

Isaiah 49–51

Lesson 20

Two Themes:

The Servant Whom God Has Called (49–50)

God's Comfort for His People (49–51)

Rich in N.T. Fulfillment

- Some passages directly quoted:
 - 49:6 in Acts 13:47; same point made in Luke 2:32.
 - 49:8 in 2 Corinthians 6:2.
- Others referred to in various ways:
 - Calling Jesus from the womb, making mention of His name, His certain reward, mouth like a sharp sword, neither hunger nor thirst, guide His people by springs of water, God glorified in Him, His attentive ear, His comforting words, the Father's care of Him, despised and rejected, deliverance of captives, everlasting joy and gladness, clothed like a bride, etc.

The Servant Whom God Has Called

Isaiah 49–50

The Servant or Messiah

- Formed, called from the womb and mentioned by name (49:1, 5).
- His mouth would be made like a sharp sword (49:2).
- God would **hide** Him in the shadow of His hand, or in His quiver (49:2).
- Made like a polished shaft or arrow (49:2).
- God would be glorified in Him (49:3).

The Servant or Messiah

- Assured of a reward, even when it appeared that He had labored in vain (49:4).
- Appointed to restore Israel, but since that was “too small a thing,” was also appointed to be a light to the Gentiles (49:5–6).
- Despised and rejected by some (his own people?), but worshipped by kings and princes (49:7).
- God would help Him, preserve Him, give Him as a covenant to the people (49:8; 50:6–9).

The Servant or Messiah

- Through Him God would deliver captives everywhere (49:9), provide for their every need (49:10–12) and cause joy to break out in heaven and earth (49:13).
- God would give Him a learned tongue to know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary (50:4).
- Would open His ears to God and not be rebellious, would put His complete trust in God (50:4–5).

Comfort For God's People

But Zion said, “The LORD has forsaken me, and my Lord has forgotten me” (49:14).

God's Response

- First, let's see who the people are who will be comforted:
 - Those who wait for God—who rely on Him and trust in His name (49:23; 50:10).
 - Those who fear God and obey the Servant's voice (50:10).
 - Those who know, follow after righteousness (51:1, 7).
 - Those in whose heart is God's law (51:7).

God's Response

- I can't forget you any more than a woman can forget her nursing child (49:15–16).
 - “See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; your walls are continually before Me” (49:16).
- You'll have so many children the land won't be able to hold you (49:19–20), and this increase will come from the Gentiles who turn to Me (49:21–23).

God's Response

- Don't worry about the strength of your captors. I will make them "go away from you" (49:17). I will deliver YOU and contend with THEM, and they shall be "drunk with their own blood" (49:24–26). I will take the cup of fury out of your hands and make them drink it (51:17–23).
- Put your confidence in My strength. Why should you be afraid of man, when I'm the one who divided the sea, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth? (51:12–13, 15).

God's Response

- I will provide you with spiritual nourishment; I will protect you during trials; I will remove the obstacles from your path (49:10–11).
- I will clothe you like a bride (49:18).
- I will adorn you with righteousness and salvation—garments that never fade (51:6, 8).
- You will sing songs of thanksgiving, because I will give you everlasting joy and gladness (51:3, 11). Sorrow and sighing will flee away (51:11).