

## Isaiah Lesson 49

Isaiah Chapter 49

*Distributed by: KJV Bible Studies*

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**Introduction:** Last week in Chapter 48, we studied how the focus returned to Israel. God again called His rebellious people to repent. If they would repent and return to God, He promised them peace.

Chapter 49 is a message from Jehovah for all to hear. It makes clear that He chose Israel and would deliver him. Moreover, God promised to judge the oppressors of His people. The greater truth is that God will fulfill His covenant promises to Israel and will exalt them as a nation in the Day of the Lord.

### I. The Servant of the Lord

*Isa 49:1 Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name.*

*Isa 49:2 And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;*

*Isa 49:3 And said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.*

The speaker here is God Himself. He is speaking on behalf of Israel. God describes how that He called and formed Israel into being His own. God did not merely claim Israel and they certainly did not choose God. All nations are called to bear witness that God created Israel for His own purpose.

The immediate context of the sword is Israel. There within is a foreshadow of Jesus Christ. Indeed, the word of our Lord is like unto a sharp sword or the polished shaft of an arrow in the quiver of the written Word of God. Though there was a clear glimpse of our Savior in the preceding verse, the direct context clearly is that of Israel. God chose Israel to bring glory to Him.

Israel, for short periods of time, in small numbers and great have glorified God. Those times were usually after God restored them from the judgment that He declared for their sakes. Israel was eventually cut off. They lost their land and their position both in this world and before God. He did so allowing a week of

years to remain, to fulfill His divine purpose and will concerning them and for their sake.

There is a day coming when Israel, with a whole heart, will Glorify God in absolute unity for eternity. The principal thought is how that God called Israel to be His servant, to be His witness, and to glorify Him. It would benefit us to remember that Christ established the church and commissioned it to go forth and preach the Gospel to every creature to the glory of God and our Lord and Savior.

*Eph 3:21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

*Isa 49:4 Then I said, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the LORD, and my work with my God.*

*Isa 49:5 And now, saith the LORD that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength.*

God's response clearly is of Israel. He laments that His efforts toward Israel seemed in vain. Though the servant of Jehovah clearly was Israel in the first few verses of the chapter; here, the servant is Christ. Part of the ministry of our Lord was and will be to bring Israel back to God.

Jesus is glorious in the eyes of His heavenly Father. See Matthew 3:17 and 17:5.

*Mat 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

*Mat 17:5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*

Clearly, the ministry of our Lord in His first coming was in the strength of His heavenly Father.

*Isa 49:6 And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.*

*Isa 49:7 Thus saith the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth,*

*to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the LORD that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee.*

The speaker again is God the Father. The servant mentioned again is Jesus Christ. Part of His ministry was to bring Israel back to their God and see them restored to their God. The purpose of our Lord's ministry is broadened as God the Father foretold how that Jesus' ministry would be as a light to the gentiles. He would bring salvation to the uttermost parts of the earth.

The focus of this prophecy is of Jesus Christ. The speaker is God the Father who refers to Himself as Jehovah ("the LORD") as well as "the Redeemer of Israel." A second person is also included with Him— "his Holy One." That clearly is Jesus Christ. It was our Lord "to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth" for He was despised and rejected of men, especially by Israel.

God and His only begotten Son have spoken to Israel. Though they would become a servant to other nations, ruling over them, the day was coming when "Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship." The thought looks forward to the day when Jesus Christ rules and reigns.

The reason that gentiles, the world around, will so submit is "because of the LORD that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel." God reassured Israel that He had chosen them as His people. Though they would reject their Messiah, the day was coming when He would rule and reign and all nations would bow before Him.

## **II. The Restoration of Israel**

*Isa 49:8 Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;*

Jehovah again issued a declaration to His Messiah. This is the second time in this chapter that the introduction "thus saith the LORD" is found. Though the preceding has dealt with Jehovah's promise to His Son, here the thought shifts back to His promise to Israel. The thought is that at the appropriate time God had heard them; and in the day of deliverance, God would help them. He has promised to preserve His people.

Israel remains God's covenant people and God reaffirmed that here. The day is coming when Israel will be the capital nation of the earth and will inherit even that

which had heretofore been considered desolate. The Apostle Paul used this verse as a basis for II Corinthians 6:2.

*2Co 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)*

*Isa 49:9 That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves. They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places.*

*Isa 49:10 They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.*

*Isa 49:11 And I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be exalted.*

*Isa 49:12 Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim.*

To those of Israel's seed hiding as virtual prisoners to the four corners of the earth. The message for them is that when Christ returns to "shew yourselves." In the Tribulation anti-Semitism will reach its full maturity in persecuting Jewish people the world around. However, when Christ returns, Jews who covered their identity are called to show themselves.

In that day, they will feed as sheep in the finest of pastures. They will not hunger, they will not thirst. The heat or sun will not hurt or kill them. The Lord will show them great mercy and guide them. The context clearly is of Israel in the day of the Lord. There also is clear parallel to Revelation 7:16. The greater thought is how that God will give special care to His beleaguered people, Israel, in the Day of the Lord.

When Christ returns, the very topography of Israel will be altered so that God's people may freely flow to Jerusalem. The thought closely parallels that of Isaiah 40:4.

*Isa 40:4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:*

When Christ returns, the very topography of Israel will be altered so that God's people may freely flow to Jerusalem. When Christ returns, Jews, scattered the world around in the diaspora, will return to their land. The land of Sinim, though referring perhaps to the far east, in its broader sense, refers to the uttermost

parts of the earth. Jews which have been scattered unto far-off places such as the Americas will return in that day.

### **III. Earth is Commanded to Sing Forth Joyfully**

*Isa 49:13 Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.*

*Isa 49:14 But Zion said, The LORD hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me.*

*Isa 49:15 Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.*

*Isa 49:16 Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.*

*Isa 49:17 Thy children shall make haste; thy destroyers and they that made thee waste shall go forth of thee.*

The very heavens and earth are enjoined to break forth into singing because God has blessed His people in their land. This is clearly about Israel in the Millennium. The entire creation is called upon to glorify God for His faithfulness to His people.

In verse 14 we find that in all the chastisement and tribulation which Israel endured because of their sin, some of them concluded that God had forsaken them and had forgotten them. To this God speaks of a mother and her child. He asks if she could forget her infant child so that she showed no compassion. The answer is that they may forget, yet, He will not forget them. God told Israel how He had inscribed his name upon the very palms of His hands.

The idea of “thy walls” likely refers to the habitations of Israel. They were continually upon the mind of God. The greater thought is that God had not and never will forget His people. They are upon His mind continually. The sons of Israel would make haste to drive off the destroyers of Israel.

The fulfillment of this undoubtedly will be in the Day of the Lord as Jesus Christ gives assistance to Israel in the final dark days of the Tribulation.

*Isa 49:18 Lift up thine eyes round about, and behold: all these gather themselves together, and come to thee. As I live, saith the LORD, thou*

*shalt surely clothe thee with them all, as with an ornament, and bind them on thee, as a bride doeth.*

*Isa 49:19 For thy waste and thy desolate places, and the land of thy destruction, shall even now be too narrow by reason of the inhabitants, and they that swallowed thee up shall be far away.*

*Isa 49:20 The children which thou shalt have, after thou hast lost the other, shall say again in thine ears, The place is too strait for me: give place to me that I may dwell.*

*Isa 49:21 Then shalt thou say in thine heart, Who hath begotten me these, seeing I have lost my children, and am desolate, a captive, and removing to and fro? and who hath brought up these? Behold, I was left alone; these, where had they been?*

In the Millennium, the gentile nations round about them will provide the Jews with the finest of clothing and accessories. Israel will prosper and overflow. Moreover, the nations which had been their enemies and had sought to swallow them up will be forever defeated. Even as in the day of Joshua, when he divided the land and Achsah (Caleb's daughter) asked for more (Judges 1:13-15); in the Day of the Lord, Israel will grow and prosper to such a degree that they will ask their Messiah for more room.

Israel will marvel at how they have been blessed. Though they had been sorely afflicted in their dispersion, they will be amazed at how they have multiplied. The greater thought in all of this is how that when Christ returns, Israel will flourish and be blessed of God. Though they had been persecuted by their enemies through the centuries, in the Day of the Lord, they will be astonished at how God will bless them.

*Isa 49:22 Thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders.*

*Isa 49:23 And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.*

When Christ returns, the gentile nations of the earth will assist Jews the world around in returning to their land. They will treat the Jewish people as heroes and heroines. Gentile nations and their leaders in that day will bow in submission to

Israel. As a result, Israel will know without any question that their God has remained faithful to them.

They shall not be ashamed that wait for me. What a profound truth. No one who waits on the Lord will be ashamed, confounded, or embarrassed. As the prophet wrote in Isaiah 30:18, blessed are all they that wait for him. That truth remains to this day.

*Isa 30:18 And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.*

*Isa 49:24 Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered?*

*Isa 49:25 But thus saith the LORD, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children.*

*Isa 49:26 And I will feed them that oppress thee with their own flesh; and they shall be drunken with their own blood, as with sweet wine: and all flesh shall know that I the LORD am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.*

The question here is rhetorical—the answer is implied. Prey is not taken from the mighty, nor are captives delivered, once lawfully taken. Though ordinarily captives were never released, God promised that He would fight for Israel and cause them to be delivered in His perfect time. He promised to deliver their offspring. That will take place altogether in the Day of the Lord. When Christ returns at Armageddon, the enemies of Israel will be consumed by the breath of His lips. They will be destroyed.

The day is coming when all mankind will know altogether that Jehovah God is the Savior and Redeemer of Israel. There will be no question in that day that He is “the mighty One of Jacob.” The greater truth in the preceding is how that God will in faithfulness fulfill His covenant to His people. God has not cast off His people. He has not forgotten His promise to them. He will restore and prosper them someday. That day is when Jesus Christ returns in power and great glory. He always keeps His Word!

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*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

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