

# The Commission of the Servant

Text: Isaiah 49

Date: 10-16-22 10:30 AM

## I. The grand introduction of Jehovah's Servant (Isa. 49:1-4).

This Servant speaks with authority and has the ability to call and command the nations. This Person is more powerful than Cyrus of the prior section for He will deliver His people from sin.

The emphasis is on the one whom the Lord has prepared for this great task. The specific reference to someone called from a womb seems to discount the nation as a whole being the servant. The servant cannot be Israel since the mission is to redeem Israel. The singular person coming from his mother may well either represent the virgin (Isa. 7:14) or a reference to the remnant that come back from Babylon out of which the Messiah comes.

We see that this Servant exhibits power and sovereignty. Christ will rule and break them with a rod of iron (Psalm 2:9).

"The Messiah is called Israel because He fulfills what Israel should have done. In His person and work He epitomizes the nation".<sup>1</sup> In this Servant all that went wrong becomes right. In this Servant we find true and total redemption. In this Servant we find an all-powerful, all-wise, all-righteous, all-authority, all-knowing Person.

## II. The great mission of the Servant (Isa. 49:5-7).

Even though the nation has rejected Him and not yet been regathered, Jehovah assures Him that He will be glorified in His eyes. We find that the Servant is honored before God and finds His strength in Him and truly that is what matters most!

While God's people had turned against the Lord and chosen their own path, the Servant stayed true to His mission and God's favor continually rested upon Him.

The Servant has been called to an even greater task and that is to be a light to the Gentiles.

The Gentile nations were in complete darkness spiritually, while the Jews had been given direct revelation through the prophets and God's word. In this the Servant will bring salvation to the ends of the earth.

Neither the nation nor its remnant could or ever will be able to be a light to the Gentiles, but the Servant would be! The Servant's mission is now revealed as being for the Gentiles and it is spiritual in nature.

World leaders will view Him as nothing but the lowest class of people. The disdain and hatred will be heaped upon Him and He will be viewed as little worth.

But all of this will change! In an instant kings and princes will recognize Him and His worth, His service, and His victory. **Though despised and rejected at His first coming, He will be worshipped in His second coming.**

## III. The glorious promise of the Servant's salvation (Isa. 49:8-13).

At this point the Servant will be in need of help. God will step in and preserve Him until His appointed hour of death (John 8:20; 12:23; 13:1).

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<sup>1</sup> Martin, J. A. (1985). [Isaiah](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 1103). Victor Books.

**Explanation/give thee for a covenant of the people:** The Servant is said to be a covenant for the people, the means and purpose for which He will enter into a new relationship with God's people. "The servant is the living link between God and His people" (Buksbazen 383). The Servant will establish or raise up the land, a picture of extending the land as far as possible (Ps. 72:8; Zech. 9:10). The Servant will rule from sea to sea. The Servant will reassign the desolate inheritance, that which had been destroyed or taken from the Jews. Under the Servant the whole of the land will be completely restored.

**Vs. 9-11:** The Servant's glorious purposes: Spiritually, He will release the captives from their sin. Those in darkness will be able to appear again as they declare themselves on the side of right on account of the Servant's righteousness.

**10:** Those who had been in prison and darkness will now feast on the Servant's blessings. In a picture of a shepherd, Jesus will protect and care for His own people. Persecution and judgment will be no more for His mercy will encompass them.

**11:** All obstacles (mountains) will be removed so that the people will be able to travel on a way that only the Servant can make. Certainly there is a sense in which this pertains to the people's return from Babylon, but this must also include the future spiritual restoration from the people's bondage to sin.

#### **IV. Zion's gripe is answered by Jehovah's promises (Isa. 49:14-21).**

The nation had not trusted in the Lord and now had thought the Lord had even forsaken and forgotten them.

**The only true answer to Zion's doubt, disbelief, dejection, and disheartenment is the future coming of the Lord!**

God declares:

- 1) V. 15: Jehovah has not forgotten His people.
- 2) V. 16: Jehovah has inscribed the nation on the palms of His hands
- 3) Vs. 17-18: Jehovah guarantees the people will return
- 4) Vs. 19-20: Jehovah will give His people an enlarged land.
- 5) V. 21: Jehovah will multiply the people

#### **V. Jehovah's guarantee to Zion (Isa. 49:22-26).**