



Drink No More: Awake, Depart

Isaiah 51:17 - 52:12

**WE ARE CLOSER
TO GOD WHEN WE
ARE ASKING
QUESTIONS
THAN WHEN WE
THINK WE HAVE
THE ANSWERS.**

Abraham Joshua Heschel

A male cardinal with a bright red crest and beak is perched on a thin, brown branch. The branch has several small, green buds. The background is a clear, bright blue sky. The text 'our prayer' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

our prayer

Creator of all
Whose heartbeat quickens
our own hearts,
and pulses also in places
beyond our scope of understanding,
We speak your name in weak translation:
the syllables twist our minds and tongues.
May the language and vision of
your unending love
take root in our midst until all of creation
is a living organism of giving and forgiving,
feeding and flourishing.

Keep our hearts fixed on you so that we may
perceive your spirit leading us
down paths of goodness,
and away from patterns of greed and destruction.
For you are the author of life and love,
of color and light, of taste and sound,
of movement and stillness,
of our past and our future.
We are in awe of your eternal presence.
Amen

Join in the drama of restoration

“...the cry of the people out of their bondage to Yahweh has been answered and now comes full circle; the people are to rouse themselves from their helpless stupor and awaken to the freedom they have received from God to join in the drama of restoration.”

- Hansen





ISAIAH 51:17 - 51:12

17 Rouse yourself, rouse yourself!

Stand up, O Jerusalem,
you who have drunk at the hand of the LORD
the cup of his wrath,
who have drunk to the dregs
the bowl of staggering.

18 There is no one to guide her

among all the children she has borne;
there is no one to take her by the hand
among all the children she has brought up.



19 These two things have befallen you
— who will grieve with you? —
devastation and destruction, famine and sword —
who will comfort you?

20 Your children have fainted,
they lie at the head of every street
like an antelope in a net;
they are full of the wrath of the Lord,
the rebuke of your God.

21 Therefore hear this, you who are wounded,
who are drunk, but not with wine:

22 Thus says your Sovereign, the Lord,
your God who pleads the cause of his people:
See, I have taken from your hand the cup of staggering;
you shall drink no more from the bowl of my wrath.



How do we reconfigure God's wrath in our modern cosmology with a cosmic Christ?

23 And I will put it into the hand of your tormentors, who have said to you,
“Bow down, that we may walk on you”;
and you have made your back like the ground
and like the street for them to walk on.

Chapter 52 - Let Zion Rejoice

1 Awake, awake,
put on your strength, O Zion!
Put on your beautiful garments,
O Jerusalem, the holy city;
for the uncircumcised and the unclean
shall enter you no more.

2 Shake yourself from the dust, rise up,
O captive Jerusalem;
loose the bonds from your neck,
O captive daughter Zion!

3 For thus says the Lord: You were sold for
nothing, and you shall be redeemed
without money.

51
I my mouth and said,
these things^a for yourselves
without money.
Your neck under the yoke,
let your souls receive
instruction;
is to be found close by.
with your eyes that I have
laboured little
and found for myself much rest.

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28 Get instruction with a lesson
of silver,
and you will gain by it
29 May your soul rejoice in
and may you not be
shame when you
30 Do your work before
time,
and in God's^a time
you your town

THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

1 The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz,
which he saw concerning Judah and
Jerusalem in the days of Uzzi'ah,
Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezeki'ah, kings of
Judah.

2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear,
O earth;

“Sons have I reared and brought up,
but they have rebelled against me.
3 The ox knows its owner,
and the ass its master's crib;
but Israel does not know,
my people does not understand.”



4 For thus says the Lord God: Long ago, my people went down into Egypt to reside there as aliens; the Assyrian, too, has oppressed them without cause.

5 Now therefore what am I doing here, says the Lord, seeing that my people are taken away without cause? Their rulers howl, says the Lord, and continually, all day long, my name is despised.

6 Therefore my people shall know my name; therefore in that day they shall know my name; therefore in that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here am I.

7 How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger
who announces peace, who
brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."



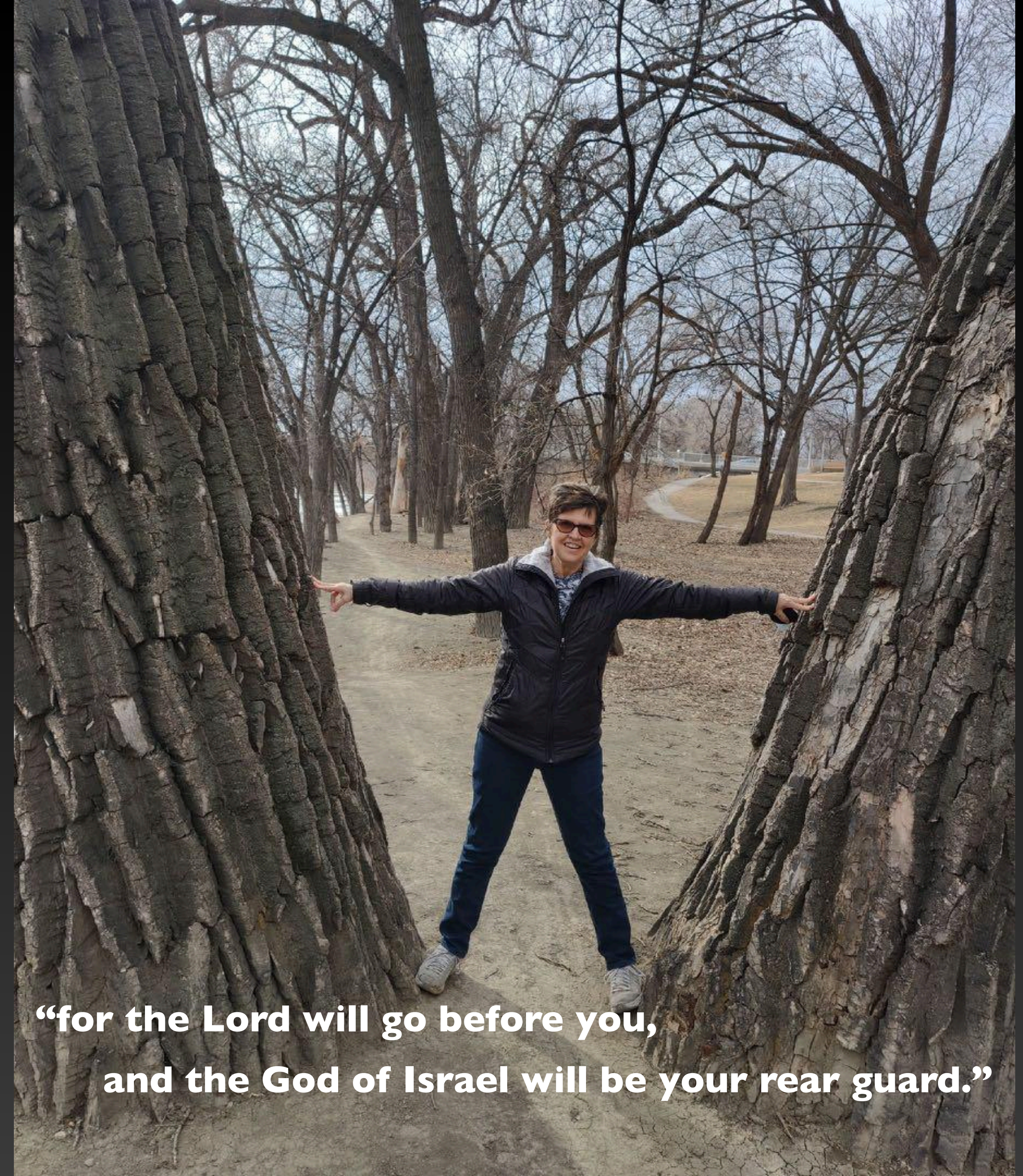
8 Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.

9 Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

10 The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

11 Depart, depart, go out from there!
Touch no unclean thing;
go out from the midst of it, purify yourselves,
you who carry the vessels of the Lord.

12 For you shall not go out in haste,
and you shall not go in flight;
for the Lord will go before you,
and the God of Israel will be your rear guard.



**“for the Lord will go before you,
and the God of Israel will be your rear guard.”**



“Thus concludes the Teacher’s eloquent lesson delivered to a community tottering between despair and hope. It is a timely lesson, in that it reminded a searching people of crucial moments in time that define the meaning of all time, moments that give orientation to those tempted to fall prey to lethargy by placing them in the presence of the source of all meaning... They are reminded of the moment of deliverance, the mysterious birth of a nation in divine deliverance from political bondage. And they are reminded of restoration, the return of the God without whom they are lost.” - Hanson



“There are nights I can’t find God anywhere at all.”

The idea that God moves things around, decides when the hurricane hits and why... makes more atheists than anything else. I find a kind of unknowing stance, a faithful agnosticism can keep me in faith a whole lot longer than my ideas of why God does what he does.” • Barbara Brown Taylor



Awake, Awake...TRUST

