

Thursday Evening Bible Study  
**Series: The Book of Isaiah**

Teaching Summary for Week 117

**Isaiah Chapter 49**

Chapter 49 reintroduces the Servant of the Lord. The Lord called Him from His mother's womb to restore the nation of Israel to God and to bring salvation to the end of the earth. There are also hints about the opposition and suffering that the Servant will face. Yet most of the chapter is brimming with promises of future blessing for Israel. It contains one of the most tender expressions of the Lord's love for Israel found anywhere in the Bible - verses 15 and 16.

Simple Outline of Chapter 49

	Subject	Message
Verses 1-13	The Lord – God the Father - commissions His Servant, the Lord Jesus Christ	Isaiah 49:5-6
Verses 14-26	The Lord comforts Zion (the remnant of Israel)	Isaiah 49:14-16, 22

**Let's read Isaiah chapter 49 now.**

## More detailed outline of Chapter 49

<b>Verses 1-13</b>	<b>The Lord commissions His Servant</b>
1-4	His calling and preparation
5-9a	His mission
9b-12	Promised blessings
13	Shout for joy!
<b>Verses 14-26</b>	<b>The Lord comforts Zion</b>
14-16	Complaint and comfort
17-26	Promised blessings

The promises in verses 9-12 and 17-26 will be completely fulfilled at the Second Coming of Christ, when He sets up His earthly kingdom and rules from the throne of David in Jerusalem (Zion).

### Verse-by-verse

In verses 1-6, the Servant speaks to the nations, telling them about His commission from the LORD to bring salvation to the end of the earth.

**Verses 1-2:** The Servant of the Lord is speaking to the Gentiles: the islands, the peoples from afar. These are the first two verses of the second Servant Song. They are highly poetic. Each verse has 4 lines of poetry. The lines form pairs where the second line says the same thing as the first using different terms.

The fancy name for this is “synonymous parallelism”. Synonymous parallelism is a literary device, often used in Hebrew poetry, that involves the repetition of the same idea in two different ways. This device is used to highlight and amplify important ideas. We’ll see this again in verse 4.

The pattern in verse 2 is different from the pattern in verse 1. Verse 1 is AA BB. Verse 2 is AB AB. Don’t worry, I’ll explain!

In **verse 1**, the Servant declares that the LORD called Him from the womb, and named Him from the body of His mother. He has a mother. So this Servant is not the nation of Israel. Earlier, in **Isaiah 7:14**, His name was revealed. This prophecy came to pass with the birth of Jesus. **See Matthew 1:20-23; Luke 1:30-33.**

**Verse 2** is built around four metaphors each of which illustrates how the LORD has equipped His Servant.

“ He has made **my mouth like a sharp sword**”. His power will come from His words. The Bible describes the word of God as a sword, in passages such as **Hebrews 4:12** and **Ephesians 6:17**. When the Lord Jesus Christ comes back as the conquering warrior, He will have a sword (**Psalm 7:12; Revelation 2:16**). At that time, it will be the King’s sword of judgment (**Psalm 45:3**).

“in **the shadow of His hand** He has concealed Me”. This speaks of the perfect Son of God (**Isaiah 51:16**). The Father concealed His Servant until the proper time came for Him to be revealed. There was the perfect time for Him to be born ( **Galatians 4:4-5; Titus 1:1-4; 1 Timothy 2:5-6** ) , and there will be the proper time (known only by the Father), for Him to come again (**1 Timothy 6:13-16**), this time as the King of Kings.

“He has also made **me a select arrow**”. The select arrow is associated with light, and represents the salvation of the people. (**Habakkuk 3:11-13**). The Lord’s arrows administer judgment on His enemies (**Psalms 7:11-13**). When the Lord returns as King, He will also shoot deadly arrows (**Psalms 45:5**).

“He has **hidden Me in His quiver**”. This parallels the shadow of His hand. The Servant is hidden among the arrows. **Psalms 17:8-9** speaks of being hidden from one’s enemies under God’s wings.

**Verse 3:** The Lord calls His Servant Israel. Israel is the place as well as the people where God will glorify Himself through the work of His Servant the Lord Jesus Christ. See **Isaiah 44:23**. The Lord Jesus takes the place of the nation that failed.

God’s conception of Israel undergoes several transformations:

<i>An individual</i> →	<i>A people</i> →	<i>An Individual</i> →	<i>A people</i>
<b>Jacob</b>	<b>Nation of Israel</b>	<b>The Lord Jesus Christ</b>	<b>the Kingdom</b>
Son of Abraham	Jews only	Son of God and Son of Man	Jews and Gentiles

**Verse 4:** This verse has more synonymous parallelism. It reverts back to the pattern of verse 1: AABB.

The Servant labored in vain because He was rejected by Israel during His First Advent (**Isaiah 49:7a; John 1:11**). **Isaiah 53:1-8** describes this rejection in all its horror. But He will be worshipped by all nations at His Second Advent, **Isaiah 49:7b**. The Servant knows that God will ultimately vindicate Him and reward Him (**Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 1:5-13-15; Isaiah 52:13; 53:10, 12**).