

I CHOSE YOU

Come together, all of you, and listen...
Come near me and listen to this:
From the first announcement I have not spoken in secret;
at the time it happens, I am there. . .
I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you,
who directs you in the way you should go.
If only you had paid attention to my commands,
your peace would have been like a river...

This is what the Lord says:
"Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths,
ask where the good way is, and walk in it,
and you will find rest for your souls.
Whether you turn to the right or to the left,
your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying,
This is the way; walk in it."
My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes,
in undisturbed places of rest.

This is what the Lord says:
"In the time of my favor I will answer you,
and in the day of salvation I will help you; I will keep you...
Shout for joy, O heavens; rejoice, O earth; burst into song, O mountains!
For the Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.
But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me."

"Can a mother forget the baby at her breast
and have no compassion on the child she has borne?
Though she may forget, I will not forget you!
See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.
When I came, why was there no one?
When I called, why was there no one to answer?
Was my arm too short to ransom you?
Do I lack the strength to rescue you?
For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with deep compassion I will bring you back.
In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for a moment,
but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you."

Now, this is what the Lord says, he who created you, he who formed you.
"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire you will not be burned;

the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord, your God,
you are precious, honored in my sight, and because I love you...
Do not be afraid, I am with you;
Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged,
You did not choose me, but I chose you...
I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.”
The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

ISAIAH 48:14-19, JEREMIAH 6:16, ISAIAH 30:21, 32:18, 49:8-50:2, ISAIAH 54:7-8, 43:1-5, JOSHUA 1:3-9,
JOHN 15:16, MATTHEW 28:20, NUMBERS 6:24-6