripture discussion

The Children of Israel were in captivity in Babylon because of their sin. While in captivity their land was left desolate, empty, and in ruins. The restoration of the "desolate places" seems to point to the future return from Babylonian exile (Isaiah 49:19). God promised to

make Israel prosper again and make her children return from all the nations where they were scattered. God would protect His people and those who had oppressed them would be punished. The restoration of God's people comes through the power of God, and His plans of restoration always work for peace, prosperity, freedom, and justice.

make it real



check it

1. What did Trey want to do for his grandparents?
2. Why didn't Grandpa Roy seem upset even though his life had been difficult?
3. What do you think makes the adults in your life proud of you?



think it

1. Explain Isaiah 49:19 and 20 in your own words.
2. Verses 20 and 21 illustrate a time when the children of those who were oppressed will note that their families have outgrown, populated, and prospered in the land. Explain what it would feel like to go from having absolutely nothing to total overabundance.
3. The end of verse 23 says, "those who hope in me will not be disappointed." How has this been true in your own life?



do it

In today's lesson, you learned that even though we may go through great suffering, the Lord is faithful to us. He wants us to prosper and flourish in life, and not just us! He wants to bless those who come after us, too. Think of words and pictures that would encourage others living through difficult times to keep their hope toward the future. Follow your teacher's instructions for today's activity!



keep it

"Kings will be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers. They will bow down before you with their faces to the ground; they will lick the dust at your feet. Then you will know that I am the LORD; those who hope in me will not be disappointed" (Isaiah 49:23, NIV).



“I really don’t want to do this anymore,” Melissa said as she collapsed on her bed. She was exhausted from another day of training, class, practice, and studying. While all her friends were dating, hanging out at the mall, or going to the movies, she was constantly training, attending class, studying, and practicing soccer.

“Well, Melissa,” her dad said, “I know it doesn’t feel good right now, but ultimately these habits will create a better life for you.”

“I don’t see how that’s the case. Every single minute is accounted for. I don’t feel like I have time to just chill like other people. Train, prac-

tice, study. Train, practice, study. It’s all I do!”

“I know, baby,” her dad said as he gave her a big hug. “This season is temporary, and you’ll make it through your last year of high school as a better young woman. It’s going to set you up for a better future. The one God has for you. Let’s pray for His strength for you to get through this last year, okay?”

By the end of Melissa’s senior year, she was offered a full scholarship to her top dream school and a spot on the university soccer team. She was happy that she stayed faithful to her studies and sport and that God was blessing her greatly.

from your Bible

Isaiah 51:1–8, NIV—“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn;² look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was

only one man, and I blessed him and made him many.³ The LORD will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing.⁴ **“Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: Instruction will go out from me; my justice**

will become a light to the nations. ⁵My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations. The islands will look to me and wait in hope for my arm. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will

last forever, my righteousness will never fail. ⁷"Hear me, you who know what is right, you people who have taken my instruction to heart: Do not fear the reproach of mere mortals or be terrified by their insults. ⁸For the moth will eat them up like a garment; the worm will devour them like wool. But my righteousness will last forever, my salvation through all generations."

Scripture discussion

In today's passage, Isaiah reminds the Children of Israel of God's promise given to their forefather Abraham hundreds of years before. Even though they had been disobedient, they're reminded that God's promise is faith-

ful. Yes, things had been destroyed, but desolation would be temporary, while deliverance would be forever. God encourages the Israelites to look ahead to God's promised future for them. As clothing and belongings get old and wear out, heaven and earth will pass away; but God's righteousness and salvation will last forever and ever.

make it real



check it

1. Why was Melissa feeling frustrated and tired?
2. What could have happened if Melissa decided she didn't want to stay faithful and focused on her goals?
3. What are the distractions that come with being a high school student? How can you set yourself up to stay focused on the goal?



think it

1. The opening verse of today's Scripture instructs us to remember "the rock from which you were cut." Do you understand the saying?
2. In addition to the people in your family or church family, you also have Abraham and other great people of faith from the Bible as your spiritual ancestors. What value do you gain from remembering your own spiritual inheritance?
3. Why should you be more concerned about what God's up to rather than worry about what people think or say about you? (Isaiah 51:7-8)



do it

In today's lesson, you learned about the importance of your spiritual inheritance. Your teacher has invited someone to share about your church history and milestones today, but on your own this week, write a timeline of those who established the faith in your own family. If you're the first one, write a timeline of faith of how you'd like to see your future family walk with the Lord.



keep it

"Listen to me, my people, and hear me, my nation: Instruction will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations" (Isaiah 51:4, NIV).