

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Week 122

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

We continue tonight in verse 8.

Verses 8-9a: This section reveals more on the mission of the Servant.

Verse 8 is the Father's reply to the Servant's cries on the cross. See Psalm 22:19-24.

Verse 8a is quoted in 2 Corinthians 6:2. Here, Paul applies these words of Isaiah to the church age, when the gospel of the grace of God is going out to all the world.

Verse 8b speaks of God's salvation for His people through the work of His Servant, At the appointed time, God will answer and will help the Servant accomplish His Mission. Here, "the people" refers to the redeemed of Israel in the last days. See Isaiah 42:6.

In giving His Servant as a covenant to redeemed Israel, the LORD will achieve three things:

1. Restore the land (Palestinian covenant; see Gen 15:18-21).
2. Make the people inherit the "desolate heritages" (Davidic Covenant: see **Amos 9:11-12**)
3. Releasing those who are bound and those who are in the darkness. Those who are in the darkness recalls **Isaiah 9:2-7**, (quoted in **Matthew 4:16**). Those who are bound anticipates **Isaiah 61:1**.

Verses 9b-12 describe the blessings that the Lord will give to the remnant of Israel when Christ returns.

Verse 9b-10 describe the Shephard with His sheep. **See Psalm 23, John 10:9.**

Verse 10 is quoted in **Revelation 7:16-17**. See **Isaiah 35:4-7** for more on the springs of water.

In **verse 11**, God is preparing a way for His people Israel to return to the promised land. See also **Isaiah 35:8-10; 40:3-5; 62:10-12** (notice the distinction here between “people” – Israel, and “peoples” – the nations).

The glory of the Lord will be revealed in His redeemed people in the last days/Messianic kingdom. See **Isaiah 60:1-5**.

Verse 12 describes the return of the remnant of Israel to Jerusalem in the last days. Jews will come from all directions of the globe to Jerusalem. See also **Isaiah 11:10-12; and 43:5-7**.

Verse 13 is a song of praise and joy because the Lord has redeemed Israel. See also **Isaiah 44:23**; and **Psalms 69:34-36**. Once again, Isaiah presents the Lord comforting His people and having compassion on the afflicted. See also **Isaiah 40:1; 51:3; and 54:7-10**.

This sets the stage for the second half of chapter 49.

Verse 14-26 give the complaint of Zion (v.14), the Lord’s comfort for Zion (vv 15-16), and the Lord’s promises to Zion (vv 17-26).

“Zion” literally refers to the city of Jerusalem and/or the mountain on which Jerusalem sits. It also is used metaphorically to refer to Judah, as well as the nation of Israel.

It’s just like how we say “Capitol Hill” to represent the U.S. Congress, or Hollywood to represent the movie industry.

When the Bible speaks of the daughter or son of Zion, it refers to her people, starting with those in Jerusalem, continuing with the nation of Judah, and finally to all Israel.

Let's see the different ways that Zion is used in the Bible.

Zion *the mountain*: **Psalm 2:6; 48:1-2.**

Zion = *Jerusalem*: **Psalm 51:18; 87:2; Isaiah 2:1-4; 33:20.**

Zion = *the dwelling place of the Lord*: **Psalm 76:2; 132:13-14.**

“daughter of Zion” (also sons, children) = *inhabitants of Jerusalem*: **Isaiah 1:8.**

People of Israel/remnant of Israel: **Psalm 149:1-4; Isaiah 66:8; Zechariah 9:11-14.**

Zion = *Judah*: **Isaiah 51:3.**

Zion = *the nation and people of Israel*: **Psalm 126:1; Isaiah 51:16.**

In the second half of Isaiah 49, the Lord speaks to Zion or Jerusalem as if the city were a person. This is a poetic device by means of which the Lord ultimately speaks to her people: the remnant of Israel.

With this in mind, **Let's read Isaiah 49:14-26.**

Guide:

Zion as the *city of Jerusalem*: **verses 14-17.**

Children of Zion as *the remnant of Israel that returns to the promise land*: **verses 18-22.**

Zion as *the nation of Israel*: **verses 23-26.**