

ISAIAH 49 | *Day of Yeshua*

My Servant, "Israel"

1 Listen to me, coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. Yahweh called me [Messiah] from the womb. From the body of my mother [Mary] he named my name [Yeshua]. 2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword. In the shadow of his hand he hid me. He made me a polished arrow. In his quiver he hid me away. 3 And he said to me, You [Messiah] are my Servant (עֶבֶד), Israel, in whom I will be glorified. 4 But I [Israel] said, I have laboured in vain. I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity. Yet surely my justice (מִשְׁפָּט) is with Yahweh, and my reward (פְּעֻלָּה) with my God.

Light for the Nations

5 And now Yahweh says, he who formed me [Messiah] from the womb to be his Servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him—for I am honored in the eyes of Yahweh, and my God has become my strength— 6 he says: It is too light a thing that you [Messiah] should be my Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved (נִצְרִי) of Israel. I will make you as a light (אֹר) for the nations, that my salvation (יְשׁוּעָה) may reach to the end of the earth.

Abhorred by the Nation

7 Thus says Yahweh, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to one deeply despised (בִּזָּה), abhorred (תִּעֲבָ) (masc. sing.) by the nation (גּוֹי), the Servant of rulers (לְעֶבֶד מְשָׁלִים): Kings shall see and arise, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of Yahweh, who is faithful (אֱמֵן), the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen (בָּחַר) you (masc. sing.).¹

Day of Yeshua

8 Thus says Yahweh: In a time of favour (רִצּוֹן) I have answered you [Messiah]. In the day of Yeshua/salvation (בְּיֹם יְשׁוּעָה) I have helped you (masc. sing.). I will keep you (masc. sing.) and give you (masc. sing.) as a covenant (בְּרִית) to the people (לְבְרִית עַם) [Israel], to establish the land (אֶרֶץ), to apportion the desolate inheritances (נְחֻלֹת), 9 saying to the prisoners, Come out, to those who are in darkness, Appear. They shall feed along the ways. On all bare heights shall be their pasture. 10 They shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them, for he who has mercy (רַחֵם) on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them. 11 And I will make all my mountains a road, and my highways shall be raised up. 12 Behold, these shall come from afar, and behold, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene (סִינֵי).

¹ See *Psalm 2*.

Creation Exults

13 Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth. Break forth, O mountains, into singing! For Yahweh has comforted (נָחַם)² his people and will have mercy (רָחַם) on his afflicted.

Zion Forgotten?

14 But Zion said, Yahweh has abandoned me. My Lord (אֲדֹנָי) has forgotten (שָׁכַח) me.

Engraved on the Palms

15 Can a woman forget (שָׁכַח) her nursing child, that she should have no mercy (רָחַם) on the son of her womb? Even these may forget (שָׁכַח), yet I will not forget (שָׁכַח) you. 16 Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands. Your walls are continually before me. 17 Your builders make haste. Your destroyers and those who laid you waste go out from you. 18 Lift up your eyes around and see. They all gather, they come to you. As I live, declares Yahweh, you shall put them all on as jewellery (עֲדָי). You shall bind them on as a bride does.

Land Too Narrow

19 Surely your waste, your desolate places, and your devastated land—surely now you will be too narrow for your inhabitants, and those who swallowed you up will be far away. 20 The children of your bereavement will yet say in your ears: The place is too narrow for me. Make room for me to dwell in. 21 Then you will say in your heart: Who has borne me these? I was bereaved and barren, exiled and put away, but who has brought up these? Behold, I was left alone. From where have these come?

Nations Shall Bring Your Sons

22 Thus says Lord Yahweh: Behold, I will lift up my hand to the nations (גוֹיִם) and raise my signal (נֹסֵף) to the peoples (עַמִּים), and they shall bring your sons in their arms, and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders. 23 Kings shall be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers. With their faces to the ground they shall bow down to you, and lick the dust of your feet. Then you will know (יָדַע) that I am Yahweh. Those who wait (קָוֶה) for me shall not be put to shame (בִּישָׁת).

I Will Contend

24 Can the prey be taken from the mighty, or the captives of a tyrant be rescued (מִלֹּט)? 25 For thus says Yahweh: Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken, and the prey of the tyrant be rescued (מִלֹּט), for I will contend with those who contend with you, and I will save (יִשַׁע) your children. 26 I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh, and they shall be drunk with their own blood as with wine. Then all flesh shall know that I am Yahweh your Saviour, and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.

² Is 40:1 1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Commentary

1. Isaiah 49-57.

- a. The language of captivity and deliverance continues, but neither Cyrus nor Babylon is mentioned again. In subtle but nevertheless clear ways the focus shifts from the physical captivity of the Judeans to the moral and spiritual captivity of Israel and even the nations.³
- b. Is 40-48 deals mainly with Cyrus and his mission in Israel's restoration. Is 49-57 deals primarily with the Servant-Messiah fulfilling his mission of restoring Israel to the land just before the Messianic kingdom begins. Neither person would fail in his mission. Because of the similarity of their missions, many of the same expressions and figures of speech are used in the two nine-chapter sections.⁴
 - (1) Both nine-chapter sections end with the same phrase.
 - (a) **Is 48:22** 22 There is no peace, says Yahweh, for the wicked.
 - (b) **Is 57:21** 21 There is no peace, says my God, for the wicked.
- c. Is 49-57 may be divided into four parts:
 - (1) The Servant, rejected by Israel, will take salvation to the nations (Is 49-50)
 - (2) Israel's remnant will be exalted (Is 51:1–52:12).
 - (3) The Servant will be humiliated and then exalted (Is 52:13–53:12)
 - (4) Salvation through the Servant will come to Israel and the nations in the Messianic kingdom (Is 54-57).
- d. The background of the second Servant song (vv. 1-12) is the first Servant song.
 - (1) **Is 42:1-9** 1 Behold (הִנֵּה) my Servant (עֶבְדִּי) [Messiah], whom I uphold, my Chosen One (בְּחִירִי), in whom my soul delights. I have put my Spirit upon him. He will bring forth justice (מִשְׁפָּט) to the nations. 2 He will not cry aloud, lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street. 3 A bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench. He will faithfully bring forth justice (מִשְׁפָּט). 4 He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice (מִשְׁפָּט) in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his law (תּוֹרָה). 5 Thus says the God (הָאֵל), Yahweh, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: 6 I am Yahweh. I have called (קרא) you (masc. sing.) [Messiah] in righteousness (צְדָקָה). I will take you by the hand and keep you. I will give you as a covenant (בְּרִית) for the people (עַם, sing.), a light (אֹר) for the nations (גּוֹיִם), 7 to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. 8 I am Yahweh. That is my name (שֵׁם). My glory I give to no other nor my praise to carved idols. 9 Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare. Before they spring forth I tell you of them.
- e. From now on, the "Servant" is always Messiah.

³ John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40–66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 286-87.

⁴ John A. Martin, "Isaiah," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 1103.

- (1) “Significantly, the references to the servant as a people actually end with 48:20 while the references to the servant as an individual come into indisputable focus beginning with chapter 49 and continuing through the end of chapter 53. Thus, by the time we reach Isaiah 52:13, the spotlight is on a person, not a people.”⁵

2. My Servant, “Israel” (Is 49:1-4).

- a. **Is 49:1-4** 1 Listen to me, coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. Yahweh called me [Messiah] from the womb. From the body of my mother [Mary] he named my name [Yeshua]. 2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword. In the shadow of his hand he hid me. He made me a polished arrow. In his quiver he hid me away. 3 And he said to me, You [Messiah] are my Servant (עַבְדִּי), Israel, in whom I will be glorified. 4 But I [Messiah] said, I have laboured in vain. I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity. Yet surely my justice (מִשְׁפָּטִי) is with Yahweh, and my reward (תְּשׁוּבָתִי) with my God.
- b. The nations are to listen to Yahweh’s Servant as he describes his identity and mission (v. 1a).
- (1) The Servant’s nature, character, and function, as first revealed in Is 42:1-9, are reiterated and reinforced.⁶
- c. Yahweh called Messiah from the womb and named his name while he was still in his mother’s body (v. 1b).
- (1) **Ge 3:15** 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.
- (2) **Ps 22:10** 10 On you was I [Messiah] cast from my birth, and from my mother’s womb you have been my God.
- (3) **Mic 5:2** 2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.
- (4) **Is 7:14** 14 Therefore Yahweh himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
- (5) **Mt 1:21-23** 21 She [Mary] will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23 Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us).
- d. Yahweh:
- (1) Made his mouth like a sharp sword (v. 2a).
- (a) **Is 1:20** 20 ...But if you [Israel] refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.
- (b) **Is 11:4** 4 ...But with righteousness he [Messiah] shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth. And he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Michael Brown, “Jewish Interpretations of Isaiah 53.”

⁶ John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40–66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 288.

- (c) **Jn 1:14** 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
 - (d) **He 4:12** 12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
 - (e) **Re 1:16** 16 In [Jesus'] right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.
 - (f) **Re 19:15** 15 From [Jesus'] mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron.
- (2) Hid him away, like a polished arrow in his quiver (v. 2b).
 - (3) Told Messiah:
 - (a) He was his Servant, the new, ideal "Israel" (v. 3a).
 - 1) The Messiah is called Israel because he fulfils what Israel should have done. In his person and work he epitomises the nation.⁷ He will be for Israel and the world, what Israel could not be. Faced with Israel's failure, God does not wipe out the nation. He devises another way to work out Israel's servanthood—through the ideal Israel.⁸
 - 2) **Ro 9:5** 5 To [the Israelites] belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Messiah, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.
 - (b) That he (Yahweh) would be glorified in him (Messiah)(v. 3b).
 - 1) **Jn 17:4-5** 4 I [Jesus] glorified you [Father] on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. 5 And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.
- e. Messiah said:
 - (1) I have laboured for nothing (v. 4a).
 - (a) Messiah is disappointed at Israel's response to him.
 - (b) **Jn 1:11** 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.
 - (c) See *Israel's Rejection of Jesus*.
 - (2) But my justice and reward are with Yahweh (v. 4b).
 - (a) Paul had the same mindset as Jesus.
 - 1) **1 Co 4:1-5** 1 This is how one should regard us, as servants of Messiah and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. 3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4 For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. 5 Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

⁷ John A. Martin, "[Isaiah](#)," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 1103.

⁸ John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40–66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 291.

3. Light for the Nations (Is 49:5-6).

- a. **Is 49:5-6** 5 And now Yahweh says, he who formed me [Messiah] from the womb to be his Servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him—for I am honored in the eyes of Yahweh, and my God has become my strength— 6 he says: It is too light a thing that you [Messiah] should be my Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved (נְצִיר) of Israel. I will make you as a light (אור) for the nations, that my salvation (יְשׁוּעָה) may reach to the end of the earth.
- b. Yahweh formed Messiah from the womb to be his Servant (v. 5a).
- c. Messiah's mission is to gather Israel back to Yahweh (v. 5b).
 - (1) Israel's real problem was not captivity in Babylon. It was estrangement from God.⁹
- d. Messiah is honoured in the sight of Yahweh (v. 5c).
- e. Messiah's strength is his God, Yahweh (v. 5d).
- f. It is too light a thing for Messiah to bring back the remnant of Israel (v. 6a).
- g. Yahweh also will make him as a light for the nations (v. 6b).
 - (1) **Is 42:6** 6 I am Yahweh. I have called you [Messiah] in righteousness. I will take you by the hand and keep you. I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations....
 - (2) **Lk 1:79** 79 ...To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.
- h. The result will be Yahweh's Yeshua/salvation reaching to the end of the earth (v. 6c).
 - (1) **Acts 13:46-48** 46 And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly saying, It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you [Jews]. Because you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. 47 For so the Lord [Jesus] has commanded us saying, I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth. 48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.
 - (2) "It is not restoration to the land of Judah that is in view here. Rather, it is the restoration of an estranged world, along with an estranged Israel, to God."¹⁰

4. Abhorred by the Nation (Is 49:7).

- a. **Is 49:7** 7 Thus says Yahweh, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to one deeply despised (בזה) [Messiah], abhorred (תעב)(masc. sing.) by the nation (גוי) [Israel], the Servant of rulers (עֶבֶד מְשָׁלִים): Kings (מְלָכִים) shall see and arise, princes (שָׂרִים), and they shall prostrate themselves [to Messiah], because of Yahweh, who is faithful (אמן), the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen (בחר) you (masc. sing.) [Messiah].
- b. Yahweh speaks to one, the Messiah, who is:
 - (1) Deeply despised (v. 7a).
 - (2) Abhorred by the nation of Israel (v. 7b).

⁹ John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40–66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 293.

¹⁰ John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40–66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 293–294.

- (3) The Servant of rulers (v. 7c).
- c. Kings and princes will arise and prostrate themselves to Messiah (v. 7d).
 - (1) Jesus' humiliation and exaltation are in view.
 - (2) **Php 2:10-11** 10 ... So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven, on earth, and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Messiah is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- d. They will do this because Yahweh is faithful and has chosen Messiah (v. 7e).

5. Day of Yeshua (Is 49:8-12).

- a. **Is 49:8-12** 8 Thus says Yahweh: In a time of grace (רְצוֹן) I have answered you (masc. sing.) [Messiah]. In the day of Yeshua/salvation (בְּיוֹם יְשׁוּעָה) I have helped you (masc. sing.). I will keep watch over (נֹצֵר) you (masc. sing.) and give you (masc. sing.) as a covenant (בְּרִית) to the people (לְבְרִית עַם), to establish the land (אֶרֶץ), to apportion the desolate inheritances (נַחֲלֹת), 9 saying to the prisoners, Come out, to those who are in darkness, Appear. They [Israel] shall feed along the roads (דְּרָכִים). On all bare heights shall be their pasture. 10 They shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them, for he who has mercy (רַחֵם) on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them. 11 And I will make all my mountains a road, and my highways shall be raised up. 12 Behold, these shall come from afar, and behold, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene (סִינַיִם) [China?].
- b. Yahweh has answered/helped Messiah in a time of grace, in the day of Yeshua/salvation (v. 8a).
- c. Yahweh will:
 - (1) Keep watch over Messiah (v. 8b).
 - (2) Give Messiah as a covenant to the people of Israel (v. 8c).
 - (a) **Is 42:6** 6 I am Yahweh. I have called you in righteousness. I will take you by the hand and keep you. I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations....
 - (b) See *New Covenant*.
 - 1) **Jer 31:31-34** 31 Behold, the days are coming, declares Yahweh, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares Yahweh. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares Yahweh. I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbour and each his brother saying, Know Yahweh, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares Yahweh. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.
 - (c) **2 Co 6:1-2** 1 Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 For he says, In a favourable time I listened to you, and in a day of Yeshua/salvation I have helped you. Behold, now is the favourable time. Behold, now is the day of Yeshua/salvation.
- d. The result will be:

- (1) The land of Israel will be established (v. 8d).
- (2) The desolate inheritance will be apportioned (v. 8e).
 - (a) This is the language of Jubilee.
 - 1) **Le 25:8-13** 8 You shall count seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the time of the seven weeks of years shall give you forty-nine years. 9 Then you shall sound the loud trumpet on the tenth day of the seventh month. On the Day of Atonement you shall sound the trumpet throughout all your land. 10 And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan. 11 That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you. In it you shall neither sow nor reap what grows of itself nor gather the grapes from the undressed vines. 12 For it is a jubilee. It shall be holy to you. You may eat the produce of the field. 13 In this year of jubilee each of you shall return to his property.
- (3) Prisoners will be freed (v. 9a).
 - (a) **Is 61:1-4** 1 The Spirit of Lord Yahweh is upon me, because Yahweh has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound, 2 to proclaim *the year of Yahweh's favor* and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit—that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of Yahweh, that he may be glorified. 4 They shall build up the ancient ruins. They shall raise up the former devastations. They shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.
 - (b) We must not minimise the physical by over-spiritualising these promises. This is what replacement theology does again and again.
- (4) Israel's flocks will feed along the roads and be pasture on the bare heights (v. 9b).
 - (a) Yahweh's provision will be so abundant that the flocks will not even have to turn off the road to find plenty of green grass to eat.¹¹
- (5) Israel will not hunger or thirst (v. 10a).
- (6) The wind and sun will not strike the people of Israel (v. 10b).
 - (a) **Re 7:16-17** 16 They [believers coming out of the great tribulation] shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore. The sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. 17 For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.
- (7) Yahweh, who has mercy on Israel, will guide her by water (v. 10c).
 - (a) **Ex 17:6** 6 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink. And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

¹¹ John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40–66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 298.

- (b) **Ps 23:1-3** 1 Yahweh is my Shepherd. I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. 3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- (8) Israel's mountains and valleys will be made into highways (v. 11).
- (a) **Is 40:3-4** 3 A voice cries: In the wilderness prepare the way of Yahweh. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low. The uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
- (9) The remnant of Israel will return from far away nations (v. 12).
- (a) The final term is *Syene*, or Aswan, at the southern edge of Egypt. We know from the Elephantine Letters that a colony of Jews was well established there in the 5th century bc. The verse is talking about the points of the compass. Isaiah moves around the compass from east (*afar*) to north to west (*the sea* meaning, as usual, the Mediterranean) to south (*Syene*).¹²

6. Creation Exults (Is 49:13).

- a. **Is 49:13** 13 Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth. Break forth, O mountains, into singing! For Yahweh has comforted (נָחַם) his people (עַם) and will have mercy (רַחֵם) on his afflicted ones (pl.).
- b. The heavens, earth, and mountains are to sing and exult (v. 13a).
- (1) **Is 1:2** 2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth, for Yahweh has spoken. Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me.
- (2) **Is 44:23** 23 Sing, O heavens, for Yahweh has done it. Shout, O depths of the earth. Break forth into singing, O mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For Yahweh has redeemed Jacob, and will be glorified in Israel.
- (3) **Is 45:8** 8 Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness. Let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit. Let the earth cause them both to sprout I, Yahweh, have created it.
- c. The reason is Yahweh has comforted Israel and will have mercy on the afflicted ones of Israel (v. 13b).
- (1) **Is 40:1** 1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

7. Zion Forgotten? (Is 49:14).

- a. **Is 49:14** 14 But Zion said, Yahweh has abandoned me. My Lord (יְהוָה) has forgotten (שָׁכַח) me.
- b. Zion told herself she was abandoned and forgotten (v. 14).
- (1) **Is 40:27** 27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, My way is hidden from Yahweh, and my right is disregarded by my God?

8. Engraved on the Palms (Is 49:15-18).

- a. **Is 49:15-18** 15 Can a woman forget (שָׁכַח) her nursing child, that she should have no mercy (רַחֵם) on the son of her womb? Even these may forget (שָׁכַח), yet I will not forget (שָׁכַח) you [Zion]. 16 Behold, I have engraved you [Zion] on the palms of my hands. Your walls are continually before me. 17 Your builders make haste. Your

¹² John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40–66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 299-300.

- destroyers and those who laid you waste go out from you. 18 Lift up your eyes around and see. They all gather, they come to you [Zion]. As I live, declares Yahweh, you shall put them all on as jewellery (יָצַד). You shall bind them on as a bride does.
- b. It is unlikely for a mother to forget her nursing child (v. 15a).
 - c. It is even more unlikely for Yahweh to forget Zion. In fact he will not forget her (v. 15b).
 - (1) “It is as though Zion says, ‘Well, that’s all very nice, I’m sure. But it really has nothing to do with me, because God has given up on me.’ God replies, ‘No, no! You are included in these promises! It is through you that they will be realized!’”¹³
 - (a) Illustration: Looking at Christmas lights with Mom and saying, “You don’t love me!”
 - (2) **Ps 27:10** 10 For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but Yahweh will take me in.
 - (3) Earthly love, as wonderful as it is, may cease, but God’s love has no limits.¹⁴
 - d. Yahweh has engraved Zion on the palms of his hands (v. 16a).
 - (1) Instead of the master’s name being written on the servant’s hand, the servant’s name is written on the Master’s hand.¹⁵ Whenever Yahweh, figuratively speaking, lifts up his hands, he sees Israel’s name.¹⁶
 - (2) **Is 44:5** 5 This one will say, I am Yahweh’s, another will call on the name of Jacob, and another will write on his hand, Yahweh’s, and name himself by the name of Israel.
 - (3) **Jn 20:20** 20 When [Jesus] had said this, he showed [the disciples] his hands and his side.
 - e. Zion’s walls are continually before Yahweh (v. 16b).
 - f. They will be rebuilt in a hurry as Zion’s destroyers go out from her (v. 17).
 - (1) **Ne 1:3-4** 3 And they said to me [Nehemiah], The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire. 4 As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.
 - g. Zion is to look up and see all the remnant of Israel gathering to her (v. 18a).
 - h. Zion will deck herself with the remnant as a bride puts on jewellery (v. 18b).

9. Land Too Narrow (Is 49:19-21).

- a. **Is 49:19-21** 19 Surely your waste, your desolate places, and your devastated land—surely now you will be too narrow for your inhabitants, and those who swallowed you

¹³ John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40–66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 304.

¹⁴ John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40–66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 306.

¹⁵ John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40–66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 306.

¹⁶ John A. Martin, “Isaiah,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 1104.

up will be far away. 20 The children of your bereavement will yet say in your ears: The place is too narrow for me. Make room for me to dwell in. 21 Then you will say in your heart: Who has borne me these? I was bereaved and barren, exiled and put away, but who has brought up these? Behold, I was left alone. From where have these come?

- b. Israel's waste places will be too narrow for the remnant of Israel (vv. 19a, 20a). More room will be needed (v. 20b).
 - (1) When the Jews returned from Babylon, they were a small, struggling band. The return mentioned here is much greater. It refers to the beginning of the Messianic kingdom.¹⁷
- c. Those who swallowed up Israel will be far away (v. 19b).
 - (1) It times of war, we are become better readers of the Bible.
- d. Israel will be astounded at how many children she has. She was barren, but now she has more children than she knows what to do with (v. 21).
 - (1) **Ru 4:13-15** 13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and Yahweh gave her conception, and she bore a son. 14 Then the women said to Naomi, Blessed be Yahweh, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! 15 He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age....

10. Sons in Their Arms (Is 49:22-23).

- a. **Is 49:22-23** 22 Thus says Lord Yahweh: Behold, I will lift up my hand to the nations (גוֹיִם) and raise my flag (סֵמָּה) to the peoples (עַמְּיִם), and they shall bring your sons in their arms, and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders. 23 Kings/rules (מְלָכִים) shall be your attendants (אֲמֹנִים), and their women of rank/princesses (שְׂרוּיָהִי) your wet-nurses (מִיִּנְיָקָה). With their faces to the ground they shall bow down to you, and lick the dust of your feet. Then you will know (יָדַעַ) that I am Yahweh. Those who wait/hope (קוּהַ) for me shall not be put to shame (בוֹשׁ).
 - b. When Yahweh raises his flag to the nations, they themselves will carry Israel's sons and daughters back to the land of Israel (v. 22).
 - (1) The "flags" of Isaiah.
 - (a) **Is 5:26** 26 [Yahweh] will raise a flag for nations far away, and whistle for them from the ends of the earth. And behold, quickly, speedily they come!
 - (b) **Is 30:17** 17 A thousand shall flee at the threat of one. At the threat of five you [Israel] shall flee, till you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a flag on a hill.
 - (c) **Is 13:2** 2 On a bare hill raise a flag. Cry aloud to them. Wave the hand for them to enter the gates of the [Babylonian nobles.
 - (d) **Is 11:10-12** 10 In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a flag for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious. ... 12 He will raise a flag for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

¹⁷ John A. Martin, "[Isaiah](#)," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 1104.

- (e) **Is 62:10** 10 Go through, go through the gates. Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway. Clear it of stones. Lift up a flag over the peoples.
- c. Kings and princesses will attend/nurse Israel's children and bow in homage to them (v. 23a).
 - (1) "Although the final consummation of this picture is yet to come, it has already occurred to a great extent in the Christian era. Kings and queens have bowed at the feet of the God of Zion, and have spent their wealth in his cause. From around the world Zion has found descendants from every race and people."¹⁸
- d. Then Israel will know:
 - (1) Yahweh is God (v. 23b).
 - (2) Those who wait/hope for Yahweh will not be put to shame (v. 23c).

11. I Will Contend (Is 49:24-26).

- a. **Is 49:24-26** 24 Can the prey be taken from the mighty, or the captives of a tyrant be rescued (מלט)? 25 For thus says Yahweh: Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken, and the prey of the tyrant be rescued (מלט), for I will contend with those who contend with you [Israel], and I will save (ישע) your children. 26 I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh, and they shall be drunk with their own blood as with wine. Then all flesh shall know that I am Yahweh your Saviour (מושיע), and your Redeemer (גאֵל), the Mighty One (אֱבִיר) of Jacob.
- b. Though unusual and seemingly impossible, the prey of the tyrant will be rescued (vv. 24-25a).
 - (1) **Mk 10:27** 27 With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.
- c. Yahweh will contend with those who contend with Israel, and save her children (v. 25b).
 - (1) It is never wise for a nation to mess with Israel.
- d. Yahweh will force Israel's oppressors to eat their own flesh and drink their own blood as wine (v. 26a).
 - (1) Those who harm Israel will be harmed in return.
 - (2) Pictured here is a sort of anti-communion.
 - (a) **Jn 6:52-57** 52 The Jews then disputed among themselves saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? 53 So Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55 For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. 56 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me.
- e. Then all people will know the one, true God, is Yahweh, Israel's Saviour, Redeemer, and Mighty one (v. 26c).
 - (1) **Ex 18:11** 11 Now I [Jethro] know that Yahweh is greater than all gods, because in this affair they [Egypt] dealt arrogantly with the people.

¹⁸ John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40–66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 310.

12. Application.

- a. Listen (v. 1).
- b. Wait (v. 23).
- c. Know (v. 26).