

# Deutero-Isaiah

## Chapters 51 & 52

17 August 2023

### Learning objectives

- Outline: Deutero-Isaiah 51–52:12
- Identify: Recipients of the messages,
- Identify: Rahab, the sea monster.
- Find: Reasons for hope.
- Trust: Yahweh's purposes.

### 2 Isaiah 51:1-11

#### Yahweh's messages ...

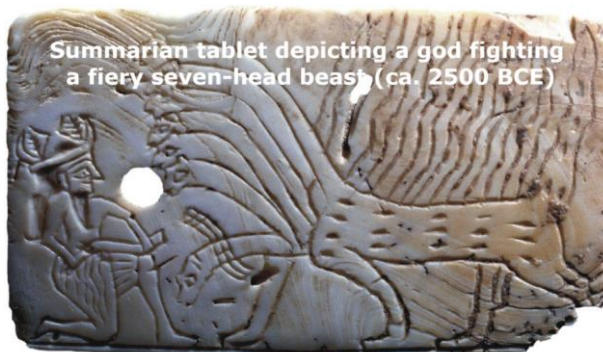
- 1-2 To the righteous.
- 3 To the land of Judah.
- 4-6 To the people.
- 7-8 To the just.

#### The people's reply ...

- 9-11 To Yahweh.

### Rahab, a mythical sea monster

1. Alternate name for Leviathan (Lotan).
2. A twisting serpent (Job 26:12–13).
3. Used of Egypt (Psa. 87:4).
4. Ugaritic *Baal Cycle*: "When you killed Litan, the fleeing ... twisty serpent, the potentate with seven heads."
5. Hebrew *rhb*, 'rage, violence ... surge'
6. Ba'al defeated Yam ('sea' in Hebrew).



### 2 Isaiah 51:9–52:12

#### More Messages from Yahweh...

- 12-16 To the captives.
- 17-20 To Jerusalem.
- 21-23 To the wounded.
- 52:1-2 To his holy city.
- 3-6 To the oppressed.
- 7-12 To his priests.

### Textual Issues

#### 51:4 'my people'

"my people... my nation", MT, 1QIsa<sup>a,b</sup>, Vulgate, Targum, Greek versions.  
"my people ... kings", LXX  
"peoples and nations", Syriac

#### 51:16 'stretching out the heavens'

"stretching (nt<sup>ς</sup>) out the heavens", Syriac, assimilating to Isaiah 51:13.  
"planting (nt<sup>h</sup>) the heavens", MT, 1QIsaa, LXX, versions  
Possible translation: "fix the heavens in place (NEB).

#### 51:19 'Who will comfort you?'

"who will comfort you?" 1QIsaa  
"who—should I comfort you?", MT  
"none will comfort you but I?" , Targum  
"who will comfort him?" LXX, versions  
Parallel phrase: "who can console you?"

#### 52:2 'rise up'

"sit (on your throne)", MT  
"and sit (on your throne)", 1QIsaa  
"return (to your throne)", 4Q176

#### 52:2 'loose the bonds'

"the bonds are loosed", MT (ketiv, written), 1QIsaa, Targum  
"loose the bonds", MT (qere, read), 4Q176. LXX, versions  
'Loose' has a parallel imperative.

#### 52:5 'their rulers howl'

"its (evil) rulers howl", MT, some Greek mss, Syriac, Targum  
"its (own) rulers weep", LXX, Vulgate?