

## **A Mission to Save**

General Topic: God Delivers and Restores

Sunday, June 12th, 2022

Author: Rev. Spencer L. Braddix

### **Lesson Text: Isaiah 49:1-13**

*Background Scripture: Isaiah 49:1-17*

*Isaiah 49:1 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.*

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

*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.*

*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.*

*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.*

*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.*

*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;*

*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.*

*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.*

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

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

*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.*

**Lesson Objective(s):**

Absorbing the content of this week's passage, will result in an understanding that God's plan for his people begins and ends with never-ending love and salvation for all.

### **Teaching Tools:**

Word puzzles may be developed from the following site: [www.puzzlemaker.com](http://www.puzzlemaker.com). Also, [www.dtlk.com](http://www.dtlk.com) has several visual aids that may be beneficial, as well as [www.kidssundayschool.com](http://www.kidssundayschool.com) which provide other helps for teaching.

Bible Journaling may be an interesting way to involve older teens in self-expression of the lessons they are taught. Visit [www.lifeway.com/Articles/how-to-start-bible-journaling-in-six-easy-steps](http://www.lifeway.com/Articles/how-to-start-bible-journaling-in-six-easy-steps) to find ways to use this valuable tool to learn and reinforce Scripture.

### **The Lesson:**

It has always been God's intention to provide the blessings of salvation to every nation. Jesus died for the sins of the whole world, and everyone who believes in Him has eternal life and the guarantee of His love. The Holy Scriptures were given to Israel and it was through them that God brought Jesus Christ into the world. Jesus was sent to bring redemption to the world so that all who believe will be saved. In this week's lesson, we will examine the great prophecy that foretells God's plan of redemption.

### **Background**

God instructed His prophet, Isaiah, to write concerning Israel's captivity in Babylon. For seventy years, the nation suffered under this oppression. Then the Lord allowed them to return to Jerusalem. He gave them the

resources to rebuild the Temple and establish themselves once again as God's representative. But the Israelites got comfortable in Babylon. They became accustomed to the Babylonian ways and their gods. Most of the Israelites refused to move. Only a small remnant traveled back to Judah.

God speaks through Isaiah about these upcoming problems (Isaiah 48). In the first part of the chapter, he rebukes their negative attitudes and behaviors. However, God changes His tone in the last half of the chapter. In several of the later chapters of Isaiah, the Lord offers hope and help with the promise of the Messiah's coming. Like a loving mother attempting to get her cranky toddler to take a nap, the Father begins to speak softly. He highlighted promises about a coming Savior, Jesus, to save Israel and the entire world.

### **The Messiah's Mission (Isaiah 49:1-7)**

In the book of Isaiah, four passages are called "the Servant Songs" (Isaiah 42–50). The second song found here outlines the coming Messiah's mission on earth. Jesus, God's redeemer, brings light, healing, and restoration. He offers His salvation promises to the Jewish people and the entire world. God speaks through the Messiah in the first person. He asks for listening ears. His calling started in the womb of His mother. Before the Holy Spirit placed Jesus' embryo in Mary's body, the angel said, His name is Jesus, the Savior of all humanity (Luke 1:31).

Isaiah compared Jesus' mouth, His words, to instruments of war. The well-polished sword and the shaft pierces the intended target. God kept Jesus out of the main limelight until a particular time in history. At the appointed time, He introduced the Savior and His penetrating message (Galatians 4:4– 5). Isaiah calls the Servant, whom we now understand to be the Messiah, by the name Israel. This nation originally carried God's salvation message.

When the Jewish people rebelled, the Messiah picked up the baton, committed to completing God's assignment.

God called Jesus to draw back the Israelites to Jehovah. God raised Him and gave Him the might and power to carry out the task. The first Christian missionaries and the authors of the Bible were Jewish people. God's instruments to introduce salvation to the world. The Servant fulfilled the covenant God made with the Israelites, and He is the actual covenant.

### **The Messiah's Ministry (Isaiah 49:8-11)**

Jehovah heard the prayer of the Servant and helped Him fulfill a fruitful ministry. God is committed to lifting this universe out of its critical condition, placing His Spirit in desolate, godless places. His desire is for the entire human race to know the truth through His Son Jesus. God frees captives. God freed the captives in Babylon, and He offers freedom to all humanity bound in sin. It is now possible to bask in the presence of a Holy God; no sin hinders or divides (Isaiah 61:1).

The Messiah bids everyone to come openly to the light. Christ found the Jews enslaved to the law, covered in the darkness, and separated from God. Christ lifted their burdens. The Compassionate Shepherd is always leading to greener pastures. Jesus keeps His sheep away from the scorching sun and leads them to lush feeding grounds and freshwater. Even in places that are downtrodden and barren, God provides for His sheep. These promises are not only for the Jewish nation or people in biblical days. Jesus still saves and restores anyone willing to come to Him.

### **The Messiah Magnified (Isaiah 49:12-13)**

Some of the Jewish people pushed Jesus aside, denying His claim as Messiah. They looked down upon Him, calling Him unclean, a liar. However, God viewed Him as valuable and deemed worthy of praise (1 Peter 2:4). Jesus respected those in positions of authority in the secular government and within the Jewish religion. But both plotted against Him. When Jesus returns to the earth for the second time, He will be honored and worshiped. Rulers and every human being will prostrate before Him. In the end He gets all of the glory.

### **Final Thoughts**

Many individuals today continuously wonder, "What about me? What about me?" God saw the need for salvation. He sent Jesus to meet that need in our world, and Jesus completed God's assignment. As Christians, we are to answer the same call.

Isaiah prophesied that God would make Jesus Christ a light to the Gentiles. This is a powerful illustration that Jesus Himself used (John 8:12). Isaiah paints a picture of the Gentiles sitting in darkness without the light of truth and without hope of salvation (Isaiah 9:1-2). Isaiah repeatedly used the image of light as that which offers hope and salvation. Jesus is the Light to all believers, and those who know Him have the privilege and opportunity to introduce others to the Light. God has set the church in the world to shine as lights as well. (Philippians 2:15). We are to be lights that lead others to *The* Light where they can receive God's redemption.

***Be Salt! Be Light! Be Blessed!***