

Isaiah 50:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the LORD, Where is the bill of your mother's
divorcement, whom I have put away? or which of my creditors
is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have
ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother
put away.

Analysis

God's rhetorical question 'Where is the bill of your mother's divorce, whom I have put away?' asserts that He never broke covenant despite Israel's exile. The 'bill of divorce' (Deuteronomy 24:1) was required for legal separation, but God produced none - the relationship suspension was discipline, not abandonment. The accusation 'for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves' shifts blame to Israel's sin, not God's unfaithfulness.

Historical Context

Exilic despair questioned whether God divorced Israel permanently. Isaiah clarifies that exile was temporary discipline for sin, not covenant dissolution. This grounds hope for restoration and anticipates Hosea's remarriage imagery (Hosea 2:19-20).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does knowing God never 'divorced' His people despite their sin assure you of eternal security in Christ?
2. In what ways have you 'sold yourself' to sin while blaming God for consequences?

Interlinear Text

כָּרִית וְתִּסְפֵּר	בְּהִנּוֹן הַמְּרַאֲתָה	אֲשֶׁר	מִנּוֹשֶׁת	וְתִּשְׁלַחַת	אֲמָכָם:	אֲמָתָה	בְּהִנּוֹן הַמְּרַאֲתָה	נִמְפְּרָתָה	בְּעִזּוֹנְתֵיכֶם	נִמְפְּרָתָה	אֲשֶׁר	מִנּוֹשֶׁת	וְתִּשְׁלַחַת	אֲמָכָם:	אֲמָתָה	בְּהִנּוֹן הַמְּרַאֲתָה	וְתִּסְפֵּר	כָּרִית וְתִּסְפֵּר		
H3541	Thus saith	the LORD	H335	H2088	Where is the bill	divorcement	H5612	H3748												
H559		H3068					H5612	H3748												
is your mother	H834	put away	H176	H4310	or which of my creditors	H834	H5383													
H517		H7971																		
have ye sold	H853	H0	H2005		you Behold for your iniquities	H5771														
H4376																				
yourselfs and for your transgressions	H6588				put away	H7971														

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 32:30 (References Lord): How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?

Jeremiah 3:8 (Parallel theme): And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.

Nehemiah 5:5 (Parallel theme): Yet now our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children: and, lo, we bring into bondage our sons and our daughters to be servants, and some of our daughters are brought unto bondage already: neither is it in our power to redeem them; for other men have our lands and vineyards.

Matthew 18:25 (References Lord): But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

2 Kings 4:1 (References Lord): Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.

Isaiah 52:3 (References Lord): For thus saith the LORD, Ye have sold yourselves for nought; and ye shall be redeemed without money.

Psalms 44:12 (Parallel theme): Thou sellest thy people for nought, and dost not increase thy wealth by their price.

Jeremiah 4:18 (Parallel theme): Thy way and thy doings have procured these things unto thee; this is thy wickedness, because it is bitter, because it reacheth unto thine heart.

Jeremiah 3:1 (References Lord): They say, If a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and become another man's, shall he return unto her again? shall not that land be greatly polluted? but thou hast played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to me, saith the LORD.

2 Kings 17:17 (References Lord): And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.