

SAVING GENTILES

Isaiah 49

INTRODUCTION:

Salvation is an important word. Israel felt that God had forgotten her. A bright note is given -- The Messiah servant is predicted, plus a light to the Gentiles.

Salvation is to be offered to the ends of the earth. Chapter 49 begins with what appears to be a lack of success and closes with the certain ultimate victory.

The first of the four servant songs - 42:1-9 - Jehovah puts his spirit upon him, He will bring justice, peace, and V. 6 - a light to Gentiles.

The second of the four servant songs - 49:1-13 - The servant's mission and experience and world wide. Jehovah called him from the womb - V. 6. A light to the Gentiles. He will be conscious of his mission, some failures - all Israel at 1st seems to be the servant, but plain in V. 3 and 5 - redeemer.

The third of the four servant songs - 50:4-11. V. 4 Orelli "He possesses the two fundamental qualifications of an ideal prophet: Willingness to listen as often as God speaks, and willingness always to utter without demur whatever God commands".

Suffers bitter scorn but steadfast. Free from national limitations. Portrayed as sinless, a prophet, obedient to the will of God. V. 10.

The fourth of the four servant songs 52:13-53:12. Servant's destiny 52:13-15; His career 53:1-3; His suffering 53:4-6; His submission 53:7-9; His reward 53:10-12.

Described as a prophet, a priest, as suffering for sin. Meek, patient, man of sorrows, despised, rejected, wounded. 53:3 Spurgeon: "I have lost the power to doubt him when I see those wounds".

Dr. Skinner "It is a most remarkable anticipation of the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow".

Differing opinions of the suffering servant.

1. Figuratively the whole of Israel - delitysch's.
2. Servant is the hidden Israel within Israel - Davidson's the ideal incarnate in primary.
3. Servant is the rising of a person - ultimate fulfillment in Christ.

Philip - Eunuch, reading 53:7-8. According to Acts 8:26-35. Preached unto him Jesus.

Geo. Adam Smith: "The Christian Church is right in finding its fulment in Jesus Christ; in his sinless suffering....."

Ochler: "The Prophet ascends by stages as it were from the foundation walls of a cathedral....to the giddy heights of the towering summit upon which the cross has been planted...the nearer it approaches the summit the clearer appears the outline of the cross..."

B. A. Coppas: "The servant has been realized in the son of man."

Maintain this in mind as we approach new heights.

OUTLINE

I. Servants Commission - V. 1-13.

II. Scope of Redempcion - V. 14-26.

I. Servants Commission - V.1-13.

✓ V. 1 - Isles - All people of the world - nations - Gentiles. Attention demanded - Gen. 10:5. "By these were the Isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands, everyone after his tongue, after their families, in their nations".

✓ Clear: Speaking to nations outside of Israel - regions beyond Israel.

Gentiles: Instructed to receive tidings of the redeemer.

Christ - servant - calling.

From Womb - Virgin Son - Appointed of God. Matt. 1:21 - Prophet not speaking of self - mature age when called.

Paul - Gal. 1:15. Says he was set appart from his mother's womb.

✓ V. 2 - Messiah - Servant.

Mouth - The word that comes forth from it.

✓ A. Like Sharp Sword - Men conquer with the sword. Used for defense.

Heb. 4:12. "Thw word of God is sharper than a two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing assunder of soul and spirit and the joints and the marrow."

Christian testimony: The Bible searches the heart. No Pharisee, Sadducee, or Ritualist can stand before the word.

John in Revelation picks up this idea - Rev. 1:16; 2:12; 16; 19:15. "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."

Word will save and judge! Hand will hold.

Word will go afar to the Gentiles.

Shaft - polished - keen - free from rust - pierce the sinful heart of ungodly men. Sent with force.

V. 3 - My Servant - God owns as his servant - son of man as given in introduction.

Further help in discovering this to be the Messiah is in V. 5.

V. 4 - Servant appears to Labour in Vain.

Looking at the small results to reclaim Israel - Humanity of the servant - regret. "Labour of Love" - Sad by the failure of his work.

Note care of his country men - Luke 19:14. "He came unto his own and his own received him not". John 1:11, 7:5.

Only 120 disciples met in Upper Room after his death. Acts 1:5.

God rewards his workers -- not discouraged about final success or triumph.

I Cor. 4:1-5.

Men are often discouraged and undervalue their work for thinking they have done little or no good in the world - Teachers in the school and preachers. False judgment.

Never see full results of Work.

Illustration: Never heard of Thomas Barbee. He was the man, the means of bringing to conversion Dr. Adam Clarke - one of the world's deepest scholars in Bible interpretation.

Mrs. S. Glover

"Do all the good you can,
In all the ways you can,
To all the folks you can,
At all the times you can,
And as long as you can."

Many ministers have laboured, not spared himself and feels little reward. Employed of God. Rom. 3:3.

Some will condemn him, but his labour is not lost.

V. 5 - God had a design - from the beginning. Formed him. The servant would receive the glory.

Thought Israel be not gathered - confidence in his work to be rewarded - scattered flock as chickens. Matt. 23:37.

Glory by a partial conversion of the Jews in his ministry. Remember: 12 Apostles were Jews, Paul and Barnabas were Jews - Original church of the Jews - Acts 2:41-27. Those that were spiritual flowed into the church of Christ.

V. 6 - Reads: And he said to me: "Tis but a light thing.

That Thou should'st be for my servant,
To raise up the tribes of "MY" Jacob
And Israel's saved ones to bring back:
I'll give Thee a light to the Gentiles,
My Salvation to earth's furthest bounds!"

(Great invitation) - "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest". Earth's furtherest bounds. Put joy in your heart - who ever you are, Greek, Jew, Italian, Spanish, English.

Luke 2:32 "A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel".

Paul - Acts 13:47 The Lord commanded us saying, I have set Thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that Thou shouldest be for Salvation unto the ends of the earth." And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord. V. 48.

Christ is given for a light for all. Jews, a small part of the whole family. 2Cor.4:6.

V. 7 - Two words of description of the Messiah.

Despised - By men - Cross a stumbling block. Abhorred - by nations.

He came to save men, but wretched man becomes a persecutor.

Man has one cry: Crucify him, crucify him. Trampled Pilate - Boasted of power over

him. John 19:10.

Dislike for "Holy One" - John 19:15. Away with him. Treated as a slave. Luke 13:11.

To be Exalted - 2 Cor. 8:9. Kings will rise up in reverence - great ones of the earth will come.

✓ V. 8 - Acceptable Time - The Messiah received help in the grace of God. Time of God's goodwill.

Day of Salvation - Fullness of time. Gal. 4:4. Preserved Him and gave him as a covenant. Give him help needed to restore.

May once more inherit their desolate homesteads.

Paul quotes in 2 Cor. 6:2. Applies it to our present time as a messenger of Christ, it is for him the acceptable time, the day of Salvation.

Paul warns - Don't go beyond the limit - that day - as all other days come to a close. Given to Christ, but can also help you because your day of Salvation is today.

At this point man fails to consider and time is vital!! Let the Jews - Come Down Time -

V. 9 - He Will Free The Prisoner.

Those in darkness - come to the light. Road you walk shall feed. Hills that are bare shall become pasture.

Here is liberty of a sinful soul, pardon, release. Provides for comforts - feed - leads like flock. Gentiles have no light - show yourselves. Matt. 5:16.

Figure - baren road - churches will be planted antioch, Alex. Rome, etc.

V. 10 - To Be Hot - Dry Sand.

Grace sufficient for faithful ones - wilderness - every comfort, need met.

V. 11 - Mountains shall be as highway - obstructions out of the way.

Make a road through sea.

Way God leads - There are obstructions on the way to Heaven.

✓ V. 12 - Afar - Sinim - China.

From all parts he will gather them - As read Matt. 8:11. From East and West, sit down with Abraham.

Some say it was some province in Babylon. But now most commentators agree it refers to China. One of the largest territories in the world, 7 times the size of France, 11 times size of Britain and Ireland.

1892 estimated that if all the subjects of Peking marched past at the rate of 30 miles a day, on and on day after day, week after week, month after month, 23 1/2 years would elapse before last one passed.

Number inconceivable - appalling.

Daily death rate was 33,000.

3 days exceed population of Chesapeake.

Population of China today is beyond this.

We have not neglected these people altogether. Europe, and America sent missionaries.

1807 Morrison went from London.

Lottie Moon and others - we have long prayed for China.

Obstacles - Imperial Government. Ignorance, superstitiousness, ancestral worship, opium traffic.

A Wesleyan Missionary in 1884 said of the obstacles - One Chinese reasoned opium is from abroad, the Gospel is from abroad, Opium is injurious, The Gospel cannot be much good. Here is the power of influence. Rom. 8:19.

V. 13 - Reasons for Singing.

1. Return of people from captivity.
2. Redemption to come through Christ.

Whole creation invited to sing. Good subject to sing about - let all celebrate the praises.

Two added reasons:

1. The Lord hath comforted.
2. The Lord will have mercy upon his afflicted. Rom. 8:19.

Designates action - God has already accomplished, he has compassion.

II. Scope of Redemption - V. 14-26.

This section of tender mercies of God to his people, the prosperity of his kingdom

plus the overthrow of all enemies of the Kingdom.

V. 14 - Zion's Complaint - Israel in captivity - Depression - Not surprising - the long days of trouble, despondency.

Church has trouble - question God's care and concern for it. God's people in trouble, has He forgotten or forsaken?

V. 15 - The Impossibility - Suggestion that he has forsaken is answered - "Can a woman for get her sucking child?

Mother holds a new born baby, the baby is dependent for life upon the mother - Can she actually forget this, have no compassion on her new-born baby?

It is hers, the law of nature, she can think of little else!

Note - Sometimes a woman of poor character will forget. May even forsake, forget, abandon an infant. Not the rule for the purest love of a mother never breaks the tie of tenderness.

Love of God surpasses that of either father or mother - never forsaken!

Church. Never forgets!

V. 16 - Graven Upon Jehovah's Hands

Ref. to constant care of Jehovah. Custom tying a string around your finger to put a thing in mind, afraid you will forget. Wear a ring or locket in remembrance of some dear friend.

Deut. 6:8, ³⁻⁹ Commands of God - writhe in heart - bind to hand-hands - writhe on door posts house, gates -

Walls - Ruined - are not pleasing and before him. Zeal for them.

V. 17 - Make Haste - Time comes the exiles shall hasten when the appointed time comes to return, and rebuild the temple.

Enemies will retreat - withdraw.

V. 18 - Zion - Referral to as a Bride.

All these gather - Flock to his church - Gospel - Mystical body. Heb. 12:22-23.

Entire church in a sense is designated - 2 Cor. 11:2, Eph. 5:29, Rev. 19:7, 21:2.

Adding of great numbers to the church.

V. 19 - Growth of the Church (Saving Gentiles).

Land of ruin be full - Palestine after return of captivity - not over-populated but Prophet points to growth of the church spread far beyond limits of Palestine, ultimately require whole earth.

V. 20 - Children of Thy Bereavement.

Gentiles will replace faithless. God will repair his church's losses and secure to himself a seed to serve him.

Place to strait for us - church will gladly admit - Gal. 5:27. Cut off by own infidelity. Blind, poor, halt, room for more. Luke 14:21-22.

V. 21 - Jewish Church Astounded

Influx of Gentiles - Where did they come from? Who raised these children? Who hath begotten them? Who has brought them up? Acts 11:1-3; Gal. 2:11. Jews had been cut off from Temple, altar, ark - unsettled condition.

Church at times seems almost invisible - desolate - alone - unsettled.

V. 22 - Jehovah Answers the Question He will call Gentiles - New converts, sons and daughters. They come and bring their sons and daughters.

They will assist the sons of Zion!

They will help to carry the church! Like woman carrying an infant. 11:10.

Gentiles will aid in restoring Israel to her land.

V. 23 - Kings shall foster the new born. "Queens shall be they nursing mothers."

Put themselves at the disposal of the church. They shall bow down. Subject to the church.

Cyrus, Darius, Artaxerxes, Esther. Rev. 3:9.

Gem - "Those waiting on me shall never be ashamed". Not easy to wait. The pressure is intense - we feel we must have immediate relief. It does not come. We cry in vain. Still have to wait.

Kings have lost Kingdoms. Not wait a few hours. Waiting on the Lord, never disappointed.

V. 24 Obstacles in way of deliverance of captives. By laws of war they belonged to Babylon - rightful claim to captives. Who could deliver that feeble remnant? The prey will be taken from the mighty.

Miss Henrietta Soltan - On her way to talk with a poor prodigal "down and out". In simple faith she ask for a promise. As she went the word was given. V. 24. The captive was fully delivered!

V. 25 - Though they are mighty, they shall be taken way.

Continued promise - if Babylon is mighty, God is mightier. I will save.

Even wicked parents approve their children being religious.

V. 26 - Drunken with own Blood - retribution for having shed the blood of Gods servants.

Rev. 16:6. Pharaoh - Herod

God can make the oppressors of his church to be their own tormentors and their own destroyers. With Greed and delight they will descend upon each other. See how cruel men are sometimes to one another.

Babylon's sin will appear to all the world. God's judgment. Rev. 15:3-4.

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Prophecy