

ISAIAH – Chapter 49

The Servant (vs. 3, 5-6) is the speaker in verses 1-5.

Vs. 1 Listen to Me:

O Islands – Isa. 41:1; 42:4-5

Peoples from afar – gentiles.

My purpose for being on earth preceded my birth. Isa. 9:6; Heb. 10:5-10ff;
Mt. 1:18-23

Vs. 2 His mouth – like a sharp sword. Heb. 4:12; John 1:1, 14; Rev.19:13

In the shadow of His hand...concealed Me. Heb. 5:7

Made me a select arrow...hidden me in His quiver.

Vs. 3 You are Israel the grand display of my glory. Rom. 9:6

When the Servant completes His work. Isa. 60:21-22; 61:3

Vs. 4a In the sequence of time it will appear that Messiah accomplished nothing with His work.

Vs. 4b Yet, surely, God will bring about the fullness of His plan.

Jesus (like us) suffered the plan of God without receiving the promises...
Heb. 11:39-40

Vs. 5 Messiah's mission – bring Jacob back...gathered to Him.

(For I am honored – Phil. 2:9-11...my God is my strength. Heb. 2:14; Phil. 2:6-8;
John 20:17)

Vs. 6 Not only for Israel, but He became a light for the Gentiles so that salvation would extend to “the ends of the earth.” Isa. 42:6; Lk. 1:76-79; Acts 15:6-18, esp. Acts 13:42-49)

Vs. 7 The Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, its Holy One to:

1) A light of the nations – Wonderful Counselor. Isa. 9:6;
John 1:4-9; 8:12; 9:5; 12:46

2) Brings salvation to the end of the earth. 2 Cor. 5:18-19; John 3:16-18;
1 John 2:2

3) The despised one. Isa. 53:3; Ps. 22:6-8; Lk. 18:31-33

4) One abhorred by the nation (Israel). John 1:11; Mt. 27:22-26; Isa. 52:14

- 5) Servant of rulers – His position among the rulers of the earth before His glorification will change to that which follows. Mt. 17:27; 26:52-57
- 6) One whom kings will arise when they see Him – the humbled one who was mocked will be exalted to the point... Isa. 52:15
- 7) One whom princes shall bow down before – prostrate themselves before Him in worship.

Because –

The Lord who is faithful.

The Holy One of Israel has shown Himself truthful, a keeper of His promises.

Has chosen YOU – 1 Pet. 2:4.

NOTE: There are two descriptions given of the servant. One reflects His relationship with the gentile nations and the other with His restoration of the Nation of Israel.

Vs. 8 In context, “God” is speaking to the Servant.

You prayed – at the right time I answered.

On the appointed day to deliver – I helped you!

God will make His Servant “a covenant of the people,” i.e.: the bond, which unites Israel and its God. Isa 42:6 Israel will be what she becomes because of Him, the result being their restoration to the land. Deut. 30:1-6

Vs. 9-13 The servant of Jehovah falls into the background and the prophecy proceeds with a description of the return of the people of Israel (the redeemed):

- 1) Bound Israel – go forth.
- 2) Those in darkness – show yourselves – come out into the light.
- 3) Their trip home will not require them to deviate from the most direct path looking for food; God will provide for them all along the way.
- 4) No more hunger, no more thirst, no more being overwhelmed by the elements.

For He will have compassion on them and guide them to...

- 5) All roads will lead to Jerusalem and God will lay them out.
- 6) They will come literally from the four corners of the earth.

Shout for joy – rejoice – God has brought His people, Israel, back home rightly related to Him. His dispersion is over, the ten tribes have been restored, the Servant is in their midst, and the world finally understands.

Vs. 14 But – Contrast – verse 13 is reality; verse 14 is perception.

Jerusalem (Judah) feels that God has forsaken and, in fact, forgotten them and this perception will reach its zenith when they are in Babylon; captive and their land is idle. (Tribulation period.)

Vs. 15 God answers that perception – NOT SO; “May it never be” Lk. 20:9-16 (Rom 6:2, 15), impossible Rom 8:31-39

1. Can a woman forget...have no compassion...? Isa. 44:21

With humans this might happen, but with God – perish the thought!

NOTE: God will not forget Israel.

Vs. 16 2. I have inscribed you (Israel – Judah – Zion) on the palms of My hands. Every time I look at my hands, I am reminded of you. Every time I lift My hands, others see you.

3. Your walls are continually before Me. Ps. 48:10-14; Isa. 62:4-12

Vs. 17 4. Those who build you up hurry to get to you.

Those who break you down depart.

Vs. 18-20 5. Your children will be returned to you.

As God lives, it will happen and when they return they will be “jewels worn as a bride” (unlike many of our children?)

6. Your waste, desolate, destroyed land (country, home) will be filled beyond capacity.

7. Those who took all that was intended for you will be gone!
Zech. 14:1

8. Your children, grandchildren; great grandchildren will be desirous of being near you and there will be so many!

Vs. 21 Then you will say...

NOTE: The population that returned from the Babylonian captivity did not fit this description, therefore, a yet future time must be the focus. Remember, we don't know when these things will happen, but the fact that they will is beyond doubt. Israel is the focus, not the church.

Vs. 22 Thus says the Lord God, behold, I will. (Isa. 7:17-19; 13:3-11, etc. – God moves His creation just as He wishes.)

Vs. 23 Gentiles will be subservient to Israel causing Israel to realize that their Lord controls the whole world.

Those who wait for Christ during the tribulation will not be disappointed.
Mt. 24:3,14

Vs. 24-25 With humans:

1. The mighty man keeps his captives.
2. The tyrant comes out on top.

With God – nothing and no one is able to oppose Him.

Bottom line: God will contend with the one who contends with His people.

He will win.

Vs. 26 When God finishes with mankind in the tribulation, all flesh will know that Jesus Christ is:

1. Israel's Savior (deliverer).
2. Israel's Redeemer.
3. The Mighty One of Jacob.