

Series: Isaiah  
Title: Christ—Jehovah’s Servant  
Text: Isaiah 49: 1-3  
Date: September 30, 2012  
Place: SGBC, New Jersey

Isaiah 49 is a prophecy of **Christ – Jehovah’s Servant**. The Lord Jesus Christ is the one speaking. He is describing himself as Jehovah’s Servant. The message he declares is:

**Proposition: Jesus Christ is Jehovah’s Servant, whose responsibility it is to save all God’s elect; and “He shall not fail!”**

**Divisions:** 1) The Call of the Gentiles—**Isaiah 49: 1: Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far;** 2) The Commission Given to Christ as Jehovah’s Servant—**Isaiah 49: 1:...The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name. 2: And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;** 3) The Assurance of Christ’s Success—**3: And said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.**; Did you get those 3 divisions: 1) The Call of the Gentiles; 2) The Commission; 3) The Assurance of Christ’s Success

## **I. THE CALL OF THE GENTILES**

**Isaiah 49: 1: Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far...**

The isles are the Gentiles, those far away nations outside of Israel. Christ says, “Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far.”

Back in **Isaiah 48: 16**, Christ was speaking to the nation of Israel. He began, “**Come ye near unto me, hear ye this.**” There Christ was speaking to the Jews, those in the nation of Israel.

Isaiah 48: 18: O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea: 19: Thy seed also had been as the sand, and the offspring of thy bowels like the gravel thereof; his name should not have been cut off nor destroyed from before me.

Matthew 23: 37: O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! 38: Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

Isaiah 48: 22: There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked.

First, Christ began calling out his elect from among the nation of Israel. He began with the nation Israel. After that, then Christ turned and began calling out his sheep in the Gentile nations. He did not begin with the Gentiles, he began with Israel, then he turned to the Gentiles. Speaking to Jews,

Acts 13:46: Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

The only thing that makes the difference between God's people and the rest of this world, is God's electing grace. Jew and Gentile are all fallen sinners. It is not rich or poor, not one race over another which makes men to differ. God makes his children to differ from the world of the ungodly by his electing grace alone.

God's elect Jew and Gentile are one in Christ.

Ephesians 2: 13: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. 14: For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 15: Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; 16: And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: 17: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. 18: For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Colossians 3:11: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond *nor* free: but Christ *is* all, and in all.

**Application:** Now, the Lord Jesus Christ here calls for men and women far off from God to listen and hearken unto him. What grace! Will you hear him? Will you hearken unto him? "Receive not the grace of God in vain!"

## **II. THE COMMISSION GIVEN TO CHRIST AS JEHVOAH'S SERVANT--Isaiah 49: 1:...The LORD hath called me...**

The Lord God appointed Christ to the work of Redeeming his people And Set Him Apart for It.

**Isaiah 49: 1:...The LORD hath called me from the womb**—from the womb of his eternal counsel

Proverbs 8: 22: The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. 23: I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was....30: Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; 31: Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men. 32: Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways. 33: Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. 34: Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. 35: For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD. 36: But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.

**Isaiah 49: 1:...from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name.**

Matthew 1:21: And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Isaiah 9: 6: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7: Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

- Christ is the Father's prophet (Deut.18:18-19).
- Christ is the messenger of the covenant (Mal. 3:1).

- Christ is the apostle of our profession (Heb. 3:1; Heb. 1:1-2).
- Before he was born, all of the prophets wrote of him (Acts 10:43; John 5:46).
- They not only told of his coming, but they wrote and preached ‘his name,’ which fully identifies his work.

Not only did God call Christ to be his Servant, God poured out the Spirit upon him Anointing Him and Preparing Him for the Work Christ Performed.

**Isaiah 49: 2: And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword;**

John 12: 49: For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

**Application:** Men speak flattery. We can’t see their hearts. We trust they believe as they say they do. But Christ commands us to preach the word. And the word will discern the true intents of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12: For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The word of Christ pierces and cuts the hearts of men. It lays open all our sin and unrighteousness. It cuts down the worst and best in all men. The gospel slays all enemies, all false refuge. And his word rebirths all his elect anew.

James 1: 18: Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

**Illustration:** One water. Same water was judgement to some in Noah’s day; same water quenches my thirst.

2 Corinthians 2:16: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life.

God hid Christ in is secret purpose of grace, the Mystery hidden from the world—the express image of the shadows and types and prophecy.

**Isaiah 49: 2:...in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me,**

- His righteousness typified in coats of skins in garden
- Seed of Woman
- Noah’s Ark
- High Priest
- Lamb
- Altar
- The Mercy Seat

**Isaiah 49: 2:...and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;**

**Illustration:** The #1 Arrow in my quiver

In the fullness of time God brought Christ forth like a polished arrow to accomplish the warfare of his people. Christ is the Weapon of our warfare. Christ flew true like a straight arrow. Christ hit the mark. Like a polished shaft he, pierced the serpent. Like a razor sharp broadhead he separated the sins of his people from us by his death. He pierced condemnation to death. ALL BY ALLOWING HIMSELF TO BE PIERCED IN PLACE OF THE ELECT OF GOD

Romans 8: 3: For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

His word comes like an arrow into the soul:

Ps 45:5: Thine arrows are sharp in the heart of the king's enemies; whereby the people fall under thee.

Christ is the message of the gospel—if we ever behold Christ—we will acknowledge our sin. Fall down at his feet. Humbly beg his grace and mercy. Submit to his righteousness. Depend on him alone for salvation. Adore him, and give him the glory

### **III. THE ASSURANCE OF HIS SUCCESS--Isaiah 49: 3: And said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.**

God spoke from heaven owning Christ to be his servant—three times

- At His Baptism- (Matt. 3).
- At His Transfiguration- (Matt. 17).
- Just before he went to the cross

If we would be true servants of God we must cast all our confidence into the hands of Christ because Christ is God's servant in whom he is well-pleased.

He is called--'Israel'—because he is the Head and Representative of the elect, spiritual Israel of God. His elect are one with him and one with God in him.

John 17: 22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

Here is the assurance of his success--'**In whom I will be glorified.**' This is why Christ came, why he died, and why all the elect of God shall be saved—'God will be glorified!'

John 17:1: These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: 2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. 3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. 4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

4. Christ is the Rock in whom God makes us to behold his glory.

- The glory of his mercy and grace
- Glory of his longsuffering
- Glory of his abundant goodness and truth
- Glory of his forgiveness
- Glory of his righteousness—how God can be just and the Justifier—all in Christ Jesus the Substitute of his people.

Romans 3: 24: Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25: Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26: To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

John 13: 31: Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him. 32: If God be glorified in him, God shall also glorify him in himself, and shall straightway glorify him.

- By His Obedience!
- By His Death!
- By His Saving of His People!

CHRIST GLORIFIED THE FATHER! AND CHRIST CONTINUES TO GLORIFY GOD WHEN HE CALLS OUT HIS SHEEP BECAUSE Sinners saved by grace give all the glory to God: “He that glorieth let him glory in the LORD”. God’s elect are saved--“to the praise of the glory of his grace wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.”

- Christ was chosen of God to bring Salvation
- Christ Came and Purchased Salvation!
- Christ Gives Salvation!
- Christ Preserves Salvation!
- Christ Shall Complete our Salvation!
- In that day we shall see how truly Christ is our Salvation! –
- If you would get salvation, you must get Christ

**Application:** Get in Christ! Cast all your care upon Christ! Rest in Christ! Trust in Christ! Believe in Christ!

Acts 4: 12: Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

John 14:6: Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

1 John 5: 11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

How do we serve him? Read Philipians 2.

Amen!