

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

Teaching Summary for Week 119

**Isaiah Chapter 49**

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:

In **verse 1**, the Servant declares that the LORD called Him, and named Him. He has a mother. So this Servant is not the nation of Israel. This prophecy came to pass with the birth of Jesus.

**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.

“in **the shadow of His hand** He has concealed Me”. The Father concealed His Servant until the proper time came for Him to be revealed.

“He has also made **me a select arrow**”. The select arrow is associated with light, and represents the salvation of the people.

“He has **hidden Me in His quiver**”. The Servant is hidden hidden from His enemies.

**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<br>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.

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**.

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**.

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

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

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

It all fits together perfectly. Jesus is the Servant. Jesus is salvation. Matthew 1:21, Act 4:11-12. His very name, Jesus, means “Yahweh saves”.