

INITIATION INTO ISAIAH

by

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CHAPTER FORTY-NINE

THEME:

Promise concerning the future of Christ and Israel.

REMARKS:

Israel was the servant of the Lord, but as such, Israel had failed. Now God speaks of another Servant of God who is Christ. This section seems to have this twofold meaning. This is not something which is unusual. You find the same thing in Hosea 11:1, where it is recorded, **“When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.”** In Matthew 2:15 this is fulfilled in Christ. This chapter opens with Christ speaking as the servant.

As we open this chapter we are listening in on a discourse of Christ as truly as the twelve apostles listened to Him in Galilee. In this chapter we see Christ moving out to become the Saviour of the world. Israel is not forsaken, for her assured restoration to the land is reaffirmed.

In this chapter we are no longer treading the outer court, but we are moving toward the Holy of Holies of the 53rd chapter.

OUTLINE:

1. **DISCOURSE of Christ to the World.** Verses 1-7
2. **DISCUSSION of the Lord with Israel Regarding their Restoration.** Verses 8-21
3. **DIGRESSION Concerning the Judgment of Israel’s Oppressors.** Verses 22-26

COMMENT:

Verse 1—**Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The Lord hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name.**

Christ is calling upon the nations of the world to hear. He was given the name of Jesus before He was born, and this name is to be proclaimed throughout the world.

Verse 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,**

“Never man spake as He spake” was the estimation of His enemies It is declared of Him:

And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God (Revelation 19:15).

Verse 3—**And said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.**

This will be true of the nation, and it is true of Christ.

Verse 4—**Then I said, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the Lord, and my work with my God.**

Though He was rejected, and it may look as if He labored in vain, his confidence is in God. Even His death was a victory. The emphasis in this section is on the suffering servant.

Verse 5—**And now, saith the Lord that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the Lord, and my God shall be my strength.**

At His first coming He did not gather Israel, as they rejected Him, he did something far more wonderful, He wrought salvation for the world. God’s purposes were not thwarted by the system of man.

Verse 6—**And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.**

God had a far greater purpose in mind than just the regathering of Israel, he was making Christ the Light of the world.

Verse 7—**Thus saith the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the Lord that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee.**

Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness . . . For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead? (Romans 11:12, 15).

Verse 8—**Thus saith the Lord, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and-in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;**

God heard the prayer of Christ, and He whom the nation crucified will be the One before Whom kings bow—even every knee must acknowledge His Lordship.

Verse 9—**That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves. They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places.**

The word of reconciliation is now sent to all men.

Verse 10—**They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.**

He is speaking here of the physical preservation of the nation.

Verse 11—**And I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be exalted.**

He is here directing our thoughts to the regathering of the nation.

Verse 12—**Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from I the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim.**

“Sinim” is China. They will be regathered from all nations.

Verse 13—**Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.**

God’s purposes in the earth center in the nation Israel. When they are back in the land, then both the heavens and earth can rejoice.

Verse 14—**But Zion said, The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me.**

Even Israel thinks she is forsaken today.

Verse 15—**Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.**

The facts were that they had forsaken God.

Verse 16—**Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.**

Some people like to have tattooed on their bodies the name of the one they love. God says that He has engraven the name of Israel on the palms of His hands; He cannot forget them.

Verse 17—Thy children shall make haste; thy destroyers and they that made thee waste shall go forth of thee.

Verse 18—Lift up thine eyes round about, and behold: all these gather themselves together, and come to thee. As I live, saith the Lord, thou shalt surely clothe thee with them all, as with an ornament, and bind them on thee, as a bride doeth.

Verse 19—For thy waste and thy desolate places, and the land of thy destruction, shall even now be too narrow by reason of the inhabitants, and they that swallowed thee up shall be far away.

Verse 20—The children which thou shalt have, after thou hast lost the other, shall say again in thine ears, The place is too strait for me: give place to me that I may dwell.

Verse 21—Then shalt thou say in thine heart, Who hath begotten me these, seeing I have lost my children, and am desolate, a captive, and removing to and fro? and who hath brought up these? Behold, I was left alone; these, where had they been?

God here assures them that He has not forgotten nor forsaken them.

Verse 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.

God assures Israel that the Gentiles will assist Him in the final restoration of the nation to the land, heretofore, the Gentiles have scattered them. This is a rather remarkable prophecy.

Verse 23—And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the Lord: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.

Israel, who is the tail, will someday be the head.

Verse 24—Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered?

Verse 25—But thus said the Lord, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with thee, and I will save thy children.

Verse 26—And I will feed them that oppress thee with their own flesh; and they shall be drunken with their own blood, as with sweet wine: and all flesh shall know that I the Lord am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.

God will finally redeem Israel. Who is prepared to successfully contradict and refute God's claim?

~ end of chapter 49 ~

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