

Part II, Lesson 18

# Isaiah

The Lord is Salvation

The Servant's  
Job, And  
Encouragement  
For Israel

Isaiah  
49:1-13

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex  
Curriculum*

## Isaiah Part II, Lesson 18

### The Servant's Job and Encouragement For Israel

#### Isaiah 49:1-13

In our lesson today, we have the words of the “servant” of God, and the promise of a new day. There is more than one way to interpret this chapter. The writer of these lessons has chosen to share the explanation with the idea that the “servant” in verse three is Jesus. Read Isaiah 49:1-7.

The beginning of the message here is a summons, like those we have seen before, demanding the attention of the whole world. Then the servant gives testimony. He said that before He was born, He was called. He said that His mouth was like a sharp sword. This is unlike most views of Jesus and His words. We think of Him more as speaking words of love, peace and comfort. However, there is another side of Jesus that must speak words of judgment and even condemnation. In The Revelation 1:16, Jesus is pictured as having a double-edged sword coming out of His mouth.

Jesus is also pictured as being a polished arrow which probably means that with the sword, Jesus is assigned the task of warrior against things that would harm God's people. Good soldiers kept their arrows polished. A polished arrow slides through the air with great speed.

God said to Jesus, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor.” This is a place where there is disagreement as to who the servant really is. Does Israel here mean the nation Israel, or is it another name for Jesus. Very likely, it refers to Jesus. The name Israel, after all, means “A Prince with God.” Isn't that who Jesus is? It was prophesied here that Jesus would display the splendor of God. In Jesus, we see God and God's great love for humans. Israel had before, and continued to at this time, disappoint God and failed to live up to the name Prince with God.

The Servant said that His hard labor had produced no fruit. He said that He had given His all for nothing. As far as Israel is concerned, the labor of Jesus calling them so salvation would be in vain. John 1:11 says, “He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him.”

But the Servant trusts God and believes that He will be rewarded by God for His effort. God is not through with this Servant. What a great testimony for Christians. We do what God has sent us to do, and we leave the results with God, believing that our reward is for the effort, not for what we think of as success.

God formed Jesus in the womb to be God's servant. In this prophecy, we first hear of the miraculous birth of Jesus. He was born of Mary because God gave her a child...God's child Jesus. The assignment to Jesus is to bring Jacob, or Israel, back to God. Notice that Jesus considered it an honor to be called to help people come to God. If it was an honor for the Son of God to be called on that way, should it not be a great honor for us, mere humans, to be called to bring people to God?

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### The Servant's Job And Encouragement For Israel

Also, the Servant said that it was in God's strength that He accomplished His task. And, we should remember that God will also provide us strength to carry out any task He assigns us. The Servant said, in verse five, that God has been His strength. The Father knows our limitations and He provides for us what is necessary for us to get the job done.

When the Servant speaks of frustration over the lack of response from Israel, He looks back at His calling and then hears God respond to His difficulty. What God says is interesting. God said that the task was too small. He expanded the assignment to include the Gentiles.

Now isn't that just like God. Most of us would have lightened the load. We would have reassigned the Servant to a smaller task. But not God. When the Israelites would not listen, God said to go after the Gentiles. Actually, He said, "But that's not a big enough job for my servant—just to recover the tribes of Jacob, merely to round up the strays of Israel. I am setting you up as a light for the nations so that my salvation becomes global!" (The Message Translation)

God said He was the "Redeemer of Israel." He is "The Holy of Israel." As God, He spoke to the Servant who was despised and abhorred, the one who seemed to be "the servant of rulers." He told Him, the Servant," that things were going to turn around. The Kings who had ignored Him, would now take notice. When they did, they would rise up...get to their feet. Kings normally sat on their thrones when people approached them. But when they realize who Jesus is, they stand up. Other rulers would also act humbly, bowing down a His feet.

Read Isaiah 49:8-13. In these verses God was speaking to people who were still in captivity in Babylon, but would soon go home to Jerusalem. He was going to be to them as Moses was in the escape from Egypt. He will lead them across the desert. He will be like a shepherd to them. He will provide pasture. He will provide water. He will see that the path, or highway, is in good shape.

These released captives will be joined by other Israelites who will come from all directions to join them in their home. This speaks of those who may not have been taken captive to Babylon, but scattered to other places when Jerusalem was destroyed years before.

When the prophet considers all this, he bursts into song. As the Israelites sang when they escaped from Egypt, (See Exodus 15:1-18) so the prophet sings, "For the Lord comforts His people and will have compassion on His afflicted ones." Isaiah said the whole world should sing this song.

\*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

#### Page Three

**Scripture Memory:** "For I am honored in the eyes of the Lord and my God has been my strength."

Isaiah 49:5b

**Lesson Goal:** To encourage students to give God all their strength so that He can add His strength.

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### The Servant's Job And Encouragement For Israel—Isaiah 49:1-13

## Student Worksheet

Listen during the lesson for this information:

1. What is the “other side of Jesus” seen in the picture of His mouth like a sharp sword?
2. Why does the writer of this lesson think that the name Israel refers to Jesus?
3. We do what God has \_\_\_\_\_ us to do, and we leave the \_\_\_\_\_ with God, believing that our reward is for the \_\_\_\_\_, not for what we think of as \_\_\_\_\_.
4. God will also provide us \_\_\_\_\_ to carry out any task He \_\_\_\_\_ us.
5. What two names did God give Himself in verse seven?
6. What was God going to do for the people as they went back home to Jerusalem?
7. What was the prophet's song?

#### Page Four

**Scripture Memory:** “For I am honored in the eyes of the Lord and my God has been my strength.” Isaiah 49:5b

#### **How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:**

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.