

## THE LORD GOD HELPS ME

Isaiah 50:4–11

Key Verse: 50:7a

1. Note the repetition of the expression “the Lord GOD” (4a,5a,7a,9a).<sup>1</sup> What does this repetition tell us about this servant?
2. How does the servant say God helped him, and with what goal (4a)? How does he describe himself and God (4b–5)? What can we learn here about the person and work of the servant? How can we make listening to God our priority?
3. What else does the servant say (6), and how was this fulfilled in Jesus (Mt26:67; 27:26,30)? How does the servant respond to this (7)? How can we depend on God’s help like he did?
4. What confidence does this servant have (8–9a), and why is his innocence important (1Pe2:22–24)?
5. What is the author’s conclusion (10)? What is the alternative (11)? What can we learn in this servant song about Jesus and about how to grow as his servants?

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<sup>1</sup> In the ESV Bible, whenever this less common Hebrew expression “Adon YHWH” is used, it is translated into English as “the Lord GOD” (notice “God” is in all caps). (In Isaiah, “Adon YHWH” is repeated 29 times: 3:1,15; 7:7; 10:16,23–24,33; 19:4; 22:5,12,14–15; 25:8; 28:16,22; 30:15; 40:10; 48:16; 49:22; 50:4–5,7,9; 52:4; 56:8; 61:1,11; 65:13,15.)

In contrast, the much more frequently used Hebrew expression “YHWH Elohiym” (repeated hundreds of times throughout the Old Testament) is translated as “the LORD God” (notice “Lord” is in all caps).

“Adon YHWH” emphasizes God’s majesty and authority, but also his deep love and personal care for individuals. For such usage specifically in Isaiah, see 25:8; 30:15; 40:10–11; 49:22; 56:8; 61:1,11.

This Hebrew expression “Adon YHWH” is used at special moments when someone addresses God in prayer, illustrating intimate knowledge and devotion. For examples, see Abraham: Gen.15:2,8; Moses: Deut.3:24; 9:26; Joshua: Josh.7:7; Gideon: Judg.6:22; Samson: 16:28; David: 2Sam.7:18–20,28–29; Ps.69:6; 71:16; 109:21; Solomon: 1 Kings 8:53; Asaph: Ps73:28; Jeremiah: Jer.1:6; 4:10; 14:13; 32:17,35; Ezekiel: Ezek.4:14; 9:8; 11:13; 20:49; Amos: Amos 7:2,5.