

# Is My Hand Too Weak to Deliver?

## Isaiah 50:1-3

Isaiah prophesied in Judah from 739 to 686 BC, mainly warning Judah of the coming captivity and foretelling in great detail the coming of the Messiah

### What?

**For sin and every desperate strait, God's love and power to rescue are great**

#### Desperate straits—

Earlier, in the previous chapter, the people accused God of forgetting them, and they said their captors were too strong

In these verses, it's as if they're saying, "You are the One who has divorced us; You're the one who sold us into slavery"

50:1—God is saying **He has not divorced His people**, but is only separated from them; and **they had sold themselves to sin**

50:2a—There had been **no repentance and crying out to the Lord** for deliverance

50:2b-3—This refers to God's deliverance from Egypt

**The people were in bondage like their ancestors in Egypt**, but now in bondage to sin

God's offer of deliverance wasn't just deliverance from captivity, but **more importantly deliverance from sin**

Isaiah then prophesies about Jesus, who can save from sin

#### The Jesus connection—

*Isaiah 53:5-6, NIV—He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all*

This is the **greatest expression of love and power ever**

### The Big Question—Is My Hand Too Weak to Deliver?

"Is My reach too short, is My hand short of power?"

The real point was to **uncover faulty attitudes about God**  
God's hand represents **not just His power, but His person**

Not just greater ingenuity for us, but **intervention**

Not our wishes, but the accomplishing of **His will**

In the OT God's hand referred mainly to physical acts of power and deliverance, but in the NT—

*Acts 11:21, NIV—The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord*

### So What?

"If God really loved me, why did He let this happen?"

"I'm too bad; I just keep sinning"

"God could never get me out of this mess"

But God **has demonstrated His great love for you** by sending the Messiah-Saviour, as He promised

He can continue to **deliver you from your enslavement to those one or two besetting sins**

Giving thanks for His past deliverance will strengthen your faith to do this

#### The final say—the Chronicler

*II Chronicles 16:9, NASB—The eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His*

### Now What?

Examine your heart for faulty attitudes about God  
Give thanks to the Lord for past deliverance, and cry out to Him today for the deliverance you need