

117 50:1-3

creditors did I sell you? Behold, you were sold for your iniquities, and it was for your transgressions that your mother was sent away. (2) Why was there no man when I came? Why, when I called, was there no one to answer? Is my hand shortened so that it cannot redeem? Have I no power to deliver? Behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make rivers a wilderness, their fish stink for lack of water and die of thirst. (3) I clothe the heavens with blackness and make sackcloth their covering.

God declares that His relation to Israel is unchanged. Her sins require punishment but He will deliver her with supernatural power.

There is an unfortunate verse division between verses 2 and 3. Although the verse divisions in the Bible are much older than the chapter divisions, they were not part of the original writing. In a few places they are almost ludicrously wrong (as in Psalm 19:4-5.) Some verses consist of only a small part of a sentence. Others include two or three sentences.

Isaiah 50:3 is a continuation of the last part of verse 2 and really should be combined with it. If that would make too long a verse, the division should have been made at the end of the series of questions in verse 2. After verse 3 there is a very sharp change of thought; Isaiah 50:4 should really begin a new chapter.