

In Search of The Servant of God
(Part 2- Isaiah 49:1-11)
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Introduction: How could God's coming Servant be known?

- A. The problem for man is that *he cannot think like God*. **(Isa 55:8-9)**
 - 1. We are very limited. Consider someone from 150 years ago coming here and the *difficulty he would have in understanding!* (Ex. book, 1921)
 - 2. The *most spiritual man would struggle* to understand the message, while a worldly man would scoff at and then oppose God's servant. **(Lk 23:34)**
- B. At the time of Isaiah, Israel was told in advance many "*unthinkable*" things *that would come*.
 - 1. Babylon would *destroy Jerusalem* and take them into captivity. **(Isa 39:5-7)**
 - 2. Israel *would be restored after 70 years* by one named Cyrus! **(Isa 44:28)**
 - 3. God wanted the nations (from afar) to be looking! His power shown in these things was meant to *get their attention for something much greater*.
 - 4. These unparalleled events in human history would *pale in comparison* to the coming Servant! **(Isa 49:1-11)**

I. The Servant would come in the fullness of time (49:1-2)

- A. God wants the nations *to be in anticipation* of these events. **(Isa 49:1-2)**
- B. This Servant was for a time *in the shadow of God's hand*.
 - 1. He was like a concealed weapon, *hidden until the right time*.
 - 2. Satan was *a willing tool in his own demise*. What he thought was a victory was a defeat! **(Heb 2:14; 1 Cor 2:7-8)**
 - 3. This is the significance of *the "mystery" in God's plan*. **(Eph 1:9-10)**
- C. Consider the power of *revealing Jesus at this time*. **(Gal 4:4-5)**
 - 1. The gathering of some of Israel *had taken place*.
 - 2. The hypocrisy and *corruption of present Israel was obvious*. Men longed for their version of the Messiah.
 - 3. Jews were *scattered over the world* and would be used! **(Rom 1:16)**
 - 4. The *Roman government* would provide a common government and language as well as a great transportation system. Paul often used this!

II. This Servant that seeks to glorify God will also suffer (49:3-6)

- A. "In whom I will be glorified" *perfectly describes* this Servant! **(Isa 49:3, 5)**
 - 1. *How* does one glorify God? **(Jn 12:26-28, 31-33)**
 - 2. God spoke directly from heaven to affirm the value of glorifying Him. This involves a complete denial of self and suffering! *It is worth it!*
- B. This Servant will be tested and will suffer. **(Isa 49:4)**
 - 1. The struggle between laboring "in vain" and knowing his "just reward" with God is the exact battle that *took place on the cross*.

2. Jesus used *the knowledge of God's character* and His promises to stay the course! **(Psa 22:1-3, 6-8)**
- C. This Servant *was assured* what His suffering would accomplish. **(Isa 49:5-6)**
 1. What things do we endure in this life because we look to an outcome?
 2. What did Jesus *know* He would accomplish? **(Heb 12:2-3)**
 3. Do you see how this Servant would *mold a people to be like Him*?
- D. Consider *the enormity* of gathering Israel together again. **(Isa 49:5)**
 1. Israel, since the days of Solomon was divided and worldly. The righteous were *greatly troubled* by what they saw!
 2. Now imagine being crushed, brought into captivity and scattered among the nations! How *can it be brought together again*?
 3. This would be a very different gathering than under the 1st return.
- E. This gathering will *also involve the Gentiles*. **(Isa 49:6)**
 1. It would *an impossible thing* for men to just bring the Jews together. When it comes to God's power it was "too small a thing!"
 2. How can you bring people from *different cultures and speech together*?

III. This Servant will build an impossible highway (49:7-11)

- A. This was a highway that accessed the fallen of the earth to *bring them to the power and salvation of God*. **(Isa 49:7-11)**
 1. There *will be great opposition*. His way will be abhorred.
 2. Many will yield to follow this servant, both great and small!
 3. How can any highway cross *mountains, oceans and the barriers of men*? **(49:11)**
- B. This Servant lives forever and will become *the covenant of God*! **(Isa 49:8)**
 1. Do not miss this highway! There *is only one*! **(Jn 14:6)**
 2. God strengthened Jesus to *provide salvation for us*! **(2 Cor 6:1-2)**
 3. *This highway has instructions* (a covenant) and God's grace is there!
- C. The favoritism and prejudice of men *have no place here*.
 1. This highway is based upon a holy heart and *not education, power and riches*. This is a highway of holiness! **(Isa 35:8-10; Eph 3:3-4)**
 2. The despised and imprisoned ones are equal with kings. All *are treated the same*! **(Isa 49:7; 35:3-6)**
- D. The provisions on this highway *will be completely sufficient*. **(Isa 49:10)**
 1. Jesus made it plain that *all we need* is the revealed words of God. **(Jn 12:46-49)**
 2. When this true light has been revealed, then *everything else is darkness*.
 3. In *the next servant song* we will learn more about this "light of men" in contrast to the "light" men make in their own wisdom
 4. The highways men build leads to *a very different place*.
- E. It possible for people *at anyplace and at any time* to serve Him! **(Mt 28:18-20)**

Conclusion: Let each of us pursue the glory of God in our lives!