

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Week 118

Isaiah Chapter 49

More detailed outline of Chapter 49

Verses 1-13	The Lord commissions His Servant
1-4	His calling and preparation
5-9a	His mission
9b-12	Promised blessings
13	Shout for joy!
Verses 14-26	The Lord comforts Zion
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. 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 (**Psalms 7:12; Revelation 2:16**). At that time, it will be the King’s sword of judgment (**Psalms 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>
Jacob	Nation of Israel	The Lord Jesus Christ	the Kingdom
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 1:5,13-14; Isaiah 52:13; 53:10, 12**).

Verse 5: The Servant is still addressing the nations. He repeats what the Lord had said to the Servant. These promises and instructions will be given in verse 6.

Here in verse 5, the Servant introduces the Lord as the One who formed Him from the womb to be His Servant, in order that Israel might be gathered to Him. Notice that the Servant and Israel are separate and distinct from one another.

In the last part of verse 5, the Servant credits the Lord as His strength, the One who honors Him and will reward Him in His justice. “Now” means something new. The Servant – the Lord Jesus Christ – will gather Israel to the LORD God at the Second Coming. See Isaiah **11:12; 43:5-6**. What’s new is that the LORD God will use His Servant to accomplish these things.

What the LORD said about Israel (Jacob) in **Isaiah 43:1; 44:1-2,5** the LORD now says about His servant, the LORD Jesus Christ here in verse 5.

Verse 6: This is the verse upon which chapter 49 pivots. It succinctly describes the two-fold mission that the LORD God gave His Servant. The Servant is still addressing the nations. He repeats what the Lord had said to the Servant.

The “smaller” thing is to raise up the tribes of Jacob and restore the preserved ones of Israel (the remnant in the Last Days. See **Zechariah 13:8-9**. This cannot occur until Christ returns.

There were twelve tribes of Israel. They proceeded from the twelve sons of Jacob. See **Genesis 49:28**. However, 10 of these tribes ceased to exist as tribes when the Northern Kingdom of Israel was wiped out by the Assyrians in 722 BC. **2 Kings 17:6, 21-23**. Some individuals from these former tribes remained in the land and were assimilated into the Gentile peoples whom the Assyrians sent to repopulate that land. Others joined the Jews in the Southern Kingdom (the tribes of Judah and Benjamin). Some were taken in exile to Assyria. See **2 Chronicles 34:6-9**.

After that, only the two tribes of the Southern Kingdom of Judah remained.

But all twelve tribes will be raised up when Christ returns to establish His kingdom: **Isaiah 66:7-9; Eze 48:1-7, 23-29; Revelation 7:2-8.**

The greater: “I will make You a light of the nations, so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

Isaiah 42:6 also spoke of the Servant as light to the nations. This is fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. **Luke 2:29-32.** Jesus commissioned Paul to be His vessel to bring the gospel to the Gentile nations, **Acts 13:46-48.**

The Servant IS the Light. He IS God’s salvation. **Psalm 27:1; John 8:12.**

The Light is also the Word of God. **Psalm 119:105; Micah 7:7-8.**

And Jesus is the Word, **John 1:1-4.**