



“Open Church – Open Bible”

Clabon Bogan Jr. – Interim Pastor



Sunday Church School

May 17, 2020

“A Light for the Gentiles” – Isa. 49:1-10

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“A Light for The Gentiles”

Isaiah 49:1-10 ¹ "Listen, O coastlands, to Me, And take heed, you peoples from afar! The LORD has called Me from the womb; From the matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name.

² And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword; In the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me, And made Me a polished shaft; In His quiver He has hidden Me."

³ "And He said to me, 'You *are* My servant, O Israel, In whom I will be glorified.'

⁴ Then I said, 'I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and in vain; Yet surely my just reward *is* with the LORD, And my work with my God.'

⁵ "And now the LORD says, Who formed Me from the womb *to be* His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him, So that Israel is gathered to Him (For I shall be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, And My God shall be My strength),

⁶ Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; **I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles,** That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'

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⁷ Thus says the LORD, The Redeemer of Israel, their Holy One, To Him whom man despises, To Him whom the nation abhors, To the Servant of rulers: "Kings shall see and arise, Princes also shall worship, Because of the LORD who is faithful, The Holy One of Israel; And He has chosen You."

⁸ Thus says the LORD: "In an acceptable time I have heard You, And in the day of salvation I have helped You; I will preserve You and give You As a covenant to the people, To restore the earth, To cause them to inherit the desolate heritages;

⁹ That You may say to the prisoners, 'Go forth,' To those who *are* in darkness, 'Show yourselves.' "They shall feed along the roads, And their pastures *shall be* on all desolate heights.

¹⁰ They shall neither hunger nor thirst, Neither heat nor sun shall strike them; For He who has mercy on them will lead them, Even by the springs of water He will guide them.



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From the beginning, God has had a **global intent (universal)** in which the dwellers of His kingdom would be from all ***nations, kindreds and tongues***.

- Christ died for the sins of the **whole world** (John 3:16).
 - **1 John 2:2** And He Himself is the **propitiation for our sins**, and not for ours only but also **for the whole world**.
- Everyone who believes in Him is assured of eternal life; with the guarantee of His love.

And from the foundation of the world, **Israel** was called to be the vehicle by which the good news would spread throughout the world.

- **In Genesis 12:3** God said to Abram “I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you **all the families of the earth** shall be blessed.”
- Just as **all mankind** was subject to the **curse** that fell because of **Adam’s sin**, even so **all mankind** would be **influenced by the blessing** bestowed on **Abram** because of his **faith**.
- And what was **true of Abram** was also **true of his descendants the Israelites**



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Therefore, the Lord Jesus, is the fulfillment of all the promises to Israel, and He is the great **“light to the Gentiles”** (Isa. 49:6; 42:6; Luke 2:32) who brings *healing, peace, and blessing* to **all people on earth**

The nation of **Israel** had **continually failed** in fulfilling its **servant role** of being God’s witness to the world.

Although **the nation Israel** has not given in to God’s plan of salvation through Jesus, God still has a **clear and definite restorative plan** for them.

○ Contrary to what many people today claim, God is not done with Israel.

The proper understanding of John 6:37 is *All that the Father giveth Me shall arrive at Me, and him that is on the way (KJV comes) I will in no wise cast out:*

○ No one who trusts in Christ and loves Him will be left out.



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A. THE MESSIAH AS THE SERVANT OF THE LORD—Isa. 49:1-4

- Isa. 49:1 begins the second of what are called the Servant Songs of the book of Isaiah.
- There are four of these songs in all, and they contain some of the Bible’s richest descriptions of the Messiah’s redemptive work (**42:1-9**; **50:4-11**; **52:13—53:12**).
- The mention of “isles” extends the scope of Messiah’s calling for people to heed His words to distant lands
- If God’s relationship was solely to Israel, what right did God’s Servant have to address the Gentile nations with such authority?
- The answer lies in the fact that from before His birth, He was called by God to His ministry (Jer. 1:5; “before I formed you”; Gal. 1:15); and God prepared Him like a sharp sword and a polished arrow (**Heb. 4:12**; **Rev. 1:16**).
- Messiah came as both a Servant and a Warrior, serving those who trust Him and ultimately judging those who resist Him.



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- All of God’s servants should be like **prepared weapons (V 2)**. Robert McCheyne, 19th Century Scottish theologian is quoted saying “**It is not great talents God blesses** so much as great likeness to Jesus, a holy minister [servant] is an **awful weapon** in the **hand of God**.”

The Jewish nation was called to **glorify God** and **be a light to the Gentiles**, **but they failed**, so God promises to send Messiah (V 3) what Israel could not do

- Today, the **church is God’s light** in this dark world (Acts 13:46–49; Matt. 5:14–16), and prayerfully we will do the job effectively (***What is our commitment to Evangelism?***)
- Sending Messiah was not a responsive act on the part of an **all-knowing** (omniscient) God
- Since God is neither **arbitrary** (impulsive) nor **capricious** (unpredictable), the Servant of the Lord declares that His mission is **no afterthought**.
- The term “**called**” in V 1 refers to a **divine commission**—one that has been in the mind of God from the beginning (**Jer. 1:5** “.....Prophet to the nations).
- The phrase “made mention of my name” (Isa. 49:1) points to **God’s elective intent**



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- As Jesus Christ ministered on earth, especially to His own people Israel, there were times when His work seemed in vain (Isa. 49:4).
- The **religious leaders** opposed Him, the **disciples** did not always understand Him, and **those He helped** did not always thank Him.
- He lived and labored by faith, and God gave Him success.

B. THE MESSIAH AS THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE—Isa. 49:5-10

- The words “**And now**” (v 5) indicate that the Servant is about to provide a further elaboration of His purpose and calling.
- He begins by reiterating **His calling** (he was “formed ... from the womb to be God’s servant”) and **His mission** (“to bring Jacob again to him”).
- Jacob, of course, was the patriarch whose name was changed to “Israel” and who fathered the twelve tribes of that nation.
- The use of this name here emphasizes the **close attachment of the Lord** and **His Servant to His people.**



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The Servant of the Lord again **asserts His confidence** that although the people of Israel are not yet responding to His ministry, **He will still receive glory and strength from God (V 5)**

We must never forget that “salvation is of the Jews” (John 4:22) and that when our Lord first came, He could not minister to the Gentiles until first He ministered to the Jews (v. 5–6) (*Matt. 10:5–6; 15:24; Luke 24:44–49; Acts 3:25–26; 13:46–47; Romans 1:16.*)

When our Lord returned to heaven, He left behind a believing remnant of Jews that carried on His work (Acts 1:8-11)

- The Bible is a Jewish book, the first believers and missionaries were Jews, and the Gentiles would not have heard the Gospel had it not been brought to them by Jews.
- Messiah was despised by both Jews and Gentiles (Isa. 49:7), but He did God’s work and was glorified (Phil. 2:1–11).



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C. THE MESSIAH AS THE SOURCE (bringer) OF PEACE—Isa. 49:22

Isaiah 49:22 Thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in *their* arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon *their* shoulders.

- We learn that the Gentiles and Jews will one day no longer be enemies; instead, the rulers of the Gentiles will be of one mind with Israel and will lend aid to her.
- This is clearly not a **compelled cooperation** but a genuinely close relationship born out of transformed lives.
- This appears to foreshadow the kindness shown by King Cyrus of Persia who brought the Babylonian captivity to an end (II Chron. 36:22; Ezra 1:8; 5:13-17)
- Prophetically, in Ephesians 2:14, Paul refers to the wall between Jews and Gentiles being torn down in Christ.



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- The **Servant** of the Lord, the **Savior** Messiah, fulfilled a great mission through His death and resurrection and would also be the **Source** of Peace between God and man and between people who were once seemed irreconcilable.
- Although it is not part of our lesson reading, Isa, 49:13 declares “The Lord comforts His people and will have compassion on His afflicted ones” (NIV)
- Not comprehending the loving judgment of God, the people wailed in V 14, “The Lord has forsaken me. And my Lord has forgotten me” (NKJV).
- However, the Lord assures them of His love by comparing Himself to a **compassionate mother** (V 14–23), a **courageous warrior** (vv. 24–26), and a **constant lover** (50:1–3).
 - a) God is compassionate and comforts us as a mother comforts her children (66:13)
 - b) In His compassion, He would set the captives free, forever protecting from Babylon
 - c) Israel was “married” to Jehovah when they accepted the covenant at Sinai (Ex. 19–20)

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“JESUS IS THE ONLY SAVIOR”

The Difference Maker is
the **CROSS** and the **SAVIOR**



**BOUND BY
SIN**



**FREED BY
THE SON**



**Liberty, Joy and
freedom**

**Road to DEATH
Destruction**



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Understanding The Lesson



1. What is the significance of the “sharp sword” (Isa. 49:2)?
2. Why is the Messiah called “Israel” in verse 3 ?
3. How does the Servant of the Lord demonstrate His faith?
4. How did the Messiah’s own nation respond to Him?
5. What covenant does the Servant of the Lord make?
6. In what ways does the Messiah bring peace through His redeeming work?

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