

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 266 – Listen O Isles Through All Flesh Shall Know (Isaiah 49:1-26)

1. What did the servant called from the womb liken His mouth to?

A sharp sword: *“(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” (Isaiah 49:1-3).*

- Listen (**Jeremiah 22:29**; cf. **Jeremiah 25:8-9**) O isles (**Isaiah 51:5**, **Isaiah 60:9**, and **Jeremiah 31:10**).
- Called from the womb and named from the bowels of His mother (**Matthew 1:18-25**, **Luke 1:31**, and **Luke 2:10-11**).
- Mouth like a sharp sword (**Revelation 1:13-17**).
- Who is this servant (**Philippians 2:3-9**) called Israel that glorified the Father (**John 17:1-4**)?
- Why would Jesus be called Israel in any way? Remember, whom He came forth from in the flesh (**Acts 13:23**).
- Context will also reveal that this servant was to save the Gentiles (**Isaiah 49:6** and **Isaiah 49:22**). That clearly is in reference to Christ (**Ephesians 2:11-17**).

2. What did the servant focus on when He thought His labor was in vain?

That judgment and works are with God: *“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” (Isaiah 49:4).*

- Jesus came into His own people and they received Him not (**Isaiah 53:2-3**, **Matthew 23:37**, and **John 1:1-11**).
- Rejection (**Romans 10:21**) makes work seem to be in vain (**Galatians 4:11**).
- However, He understood that His judgment (**John 8:16**) and work was with the Father (**John 4:34**, **John 5:17**, and **Hebrews 5:8-9**).
- On top of that, as we'll see in the next few verses, though rejected heavily by the Jews; He was well received by the Gentiles (**Acts 13:44-48** and **Acts 28:28**; cf. **Matthew 22:1-14** and **Luke 20:1-16**).

3. Was the servant called from the womb only going to help Israel?

No, Gentiles too: *“(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” (Isaiah 49:5-6).*

- Jesus did seek to restore Israel (**Luke 19:1-10**).
- That was His first attempt (**Matthew 10:5-7** and **Acts 3:25-26**).
- Though Israel would not accept and be restored to God, that would not shrink Jesus in the sight of His Father (**Matthew 17:1-5** and **Ephesians 1:19-23**).
- However, Jesus was also prophesied to be the hope of the Gentiles (**Isaiah 11:1-10**, **Luke 2:25-32**, and **Galatians 3:14-29**).

4. Though this servant was going to be despised, what were rulers going to do?

See, arise, and worship: *“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”* (**Isaiah 49:7**).

- The Lord is the redeemer of Israel (**Isaiah 54:5** and **Jeremiah 50:34**).
- Christ was despised and abhorred (**Matthew 26:59-67**).
- But, the servant’s dominion will (**I Corinthians 15:24-28**) and has risen above the hate (**Matthew 28:18**, **I Peter 3:21-22**, and **Revelation 11:15**).

5. Was the despised servant going to be able to deliver those whom He was sent to?

Yes: *“(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”* (**Isaiah 49:8-12**).

- The Father heard His Son (**John 8:28-29** and **John 11:11-42**).
- Paul quoted verse 8 (**II Corinthians 6:1-2**).
- That time was when Jesus was made a covenant for the people (**Matthew 26:28**, **Hebrews 8:1-13**, and **Hebrews 12:24**).
- Jesus came to set free those captive (**Luke 4:18**) in sin (**John 8:31-32** and **Romans 6:1-23**) and under the Law (**Romans 7:1-6** and **Romans 8:1-2**).
- He brought those in darkness into the light (**Colossians 1:12-13**).
- The hunger and thirst is a spiritually relative point (**John 6:35**).
- Jesus is the highway (**Isaiah 11:16**; cf. **John 14:6**).
- He is the highway that all people, of all nations, can come to the Lord and be saved (**Mark 16:15-16** and **Acts 10:34-35**).

6. While the earth rejoiced, what did Zion say?

The Lord hath forsaken and forgot me: *“(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. (14) But Zion said, The LORD hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me” (Isaiah 49:13-14).*

- Rejoice (**Psalms 96:11-13** and **Acts 8:26-39**).
- Understand the mindset of the Jews. When they saw the Gentiles being saved they felt strongly against such (**Acts 11:1-3** and **Acts 21:27-32**).
- Remember, the Jews were special (**Deuteronomy 7:1-8**). Now, they're not so special. That'd be hard to hear and see. Right? Would that' bring a feeling of rejection just like if a man decided to bring another woman into his marriage bed?

7. Did the Lord forget His people?

No: *“(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. (16) Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me. (17) Thy children shall make haste; thy destroyers and they that made thee waste shall go forth of thee” (Isaiah 49:15-17).*

- **Jeremiah 31:20, Hosea 11:1-12, and Romans 11:1-5.**

8. If Zion lifted up her eyes to behold what God wanted them to see, what would they see?

God shows a picture to prove He will not forget Israel. Out of their waste places they shall arise and the Gentiles shall carry forth the Jews: *“(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. (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. (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. (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? (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. (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. (24) Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered? (25) But thus saith 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 him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children. (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” (Isaiah 49:18-26).

- They needed to open their eyes to the big picture (**Isaiah 60:1-5**).
- The Gospel went forth and started in Jerusalem (**Luke 24:47** and **Acts 2:1-47**).
- Physically, the Gentiles were used to bring Israel out of captivity and their waste cities would be restored (**II Chronicles 36:20-23**) and even to help the Jews physically under Christ (**Romans 15:25-27**).
- Spiritually, the Gentiles were used to help save Jews (**Romans 11:11-15**).
- There would be new sons and daughters of God (**Romans 10:12-13** and **II Corinthians 6:14-18**).
- The key is for them to wait for God to do these things (**Isaiah 64:4**; cf. **Ephesians 3:1-11**).
- The turning of things around for Zion physically (**Zechariah 14:1-3**).
- Blood spilled for sure (**Psalms 58:10**).
- All flesh know the Lord is the redeemer of Israel (**Ezekiel 39:7**).