

“God Comforts” - Isaiah 49:1-13

Ask - “What is a servant? How have you practiced servanthood?”

Background - There are various interpretations of this chapter, but the majority of Christian commentators agree that it refers to Jesus Christ. It is one of 4 poetic “servant songs” found in the book of Isaiah (in chapters 42, 49, 50, and 52-53). Isaiah’s prophecy now looks forward to the coming of Christ

“Sent to Redeem Israel” - Isaiah 49:1-4

(v1-2) To whom is this passage addressed? When did God’s calling of His Servant actually begin? Discuss the descriptions given of this Servant.

(v3) Why would God refer to His Servant, Jesus, as “Israel” (read Luke 23:3)? What will God visibly do through Christ?

(v4) Why might the Servant, Jesus, feel as though His ministry to Israel was in vain? Despite these feelings, why does the Servant remain hopeful?

THE SERVANT OF GOD, JESUS, WOULD BE SENT BY THE FATHER WITH THE PRIMARY MISSION OF REDEEMING HIS PEOPLE ISRAEL. HOWEVER, THEY WOULD REJECT HIM AND HIS SALVATION.

“Sent to Redeem All” - Isaiah 49:5-7

(v5) Why would God send His Servant to the Jews? In what ways had they scattered and gone astray? How is the Servant described in this verse?

(v6) How did the LORD expand the mission of the Servant? Why did He do so? Read and discuss John 8:12.

(v7) How is the Servant, Jesus, described in this verse? Who despises and abhors Him? Yet what does God say of Him? Read Philippians 2:10-11.

THOUGH SENT TO RESTORE THE JEWS, GOD EXPANDED THE MISSION OF CHRIST TO BRING SALVATION TO ALL PEOPLE - THE GENTILES AS WELL. HE IS LORD OF ALL, EVEN OVER THOSE WHO REJECT HIM.

“The Wonder of Salvation” - Isaiah 49:8-13

(v8-9a) How will the LORD assist His Servant? By God’s strength, what will the Servant (Jesus) say and do for lost people?

(v9b-12) What do these verses say about the overall condition of those who

receive the LORD's salvation through His Servant? From where will these redeemed believers come?

(v13) What should be our response (and that of all creation) to the LORD for His great salvation? Describe God's comfort and compassion.

IN GOD'S STRENGTH, HIS SERVANT JESUS CHRIST WILL BRING ABOUT SALVATION FOR ALL WHO BELIEVE. THEY WILL BE SET FREE! PRAISE THE LORD!

Application - God would save the exiles from Babylonian captivity, but beyond that He would send salvation to both Jews and Gentiles through the work of His Servant, Jesus Christ. Jesus would conquer sin and death and offer forgiveness and eternal life to all who would receive it. Furthermore, He would establish the church to do what Israel had failed to do. What parts of this lesson stand out to you and why?