

Isaiah 49:1–13
Glorious Salvation unto the Glory of Christ

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 • Read Isaiah 49:1–13

Questions from the Scripture text: Who is commanded to listen in v1a–b? What does the speaker say about Himself in v1c–d? What has YHWH done for this called One (v2a, cf. 11:4; Heb 4:12; Rev 1:16, 2:12, 2:16, 19:15, 19:21)? How do v2b–d describe Him? What is this Servant called in v3? What does the Servant say about the work thus far (v4a–b)? But why does He continue to be sure of His work (v4c–d)? Who begins speaking in v5a? Where did He form the Servant (v5b, 1c)? To do what (v5c–d)? To do what for the Servant (v5e–f)? How much glory, by doing what (v6)? How does YHWH identify Himself in v7a–b? How will man treat the Servant (v7c)? How will the nation (v7d)? But Who is He (v7e)? What will kings and princes end up doing (v7f–g)? Why—to Whom will YHWH be faithful (v7h–j)? What does YHWH say He does for the Servant in v8a–c? What does He say He does through the Servant in v8d–f? What will the Servant say to whom in v9a–b? What will these who were delivered do (v9c–d)? What won't happen to them (v10a–b)? Why, what will the Servant be doing (v10c–d, cf. Ps 23)? To what level of safety (v11)? From where will those He saves come (v12)? Now who are commanded in v13a–c? Over what do heaven, earth, and all that is in them rejoice (v13d–e)?

What is the greatness of God's salvation? Isaiah 49:1–13 prepares us for the first serial reading in public worship on the Lord's Day. In these thirteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the Lord makes His salvation great in quality and in quantity because He is employing it to glorify His chosen Servant**

A Worldwide Savior. Following 42:1ff, 49:1ff now makes up the second Servant song. Just as in the last few chapters, the Lord has insisted that Cyrus and the whole world are at His disposal for bringing salvation, now He proclaims that He will be bringing salvation to the whole world. So the song addresses the coastlands and faraway people (v1a–b), promising that light and salvation will go to the Gentiles and to the ends of the earth (v6e–f). Though Israel reject Him as a nation (v7d), kings and princes of the nations (v7f–g) will join elect Israel (v7b) in worshiping YHWH on account of the servant. The reason given for this worldwide salvation is to magnify the glory of the Servant (v5e–6). Thus, v12 marvels at the various countries of origin unto the glory of the Servant's praise.

A Wonder-working Savior. v2 makes much of the Servant, and especially His mouth, as a weapon. But, in connection with the rejection in v7d, His initial ministry to Jacob seems to come up rather empty (v4a–b). So He will be glorified both by the salvation of the ends of the earth (v6e–f) and by the wondrous work of converting the tribes of Jacob (cf. 6c) and the fullness of the remnant of Israel (cf. v6d). In their being cast away, the Servant has brought the riches of reconciliation to the world; and, in the restoration of their fullness, the Servant raises them from the dead (cf. Rom 11:12, 15)! Thus, the Servant is much glorified both by to whom His salvation comes and by how that salvation comes to them.

A Wondrous Salvation. The salvation itself is wondrous both for the desperation out of which the redeemed are delivered and for the blessedness into which they are delivered. They come out of imprisonment and darkness (v9), and they come into perfect provision and protection as they are led by the hand of the merciful Shepherd Himself (v10). Indeed, all creation will accommodate them, (v11) and all creation will rejoice with them (v13a–c) over the salvation that comfort and mercy that YHWH brings to His people (v13d–e).

So, when God saves by giving Christ “as a covenant to the people” (v8e), it is for the glory of His Servant. How marvelous that this is how God glorifies the Son. And how marvelous that this beloved and glorified Son is the One Who intercedes for His people, pleading on their behalf (v8a–d). For what does Jesus pray? To be given as a covenant to the people: that we would be bound to God in Him!

How does delighting in Christ's glory bring your heart and mind in line with the Lord's? How does God's commitment to glorifying the Savior assure you of the certainty of your salvation? Of the blessedness of it? How will all of the earth respond to your own salvation? How have you been responding to it?

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for giving Christ as a covenant to the people. Forgive us for the ways in which we have despised Him and abhorred Him. It pains us even to describe it the way that You truly describe it. But You have given Him to bring us back to You and gather us to You. So glorify Him by His leading us in mercy and guiding us in safety, we ask in His Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP23B “The Lord's My Shepherd” or TPH98A “O Sing a New Song to the Lord”

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Isaiah 49 verses 1 through 13. These are God's words. Listen o coastlins to me and take heed you peoples from afar. Yahweh has called me from the womb, from The Matrix of my mother, he has made mention of my name. And he has made my mouth like a sharp sword and the shadow of his hand, he has hidden me.

He made me a polished shaft in his quiver. He has hidden me. He said to me, You are my servant o Israel. In him, I will be glorified. Then I said, I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and in vain. Yeah, surely my just reward is with Yahweh and my work with my God.

And now, Yahweh says, who formed me from the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him. So that Israel is gathered to him. For, I shall be glorious in the eyes of Yahweh. And my God shall be my strength. Indeed, he says, it was too small a thing.

That you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore. The preserved ones of Israel. I will also give you as a light to the Gentiles. That you should be my salvation. To the ends of the Earth. Thus says, Yahweh Redeemer of Israel, their Holy One.

To him whom man despises. To him whom the nation, abhors, to the servant of rulers. King Shassi and arise princess also shall worship. Because of Yahweh who is faithful. The Holy One of Israel and he has chosen you. Thus says y'all. In an acceptable time, I have heard you.

And in the day of salvation, I have helped you I will preserve you and give you as a covenant to the people. To restore the Earth. To cause them to inherit the desolate heritages. That you may say to the prisoners, go forth. To those who are in darkness. Show yourselves.

They shall feed along the roads, and their pastures shall be on Old desolate Heights. They shall neither hunger nor thirst. Neither heat, nor Which I'll strike them for he who has Mercy on them. Will lead them. Even by the springs of water. He will guide them. I will make each of my mountains erode.

And my highways shall be elevated. Surely, these shall come from afar. Look those from the On the These from the land of sineem. Sing O Heavens. Be joyful of Earth. And break out in singing, O mountains. For Yahweh has comforted his people. And we'll have mercy. On his Afflicted.

Amen, so far the reading Of Gods inspired and And Aaron twerked.

So, this is the second servant Song. The first one. We had a poetic section in which the Lord started to. Talk about not Cyrus the near term servant. But this greater

servant who redeems, not just Israel from the hand of Babylon, but who redeems all of the Nations unto the worship of the Lord, the worship of Yahweh, and loving and obeying God.

The one of whom Cyrus was this tiny little historical picture. By comparison. And of course, we heard. what we called at the time, the book of the king, the opening chapters, where he kept confronting Israel with their sin, but talking about A king who is going to come?

And that the Lord would. Redeem, his people, and deliver them even from that, which they deserved for their sin against him by this King. Now, we are in that section of Isaiah. where it's the same figure. He's doing the same things, he's producing the same results. and Gathering the nations in that also was part of what the king.

Did and all of those earlier passages? But so it's the same figure but now not described. or titled the king, but here. Titled. The servant and this song of the servant immediately focuses on. How he redeems from all the nations? he is the one who is speaking.

The servant is the one who is speaking. You can see that in verse one because he says, Yahweh has called me from the womb. In verse one. And what did he say? He said in verse 3 you are my servant and very interesting. The servant is called here. Israel.

which Helps us understand what's going on in the book as a whole because Israel was not what Israel ought to have been. And so now what Israel was saved to be the one, the ones who would be faithful Unto the Lord and glorified by the Lord, and a light to the Nations who gather Sinners from all the nations to the Lord, what Israel ought to have been.

But weren't because instead of that, they became like the Nations and were unfaithful. Treacherous against the Lord. what Israel ought to have been the Lord Jesus will be. He is the true Israel. He always has been And so not only is he the Chute? Out of the stump of of Jesse, he is also the root of David.

All, who are believers? All who are saved are rooted into The Lord, Jesus Christ, the King back from earlier, in the book. And the servant that we're hearing about in these servant songs and Here we are now. In the second of them. So he's gonna he's addressing the coastlands and the a far-off peoples.

In verse 1. And, going to bring in and lead as his redeemed. That beautiful picture. Of how he saves the Salvation that he brings that is in the latter portion of our Of our text today. those coming from afar again, he uses that language verse 12, same as in verse 1 and they're coming from the north, Than from the west and these others verse 12.

The land of sineem, all of these. Far off places and the reason, That all of these nations to the ends of the Earth. Are being saved or elect are being saved. God, is redeeming a Remnant from all of these nations is because his point in redeeming is to glorify his servant.

he loves to redeem yes. But he loves to redeem, especially In order to glorify. His servant, and that's why. he saves Nations to the ends of the Earth and you see that language at the center as often happens in Hebrew passages where the highest point is not at the end.

Although there is some emphasis on the last word and what concludes, but often, the highest point is right, in the middle. And so, we have that in verse 6. As it is too small, a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel.

Now that is a very great thing. We have seen all that the Lord has done for his people in other ways. And they. Had been hard-hearted against him and trusted in the works of their hands and sinned against God and born that. That useless wild fruit. Not the cultivated fruit that is intended by and commanded.

By God. after God did all those other things in other way. So it's not a small thing that he would raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the preserved ones, the the elect Remnant, Of Israel. But although it is a great thing, it is still too small a thing.

For the glory of his beloved servant. God, so loves this servant. That. Saves not just from Jacob and Israel but he says, I will also give you as a light to the Gentiles that you should be my salvation to the ends of the Earth. And you remember Paul, and Barnabas in Antioch of basidia.

Proclaiming that the the Jews who are rejecting the gospel were being used by God. To glorify Jesus to that great extent that God. Intended to glorify his son by the way that he would redeem. And now having just come through Romans chapter 11. you remember, both of those things.

how Jesus has much glorified as the gospel goes out to the Nations who are not cultivated, not part of the cultivated Olive Tree and yet. How great is the salvation? That Jesus described when he said when I I am lifted up. I will be glorified. And he was talking especially in that context about his salvation, going out to the ends of the Earth.

Here we have it in 49. Verse 6, which was quoted there in Acts 13 and this is one of the great themes of the whole Bible. Salvation is about the glory of God. Yes. And it is especially about the glory of God in God, the son Jesus Christ. The same God, who over and over and over for the last several chapters.

Has condemned idols and said, they can't save and he will not share his glory with another Even when he was using Cyrus. He wasn't glorifying Cyrus. He was glorifying himself. Using the Cyrus plan as something, so unexpected. And could not happen apart from him, that only Yahweh would be glorified.

So that they wouldn't be able to say about Cyrus, or about any of their Idols. He has done this only always done this. But this servant, Is the one not only in verse 3 in whom God will be glorified. Yahweh will be glorified. He has said to me, you are my servant o Israel.

In whom, I would be glorified but verse 5, the servant says, for I shall be glorious. In the eyes of Yahweh. Now, that is impossible to be any creature. There is no creature. At whom the Lord would look and say behold the glory of this creature. The one whom Isaiah saw.

In chapter 6. Beholding, the glory of another. No, this can only be Yahweh himself. Yahweh the As of course, John and the gospel told us. That. Isaiah said what was said to him in the wake of that Vision, he said, when he beheld Jesus's, Glory. And so does Jesus in Isaiah 6 and Jesus is is Yahweh and Yahweh saves to glorify himself in the glory of the son.

That is the point of Salvation. And so, when you hear people say things, You know, whether about a Doctrine, Question or whatever. You'll hear people say, it's not a Salvation issue. Maybe about the purity of worship so it's not a Salvation issue. No, it's a glory of God issue.

And that's the reason salvation matters. Is because it's a glory of God in the glory of Christ issue. This is the reason that everything exists, he created all things through the son for the glory of the son. This is the reason that salvation exists. Everyone whom he saves, he saves through the For his glory in the son for the glory.

Of the Sun. So you have a worldwide salvation, you have the Glorious servant. And then you have not just that his salvation is worldwide, which we have seen. Thus far. But that his salvation is wondrous. It's wondrous in that he restores Jacob and Israel. He is the one even in verse 7, whom the nation abhors.

He is the one even in verse 4, who, when he first employs his word, which he has been given as this Mighty weapon. And in his Earthly Ministry. The Lord Jesus preaches. And yet. Not uniformly. Not every last individual but almost everyone. Responds with unbelief. So that at first he says, I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and in vain.

And yet there is a confidence that God will redeem all of the elect Israelites. And so verse 4 concludes with yet, surely my, just reward is with Yahweh and my work with my God. And so he will ultimately raise up the tribes of Jacob and restore the preserved ones of Israel.

Bring Jacob. That was verse six back in verse five, bring Jacob back to him, so that Israel is gathered to him. This is the way. That God, glorifies His son. So, at first, He is despised by men and abhorred by the nation. That in verse 7. but he gathers in the Gentiles.

So that he is the servant of or rather maybe better here over. Rulers in verse 7. He is the one who Kings and princes worship in verse 7 and he gathers to himself, Not just this elect and this Remnant from the Nations, the fullness of those who are elect from the Nations, but ultimately he gathers to himself the fullness who are from Israel too.

And this is one of the reasons why the section that we've been in in Romans chapter 11 is so important. We must not speak. Of. Of Israel in such a way. As to write off all Israelites because there is a gathering in Of the elect of Israel. That is essential to in some ways.

The greater part. Of the historic of how God plans to apply his Redemption in history. So, that their failure, their falling was riches for the Gentiles and Riches for the nations in Salvation. And, And God is much glorified in the salvation of the Nations. But God says, in Romans 11:12, I think, and either for his 14 or 15 if the if they're falling.

was riches for the Nations, how much more their fullness in verse 12? And if, through their fall, God was glorified in redeeming. The Gentile Nation salvation has come to the Gentiles. What will their recovery be but Resurrection from the dead? And so Jesus. Is glorified, of course, in his bodily.

Resurrection. That was the point at which even as our mediator, he goes from his state of humiliation. to his state of Exaltation. But he's also glorified with Resurrection Glory. In the Gathering Inn. Of previously, hardened. Elect Israelites. And so there's this wondrous salvation. In Those whom, he saves those, who were prisoners, verse nine, those who were in darkness verse nine, how could those who are prisoners and those who are in darkness from the Nations, The Gentiles who had no light.

And how could those who had rejected the Lord. And all of these other means of Grace that the Lord had given them, did not save them. The Jews who had no life How can they be saved? Because God gives his son as a covenant to them. Verse 8, I will preserve you and give you as a covenant to the people.

And so, it's in redeeming. From the Gentiles who had no light and from the Jews who had no life. That. The Lord Jesus, the greatness of the Lord Jesus's salvation is shown but not just a greatness. And what he saves them from out of. But also a greatness of what he saves them into.

And you see that the end of verse 9, To verse. 11. They feed along the roads, they pasture. on desolate Heights. Suddenly everywhere he leads them, there is The green grass everywhere. They are neither hungry nor thirst they want for nothing. Neither heat nor Sun shall strike them.

That he protects them, there's no evil that can befall them because There is their Shepherd. With his rod and the staff. Even besides Springs of water. He will guide them. You can hear, can't you? The greatness of that into which they are redeemed, not just the great, Darkness and hardness without light or life from which they're saved.

But the great blessedness. Lacking nothing. And ultimately having God himself. as their blessedness will make each of my mountains erode my highways shall be elevated. There is a path that they're going along here. In verse 11. The way home is not leading. To Earth. It's leading to Glory as it In verse 11.

So that as Those whom this Shepherd is gathering both from the Jews and, and also from the Gentiles and whom he is redeemed out of Darkness and deadness, Are being redeemed. Unto the blessedness of having the Lord himself. As their Shepherd. And at the last you have verse 13, the new heavens and a new Earth.

The whole new creation rejoicing over God's salvation in Jesus Christ saying of heavens be joyful o Earth break out and singing o mountains. For Yahweh has comforted his people. And we'll have mercy. On his Afflicted, identifying again. The, the Yahweh who has Mercy on The Afflicted verse 13 is the servant.

Verse 10, he who has Mercy on them. I'm going to lead them. Surely his goodness. And his Mercy, his goodness and his steadfast love. Persecute them. Can't be. escaped from All the days. Of their life and they will dwell. Or return to. The house of the Lord. Forever.

So Jesus says, y'all may have Psalm 23. And the Lord sings a song about him or gives him a song that they sing together back and forth here. In Isaiah 49, verses 1 through 13. Wouldn't it be sweet if we had a metrical translation effect? To sing in the public worship of God.

But may the spirit yet, make this word to dwell in us richly. And write the truth of the glory of God in Christ on our hearts.

Our gracious. God in our heavenly father, we pray that you would indeed. Blessed. Was this portion of your word as your To glorify your son to display your glory. In him. Who is God from all eternity. Together with you and the spirit. We pray that your spirit would Give our hearts.

To see and know, and rest, and rejoice over. The glory of your son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray that you would save a multitude from the Nations. We pray that you would save a multitude. Of heretofore, hard-hearted Israelites. We thank you O Lord that from out of such deadness and darkness.

He has saved us. We pray for any whom we know who might not be saved. Oh Lord save them for the glory of the Lord. Jesus Christ for your glory in the Lord Jesus Christ and make us to Marvel also at the blessedness. Into which you have brought us.

So that we will never be anxious but Comfort it knowing that Heaven and Earth Rejoice. Over Comforted Believers. Oh, how rich is this portion of your word? Lord. Even now as we pray, The truths and blessings of it. Come tumbling out and so we pray. That your spirit would keep this portion of your word on our hearts and that he would bring the words and phrases to mind and instruct us from it.

Even beyond what we have considered thus far. Use it. We pray. And growing Us in the grace and the knowledge of Christ, we ask in his name, Amen.