

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Week 124

Isaiah Chapter 49

Chapters 49-54 exhibit a pattern that repeats several times. A **Servant song** (looking forward to the Lord Jesus Christ) is followed by a **proclamation of future salvation**.

We saw this in chapter 42. The first Servant Song appeared in verses 1-13, followed by a proclamation of salvation in verses 42-17.

And we have this same pattern here in chapter 49. The Servant Song in 49:1-13 is followed by a proclamation of salvation in 49:14-50:3.

And we will see this same pattern two more times.

Here are all four:

Servant Song	Proclamation of future Salvation
Isaiah 42:1-13	Isaiah 43:14-17
Isaiah 49:1-13	Isaiah 49:14-50:3
Isaiah 50:4-11	Isaiah 51:1-52:12
Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Isaiah 54:1-17

Let's read the complete proclamation of salvation in **Isaiah 49:14-50:3**.

Verse-by-verse

Isaiah 49:14-26 gives 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).

Isaiah 50:1-3 consists of a rhetorical device which disproves the negative by asking questions and giving the responses to those questions.

"Zion" literally refers 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 like saying "Capitol Hill" to mean the U.S. Congress, or "Hollywood" to mean the movie industry.

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

Zion the mountain: **Psalm 2:6; 48:1-2; 125:1.**

Zion = Jerusalem: **Psalm 51:18; 87:2-6; 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 = 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 Zion's people: the remnant of Israel.

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

"Zion" raises three objections (complaint, questions) to the Lord: **verse 14, verse 21, and verse 24.**

The Lord responds to each one in turn. This gives the structure for verses 14-26.

Isa 49:14

But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me,

And the Lord has forgotten me."

The Lord responds to this first objection in two ways.

The Lord first gives Zion emotional comfort, in verses **15-17**. Here we have two of the most tender expressions of the Lord's incredible love for His people. His love is greater than the love of a mother for her newborn child. He loves Zion so much that He has actually inscribed her on the palms of His hands.

Then the Lord gives Zion a vision of the future for her "children", in verses 18-20. These children are the redeemed of Israel who will return to the promise land in the last days. See also **Deuteronomy 30:1-10**.

Isa 49:21

*Then you will say in your heart,
'Who has begotten these for me,
Since I have been bereaved of my children
And am barren, an exile and a wanderer?
And who has reared these?
Behold, I was left alone;
From where did these come?'"*

Here in verse 21, Zion is amazed at the vision of the future in verses 18-20. She asks three questions concerning her children: Who has begotten these, who has reared these, and where did they come from.

The Lord answers her questions in verses 22-23. When the Lord gives the signal (and the signal is the arrival of the Messiah, Isaiah 11:10), the nations will bring Zion's sons and daughters back to the promise land. The kings of the earth will watch over her children, and the princesses will nourish them. Note the parallel between the Servant in verse 7 and Zion here in verse 23.

Isa 49:24

*Can the prey be taken from the mighty man,
Or the captives of a tyrant be rescued?"*

The Lord gives His answer in verses 25-26. The mighty man and the tyrant refer to the Gentile rulers who persecuted, captured, and abused the sons and daughters of Israel. At the proper time, the Lord will take vengeance on the enemies of His people. See **Deuteronomy 32:35-43; Isaiah 34:1-10; 63:1-6; and Revelation 19:11-18.**