

ISAIAH 49

Lesson 39: "Christ Unveiled as Restorer of Israel and Light for the Nations"¹

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MAIN IDEA

God wills far greater glory than Jesus Christ presently has.

It is insufficient for the servant of the Lord (Jesus Christ) merely to restore the exiles of Israel; besides that, and against all obstacles, he will extend God's salvation to the ends of the earth.

THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

| Focus | Judgment is Coming | | | | Glory Will Follow | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Divisions | Judgment on Judah | Judgment on Judah's Neighbors | Judgment on All the Earth | Historical Interlude | Deliverance of God's People | Deliverance for God's People | Future of God's Delivered People | |
| | 1 12 | 13 27 | 28 35 | 36 39 | 40 48 | 49 57 | 58 66 | |
| Topics | Visions | Burdens | Woes | Wars | Worship | | | |
| | Sermons of Condemnation | | | Parenthesis | Sermons of Comfort | | | |
| Place | Judah & Her Neighbors | | | | Israel & the World | | | |
| Time | About 40 Years (722-681 B.C.) | | | | Thousands of Years | | | |

SUMMARY OUTLINE

I. Christ Unveiled as God's Salvation to the Ends of the Earth (49:1-7).

- A. Summoning the extremities of the earth ("distant nations") to listen to him, the servant (Jesus) appears a second time to introduce himself and his work to the whole creation.
- B. Here God the Father tells the Son that it is insufficient glory for him to be merely the Savior of the Jews...God commanded Jesus Christ to be also the light for the Gentiles that he might bring salvation to the ends of the earth.

¹ Outline adapted from "Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Isaiah," by Andrew Davis.

- C. The Lord's use of the name Israel refers here to Messiah² which describes the intimate relationship that exists between the nation and her King.
- D. The Servant's mission will include the priority of bringing Israel to the Lord (49:5) which will be complete at his Second Coming.³ See Romans 11:25-26.

II. God's Day of Salvation for the Exiles (49:8-13).

- A. The Messiah is represented as asking for the grace of God to be given to sinners. God gives his favorable answer in the time of grace ("day of salvation," 49:8).
- B. At his appointed time in the future, the Lord will, by his servant (Jesus) accomplish the final deliverance of Israel.
- C. The regathering of physical exiles to the promised land was a picture of the spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth and the spiritual pilgrimage that all disciples make in following Jesus from sin to heaven (Matt. 7:13-14).

III. Despite All Appearances, the Exiles Will Return (49:14-21).

- A. God's people during the exile in Babylon felt that God had abandoned them.
- B. However, despite all outward appearances God will remember his covenant promise to Abraham and restore the exiles (Abraham's "seed") to Jerusalem.

IV. The Gentiles Will Aid the Redemption of Israel or Be Destroyed (49:22-26).

- A. Cyrus the Great and all Persian sub-rulers and people are called on to aid the resettlement of Jerusalem by any means possible (cf. Ezra 1:2-7).
- B. Conversely, some Gentiles will use their positions of power to resist the streaming of exiles back to Zion.
- C. Verses 24-26 speak of tyrants who hold the exiles captive and have to be crushed in order to let the children of God go free.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Someday our Lord Jesus Christ will receive glory far beyond what he is being given today...it will be beyond our imagination!

² See Isaiah 42:1; 49:5-7; 52:13, 11).

³ Cf. Zech. 12:10—13:1. (MacArthur 819)