

Isaiah

Comfort from God's Messiah
Isaiah 42 Part 3

1



Introduction

This passage is the second of four “Servant Songs” in the book of Isaiah (42:1-25; 49:1–13; 50:1–11; 52:12–53:12). This one is “The Mission of God’s Servant.”

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Isaiah 42:1
Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One *in whom* My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.

God's Servant was given a very special, ninefold mission when He came into the world. Note that the Savior Himself is speaking, inviting all the people from the islands and distant nations to give close attention. What He has to say is of utmost importance. He has a very special message, good tidings of great joy for the world.

3



Isaiah 49:1-13

"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.' " 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. ¹¹ I will make each of My mountains a road, And My highways shall be elevated. ¹² Surely these shall come from afar; Look! Those from the north and the west, And these from the land of Sinim." ¹³ Sing, O heavens! Be joyful, O earth! And break out in singing, O mountains! For the Lord has comforted His people, And will have mercy on His afflicted.

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Isaiah 49:1
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.

1. The Savior was Called to do God's Will

God appointed Jesus for His mission before He was born. He even called Him by Name before His birth. These two facts suggest that the Savior has existed eternally and that a very personal relationship existed between Him and God before His birth. From the beginning, before Creation itself, the Jesus was called to be God's very special messenger to the world.

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1. The Savior was Called to do God's Will

Before He was born, an angel appeared and announced that He was to be called Jesus, "for He shall save His people from their sins" (Mt. 1:21). Later as an adult, Jesus Christ proclaimed: "I come ... to do your will, O God" (He. 10:7).

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Isaiah 49:2

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.

2. The Savior was Called to Proclaim the Word of God

His mouth was to be like a sharp sword that would divide a person's soul or fleshly desires from his spirit and righteous behavior (He. 4:12). His Word would go forth like an arrow, wounding consciences and convicting people of sin, righteousness, and judgment (Jn. 16:8–11). While the Savior proclaimed the Word of God, God protected Him in the shadow of His hand.

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Isaiah 49:3

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

3. The Savior was Called to be God's Servant

The Savior would do what Israel as a nation had failed to do. God had chosen the Israelites for three primary purposes:

- ⇒ To be a strong testimony that the Lord was the only living and true God.
- ⇒ To be the people who would share His Truth to the world.
- ⇒ To be the people through whom He would send the Messiah, the Savior, to the world.

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3. The Savior was Called to be God's Servant

The Savior is called to be God's Servant. It is important to notice that God calls Jesus "Israel". Jesus fulfilled all that Israel was to do.

- ⇒ He was a living testimony to who God is.
- ⇒ He proclaimed God's Truth to the world.
- ⇒ He was the Messiah, the Savior, of the world.

The Father was glorified by the Servant.

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3. The Savior was Called to be God's Servant

Don't miss this important point! Just as Israel fulfilled the mandates of God through Christ, so do we. We are unable to stand before God in our own merit. We can come before the throne of God because Jesus accomplished what we could not. This is not to say we abdicate our present responsibility, but to recognize that our standing is in Christ alone.

God is and will be glorified through the work of Christ in the redemption of His Saints.

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Isaiah 49:4

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.'

4. The Savior was Called to Trust God in all Things

From a human perspective, Christ had few followers who really trusted in Him. From all appearances, His mission seemed a failure, especially when He was crucified upon the cross and His apostles scattered for their lives. But note what the Savior said centuries before He came to earth that He would trust God for the results.

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Isaiah 49:4

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4. The Savior was Called to Trust God in all Things

The results were in God's hand, and the Savior left them and the reward due Him entirely up to God. Although He had labored faithfully to the point of utter exhaustion and the giving of His life, He trusted that God would make His mission a success.

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Isaiah 49:5

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)

5. The Savior was Called to Redeem and Return Israel to God

The Savior was sent “to the lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Mt. 15:24). He was sent to lead them to God so they could be delivered from the bondages of sin and death, live righteous lives, and be assured of living eternally with God (Jn. 3:16–17).

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5. The Savior was Called to Redeem and Return Israel to God

Even through Israel rejected Jesus, He was successful. Remember that the very first followers of Christ were Jewish believers and that the first church was also made up of Jewish believers. In the future a multitude Jews will know that Jesus Christ is the Savior and the nation will turn their hearts to Him.

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Isaiah 49:6

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.' of the Lord, And My God shall be My strength.

6. The Savior was Called to be a Light to the Gentiles

The Father states that reaching Israel alone is too small a task for Christ, for He is God's Servant. God's Servant deserves a far greater task. Therefore, God enlarged His mission on earth to reaching the Gentiles also.

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6. The Savior was Called to be a Light to the Gentiles

The Savior was called to be a *light* to the Gentiles. Jesus was to be the Savior of the entire world. Note that two points are being stressed:

- ⇒ Everyone must approach God through the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes to the Father but by Me" (Jn. 14:6).
- ⇒ Jesus was given the task of taking God's salvation to the ends of the earth.

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Isaiah 49:7

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.”

7. The Savior was Called to Suffer and be Despised

The Savior would become the *suffering Servant* of God. He would be subjected to humiliation at the hands of people, be ridiculed and mocked, assaulted and abused, despised and rejected, scourged and crucified. God Through the suffering of the Savior, the Lord provides redemption for all who trust, obey, and follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

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Isaiah 49:7

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. The Savior was Called to be Honored

While on earth, the Savior was abused and crucified. However, after His sufferings, He was raised from the dead and exalted. When the Savior returns to set up God’s kingdom on earth, all the citizens of the world will honor Him. All kings, princes, and rulers will rise up from their thrones and willingly surrender the authority of all the nations of the earth, and they will honor Christ as Lord of the universe.

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Isaiah 49:8

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. The Savior was Called to be God’s Covenant

Note that it is the person of Christ Himself that is the covenant. Through Him, God pledges to fulfill all His promises. The Savior is to be the *Mediator* through whom God brings to the world the promise of salvation and all the other promises He has made down through the ages.

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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. The Savior was Called to be God’s Covenant

God promised to answer the prayers of his suffering Servant and to help Him in the day of salvation. Throughout His life on earth, the Savior suffered agonizing pain due to the continual hostility of people, in particular the religionists. God protected the Savior in order to guarantee that He would become the *covenant* for the people.

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Isaiah 49:8

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.

Five promises in particular are mentioned:

Promise 1: Restore the Land and Inheritance Promised

This is a reference to the inheritance God gave each tribe When Christ returns to earth to set up God’s kingdom, the true believers among the Israelites will receive their promised inheritances. But Gentile believers will also receive their rewards.

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Isaiah 49:9

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.

Promise 2: Set the People Free from Captivity and Darkness

Israel’s deliverance from the captivity in Babylon is a clear picture of the Savior delivering His people from the bondages of sin, death, and the coming judgment. The Savior *redeems* and *sets free* all those who put their trust in Him.

He opens the eyes of the believer so they can have the light of His Truth.

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Isaiah 49:9b-10

“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.

Promise 3: To Guide, Provide, and Protect His People

No matter where people go, the Lord promises to meet their needs along the way. Even the barren hills will provide food for true believers. In compassion, the Lord promises to guide and lead His people, meeting whatever needs they have. Whether Jews or Gentiles, if people truly trust the Lord, their needs will be met. This is an encouragement as we are to go into all the world sharing the Gospel!

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Isaiah 49:11-12

I will make each of My mountains a road, And My highways shall be elevated. ¹² Surely these shall come from afar; Look! Those from the north and the west, And these from the land of Sinim.”

Promise 4: God will bring His Children Home

This is a picture God making a way for people to come to Him. This will be seen when Jesus returns and sets up His Kingdom. All Israel will return to the Promised Land regardless of where they are. Nothing can stop them from returning.

It is also a picture of those coming to know Christ as Savior. He will remove the obstacles so they can come to Him.

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Isaiah 49:13

Sing, O heavens! Be joyful, O earth! And break out in singing, O mountains! For the Lord has comforted His people, And will have mercy on His afflicted.

Promise 5: God will Comfort His People

God will comfort His people. This is cause for great rejoicing. The world is not a kind place. We face temptation, trials, and the effects of sin we can find comfort in Christ. Regardless of stain of sin on one's life they can find mercy and forgiveness in the Savior.

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So What ...

Do not trust in the things of this world. They are poor counterfeits for what God wants to give you in Christ.

Jesus has accomplished His Mission and brought Salvation to the world. Now it is our job to proclaim that message.

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