

Isaiah 49:1-26

“The Messiah’s Mission”

Ch’s 40-48 have focused primarily upon the nation of Judah’s deliverance from Babylon. That God would deliver *His people* through *His power* from bondage & set them free to return to Jerusalem, restore & rebuild the temple. * He shared prophetically (170 yrs in advance) that His servant (Cyrus by name, the Persian king) would set them free.

As incredible as that is, beginning in Ch 49 another *Servant* steps forward into focus. One that would grant freedom *not* to Israel *nationally*, but freedom would be offered to all of *humanity*! He would set captives free, breaking the bonds of sin & death, delivering people out of darkness & into the light of salvation. This *Servant* (of course) would be none other than *His Son*, our *Savior*, J.C.

& This is something unique about the God of Israel. As you study ancient history (& even still in many places presently) it was typical that different ethnicities or regions would serve what we might call “local deities”. The ‘gods’ were territorial. (The Egyptians had their gods, the Assyrians had their gods, the Babylonians had their gods, the Persians, the Greeks, the Romans, you get the idea). **The “gods” were confined to their people groups & regions. But what we find in Scripture is something totally different. The Author of the Word of God is the *Living God*, the Creator of the universe, the *Redeemer* of all mankind.**

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”¹ The plan of God was never to limit salvation to a specific people group, but to use the nation of Israel to share, to sound, to proclaim the good news of salvation by grace through faith in J.C. * – So as we turn our attention to Ch 49, this “Servant”, God’s Son takes center stage.

& We learn that *in Him* God will be glorified. *Through Him* Israel will find redemption & restoration. He will be a light to the Gentiles (His Salvation will be to the ends of the earth). He’ll be rejected initially, but honored ultimately/eternally. & The day will come when He will usher in the Millennial Kingdom & “all will be right” w/the world.

Vs 1-2

As the curtain draws back on Ch 49, the words of this “Servant” (our Savior) are announced to the ends of the earth (the coastlands, people’s from “afar”). * He says, “Listen to Me.” – (Have you noticed how repetitive those words have been as of late?)

¹ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Jn 3:16–17). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

It's almost as if the Lord is saying, "Listen to Me!" 😊) How much heartache & heartbreak we could be spared. The stress, the strain, the anxieties that come upon us because we won't *listen to the word of God!* Christ is here calling upon the nations of the *world* to give ear to Him. Why? Because *all* have sinned & fall short of the glory of God! & *all* have sinned, then *all* need a Savior! *

He says, "The LORD (Yahweh, I Am) has called Me from the womb. From the matrix (the inward parts) of my mother He has made mention of My name." & As you know (being fresh off the heels of Christmas) this was literally fulfilled. The angel Gabriel came to Mary, & when Mary saw him she was afraid (& understandably so). But Gabriel said, "*Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.*"² God called Him by name before He was ever born. Put a plan in motion, a calling upon His life...

Remember, when Joseph was struggling to receive what he'd heard from Mary about this whole, "overshadowing, life forming" encounter w/God (the fact that Mary could be a virgin but pop up pregnant), an angel came to him as well. & He said, "*...do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit* (she's not lying to you Joseph). *And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.*"³ His name would announce His mission, the purpose, the plan, God's calling upon Him was that He was to *save His people from their sins*.

*"The Lord has called Me from the womb." & From the prophetic perspective it was long before that, the plan was in motion from before the foundations of the earth (1 Pet 1:20-21). But it was made known, made manifest at the appropriate time when Jesus was to be brought into the world.

But here's what I want you to see. Jesus wasn't the only One who was called from His mother's womb. David declared, "*For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.*"⁴ & Of course we could easily digress here for a moment & speak of the fact that life begins at conception, but I'll let that go for now. Listen to his words in Vs 16, "*Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.*"⁵ Translation? "Before my feet were upon this planet, You had a plan/purpose for me."

² *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Lk 1:30-31). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

³ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Mt 1:20-21). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁴ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Ps 139:13-14). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁵ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Ps 139:16). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

God told Jeremiah, *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."*⁶ In the book of Gal Paul says, "It was God who separated me from my mother's womb & called me through His grace, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles..."

What I'm wanting you to see is a pattern beginning to develop that demonstrates the fact that God's plans for us aren't random. They're not haphazard. He doesn't shoot from the hip & have a "Que Sera Sera" (whatever will be, will be) kind of attitude. God has a plan for you, a purpose for you that He would have you walk in. We learned last week that disobedience will render unfulfilled potential, but that doesn't diminish the fact that God has a plan for your life. In the book of Eph Paul put it like this, *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."*⁷ *

& This "Servant" that God would raise up, wouldn't brandish a weapon, He wouldn't need military training. God would cause His very words to be powerful & penetrating, life changing. They would be *like a sharp sword*. Piercing to the very core of man's being. Penetrating the heart. Of course we can't read this w/out calling to mind Heb 4:12, *"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*⁸ Read through the gospels. People were constantly blown away by the way Jesus spoke. The authority He wielded, the piercing accuracy w/which He made known what was happening in the hearts of those around Him or standing before Him.

When you get to the book of Rev & Jesus is coming to smite the nations in judgment. Does He use a weapon? No, the sharp two-edged sword (which is the word of God) proceeds from His mouth. That's all He needs. All of creation will bow & buckle at His word.

"In the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me. & Made Me a polished shaft; in His quiver He has hidden Me." The picture is of a finely tuned arrow hidden in the quiver. Ready to "go to work" at any time. When God was ready to reveal Him, He was ready, waiting & prepared to do the work.

Vs 3-4

Why does God call the Messiah, "Israel" in Vs 3?

⁶ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Je 1:5). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁷ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Eph 2:10). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁸ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Heb 4:12). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Because He would embody all that Israel was intended to be. Remember, Israel means, “Governed by God”. He would fulfill all in which the nation had failed. He would fulfill the law perfectly, He would be the Light of the world, as was meant to be. He would extend the offer of salvation to all of humanity... & He would glorify His Father flawlessly. Again, read through the gospels. Jesus was a master at doing things in such a way so that God would get the glory.

In Jn Ch 12 as Jesus was speaking to His disciples of the cross that was set on the horizon for Him, He said, *“Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour. ‘Father, glorify Your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.’”*⁹ The Son glorified the Father.

& * We need to see here that we don’t have a high priest who is unable to sympathize w/our struggles. He faced tough times, discouraging thoughts & emotions as well. “Then I said, ‘I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing & in vain.’” **Think about the ministry of Jesus. All of His disciples fled & forsook Him when He needed them the most. One of them betrayed Him, another doubted Him. Multitudes gathered around Him, but mostly only for the miracles & personal gain they got from Him. There were big crowds but minimal conversions.** Even after the resurrection, on the Day of Pentecost, after years of ministry, miracles, signs & wonders, powerful/penetrating words like none had ever spoken... there were about 120 disciples awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit... Ladies & Gentlemen; He came to His own... & His own did *not* receive Him (Jn 1:11).

Jesus faced discouragement, no different than any of us do. But here’s the key, He didn’t allow discouragement to *deter* Him. Why? Because He maintained the eternal perspective. Your eternal reward isn’t tethered to acquiring a fanbase, it’s about remaining faithful. & Jesus was *faithful* (for which we give Him praise), He finished the work God called Him to do, His reward was sure. Be faithful. Your labor in the Lord is not in vain. Surely your just reward is w/the Lord... * At His 1st He wouldn’t bring *restoration* to the nation, He would bring *salvation* to the world.

Vs 5-7

Allow me to sum all that up in a sentence. This “Servant”, our Savior, the Messiah will be despised & rejected initially, but exalted, adored & bowed before by every tribe, tongue, people & nation ultimately.

⁹ *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Jn 12:27-28]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

But Vs 5 & again in Vs 6 we find some incredibly important statements regarding a particular doctrinal position. We'll see it again in Vs 15-16. * You need see that one important aspect of the Messiah's mission would be to (Vs 5) "Bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel is gathered to Him." & Vs 6 "To raise up the tribes of Jacob & restore the preserved ones of Israel."

Contrary to a fairly common doctrine in the church today, God is *not finished* w/the nation of Israel. There is no sound biblical reason for what's called "replacement theology". This idea that God has done away w/the nation of Israel & the promises that He made to them will be fulfilled in (basically given to) the church. Paul speaks to this in Romans Ch 11. Certainly we're under a new dispensation, the dispensation of grace. But doesn't in any way annul the promises that God made to Abraham, to Isaac or to Jacob. Paul said, "*For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved,*"¹⁰

Listen, you do realize that every Christian was a Jew originally, yes? That the 1st church was Jewish in ethnicity. & That the day is coming (when the fullness of the Gentiles has come in) that God will rapture the church & return His attention (if you will) to the Jews. The A.C. will work great deception & when he goes into the temple, declares that he's God & demands to be worshiped as God, the scales will fall from their eyes, they will see Jesus for who He is & all of Israel will be saved. *

That's what He's speaking of here. Israel will receive *restoration* through their Messiah. The Gentiles (having been dwelling in darkness, apart from God's word) will receive both *light & salvation*. But in the big picture what's being communicated here is that salvation is to the Jew & the Gentile alike. Again, for God so loved *the world*...

& As such, the day will come when all the world (we know it as the Millennial Kingdom) will arise & worship J.C.... "Because of the Lord who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel; & He has chosen *You*." (Speaking of Jesus).

Vs 8-13

In Vs 8 he speaks of the "acceptable time", that He would preserve Him & give Him as a covenant to the people. Ultimately this is fulfilled in the cross of J.C. & the "preservation" was fulfilled in the resurrection. No doubt the Lord received strength & comfort from such passages.

¹⁰ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Ro 11:25-26). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Knowing that His Father was w/Him, would help Him & preserve Him. Death would not defeat Him; He would rise again.

& Of course, His whole ministry revolved around (& still revolves around, Vs 9) setting captives free from the bondage of sin/death, demonic strongholds & drawing people out of darkness & into the light of salvation.

“They shall neither hunger nor thirst”, & yes there are prophetic implications behind all of this. We find these Vs repeated in the book of Rev w/regard to the tribulation saints. But as for our application what I want you to see is the fact that if you eat of the substance of this world, drink from wells of this world, you’ll hunger/thirst again. Only J.C. truly satisfies the deepest hunger & the thirst that’s in the heart of every man & every woman.

& Notice (Vs 11), “I will make each of My mountains a road.” He’s saying that He will use difficulties to develop you. What seems like an obstacle in the way will actually become the means by which you will overcome. One commentator said this, “There is no exception in that great, but little word, all. There is nothing in life – no obstacle, no loneliness, no trial, no sorrow – which may not be a way into God’s richest blessing. There is no situation of entanglement, nothing that you can possibly conceive, but this can be part of God’s way to make His mountain a way of deliverance.” (Redpath)

As for the land of “Sinim”, there’s debate as to where exactly that is. But I think that makes it even more glorious. God sees you; He knows where you are. There’s no place too obscure, too ambiguous, too small, God sees you & is able to deliver you.

Vs 14

* God is speaking of deliverance, great rejoicing. But during the difficult days the Jews would have the mindset of having been forsaken by God, forgotten by God. & It’s easy (isn’t it) to gravitate toward this mindset when we’re in the furnace of affliction? When we’re really going through times of tribulation...

One day J.B. (having found himself in jail for some time) sent to Jesus & said, “Hey, are You the One we’ve been waiting for or should we be looking for someone else?” He was essentially saying, “If You came to set the captives free, why am I in jail?” John, like everyone else in his day, was looking for a political, military Messiah. He was saying, “Hey, let’s get this show on the road!” But do you remember what Jesus said? He said, *“Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.”*

*And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.*¹¹ Jesus is saying, “Hey, following Me isn’t the primrose problem free path that you might think it is. I won’t always do *what* you think I should or do it the *way* you think I should do it.” That doesn’t mean you’re forsaken or forgotten of God. It means His ways aren’t our ways, His ways are infinitely higher than our ways. & When we think God has forgotten us, forsaken us, turned a blind eye to us... look at Vs 15.*

Vs 15-21

The blessings that God will be pouring out upon them will be shocking, surprising, seemingly coming out of nowhere! The land that they have (even the desolate places) will be overrun w/His goodness, they won’t have enough room to contain it. (Referring to the restoring & bringing back of the nation to Him).

But back to our previous point. * God wants us to know that the condition of His people is always on His mind & He’s always working toward out eternal good & His eternal glory.

When you think God has forgotten you... He says, “Can a woman forget her nursing child?” Even if they put their paternal instincts aside in some weird or abusive fashion (as sadly happens) God says, “They *might* forget (the idea is, not really, you can abuse or neglect your child, you won’t forget it), Yet, I will not forget.”

God has a greater love *for*, commitment & devotion *to* His people than a woman does for her nursing child. He says, “I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands.” The obvious & beautiful fulfillment found in the nail scarred hands of Jesus. When we begin to doubt God or feel as if He’s forgotten us, we need look no further than the cross. How could the One who suffered, bled & died *for* us, ever *forget* us? It’s never going to happen. He’s inscribed you on the palms of His hands. *

Vs 22-26

*Is God finished w/Israel? You can’t read your Bible w/out a bias & come to believe that. He will contend w/those who contend w/them & save their children. There will be no eradication or elimination of the nation of Israel. God will fight for them & all flesh shall know, “That I, the LORD, am your Savior, & your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.”

In Vs 22 God says that He will even use the Gentile nations to help facilitate & establish them the final restoration of the nation & their land.

¹¹ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Mt 11:4-6). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

An incredible prophecy when we consider the fact that so far, throughout their history, Gentile nations have been instrumental in *scattering* them. But God says He'll make them instrumental in *gathering* them. **Close**

I love it. Especially when we consider the radical overtones & outright brazen antisemitism in the world today. I've never in all my life seen such bold public venom, the rationalization, the glorification & the justification of terrorism against a people group. Seeking to justify Hamas & their unprovoked premeditated brutality & slaughter as opposed to a wartime response.

Listen, God's not willing that *any* should perish. But He's made a promise to Israel, "I will contend w/him who contends w/you." It doesn't mean they get a free pass, the context of all this is coming out of the accountability that they have before God as well. But God will keep His word to them. Heaven & earth will pass away, His word will by no means pass away. & We're so glad that God keeps His word. Because He's made you a promise as well.

That all who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved. That whosoever believes on the Lord J.C. will be saved. Doesn't mean there won't be tough times. But ultimately, eternally it'll serve your good & His glory, "For they shall not be ashamed who wait for Me..." *

Prayer Points:

Father, we thank You that You are faithful & true. That Your word will never fail. We thank You for the hope we have in You & that You have so loved us that You gave J.C. for us that we might be saved.

That's why we're here. Having been saved *by* Him, we want to learn *of* Him. But if you've not been saved by Him, let today be the day. God loves you. Jesus died, was placed in a tomb & 3 days later rose again that you might be justified before God by faith in Him. He didn't tell you to understand it, He did tell you to believe it. Turn from your sin, trust in Him & be saved.