

# ISAIAH 49 vs 1

The book of Isaiah has two great divisions; **first:** chapters 1–39; God's Criticism of both rebel houses **Israel** and **Judah**, thereby affecting all the local neighbors in the hood; and **second:** chapters 40–66; God's Consolation to both houses who have separate histories. The great Isaiah scroll found in the Qumran caves, dated from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC has put to rest many wild speculations about prophet Isaiah.



In chapter 41... the LORD (YAHWAH) is speaking... to His servants, the Isles at the end of the earth. In chapter 42, the Lord GOD is speaking. He is introducing His Servant, who is the delight of His heart; and He is one that will come... so be looking for Him because He is doing something new. It appears people throughout the whole world are going to want to boast about Him and sing His praises. Now in chapter 49, this Servant of servants speaks; and you sort of get the impression that one day He will come as Lord of lords and King of kings; but here... He is coming as a Servant of the LORD.

Verse <sup>1</sup> **Listen, O Isles,**

**to Me; and hearken,**

**ye people, from far** / and you may ask: Where are these Isles? And, who are these people living far away? Obviously, the LORD knows since He is talking to them;

And He says...

**Listen!** / now, we already know... this is **the House of Israel**. These are the children of Abraham's promise... scattered in the nations... millions, too numerous to count... as the sand of the seas and the stars of heaven.

He says...

**Listen... to Me; for the LORD called Me from the womb** / from the womb of the divine councils in eternity. Before the worlds were created, He was called into this service;

**from the bowels** / actually,

**from the *painful passion* of my mother He mentioned My name.**

<sup>2</sup> **And He** / the LORD,

**made My mouth like a sharp sword;**

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**and in the shadow of His hand has He hid Me** / and like a sharp sword, He rightly divides God's truth,

**and made Me a smooth arrow;**

**and in His quiver, He hid Me** / twice we learn, the LORD likes keeping secrets. He has some things hid because He works on a need-to-know basis. In other words: He told us all we need to know... not all He knows. Later Isaiah will say, *Eye has not seen; ear has not heard... all He has planned for those who wait on Him* -- [Isaiah 64](#);

**and in His quiver has He hid Me** / it sounds like He is ready to battle... and the target is already in His sight line... when the time is revealed. Doesn't it?

<sup>3</sup> **and said to Me, You are My servant, O Israel** / remember: **Isra** = the one ruled or the one governed + **EI** = by GOD.

**You are My servant, O Israel,**

**in whom I will be glorified** / so, if ever there was somebody living up to the name Israel; if ever there was somebody literally **ruled by God**... from this chapter, you get the impression it's this Guy! Whatever the name Israel... may mean to you or me, if this Guy doesn't come to mind, then we might be a little confused; and we might need to think differently... and correctly.

But this ISRAEL of the LORD continues...

<sup>4</sup> **Then I said, I thought... I labored in vain** / I toiled for nothing,

**and spent My strength** / now days, we might say... **I gave it all until I dropped**

**for nothing, and in vain** / the 2 Hebrew words are: *tohuw* and *hebel*. And here in this verse we understand: this Servant of the LORD... obviously, approaching His assignment as a hilarious giver – God loves the hilarious giver. He says, having expended His energy and given His all... until He dropped. He thought the results would have produced... something – at least some simple thanks; and not just... useless, worthless, senseless...empty... nothing.

You know, occasionally the servant of the Lord has a valid complaint. Read about it in Isaiah 6. Here am I, send me! And you get sent to hard heads, and hard-of-hearing heads... folks who will not see and will not be converted... who will not change... no matter what you do.

This blessed Servant says... **I thought I had labored in vain**; I thought I had spent My strength for nothing. And Jesus, knowing us better than anyone... said: When I return, will I find faith? And somehow, those words don't sound too hopeful, do they? Oh, He will find everything else; but will He find faith?

Notice: His focus is really fixed on the LORD...

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surely... the LORD will judge Me; and My God will reward Me.

<sup>5</sup> And now, says the LORD who purposed Me from the womb / from eternity past,

to be His servant, to bring Jacob again to Him / to fetch rebellious Jacob again to Him.

Just an interesting aside: the name for the American flag is: Old Glory. Why is the name for the flag of the United Kingdom... the Union Jack? Who is Jack?

But back to Isaiah... and this Servant who is purposed from eternity past... He says,

to be His servant,

to bring Jacob again to Him; though **Israel** / that is the House of Israel...

be **not** gathered / though the House of Israel still be scattered... this great Shepherd, this Servant has done His best to gather God's people,

and now, says the LORD...

yet I will be glorious in the eyes of the LORD,

and my God will be My strength / you know, some people will read through this phrase so fast... and not pay attention to what is said. *The LORD is calling the LORD, My God.* And someone said, *I will be glorified in the eyes of the LORD, and my God will be My strength.* And who said that? I don't know. I've tried to figure it out 100 times. It was either the Servant or the LORD. Honestly, I don't know. But you definitely get the impression they like each other... and neither of them are confused.

Verse <sup>6</sup> And He / the Lord GOD,

He said, It is a light thing / it is not complicated: it's a light thing; it is not insignificant: it's a light thing

that You / the Servant He is addressing,

should be My Servant to raise up **the tribes of Jacob** / rebellious Jacob: it's a light thing. It shouldn't be difficult. It's doable,

and to restore **the remnant of Israel** / scattered; it's a light thing. Now, we might talk to Moses. Moses used to argue with God and say, They are YOUR people. Occasionally, God would say, No, they're YOURS! But here, you get the impression: God swears it is a light assignment.

And speaking of light... He says

I will also give You...

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**for a light to the Gentiles** / the same word translated: **for a light to the nations,**

that You may be My **salvation** / literally: **My Yeshua**; meaning: **My Jesus**

to the end of the **earth**.

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD... to the **Redeemer** / the One who redeems; the One who repurchases; the One with the ransom payment in hand... the One who could only pay the price for those ruled by God... or supposed to be ruled by Him,

thus says the LORD to the **Redeemer**...

to His **Holy One**, to Him whom man despises, to Him whom the nation abhors, yet to a **Servant of rulers**,

the LORD says...

**kings will see and arise** / more clearly,

when kings see the LORD's **Servant**,

**they will arise** and stand at attention,

also **princes will worship**,

because of the LORD who is **faithful**,

and the **Holy One of Israel** – / He wears many hats...

He chooses **You** / the great **Servant**; the Redeemer of Israel; the great Shepherd of our souls.

<sup>8</sup> Thus says the LORD, **In an acceptable time I heard You** / in a favorable time,

and in a **Day of salvation** / in the **Day of Yeshua**; and for a second time... literally

and in the **Day of Jesus**...

I helped **You**: and I preserve **You**,

and give **You** for a **covenant of the people** / He is given for the covenant; this **Servant Israel** – the **definitive One ruled by God**; this **Servant** is the pledge of God's blessings to all His people,

to **establish the earth** / to establish the earth in righteousness, not lawlessness,

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to cause to inherit the *previously* wasted inheritances;

<sup>9</sup> **That You** / this Servant of God,

may *invite* the prisoners, **Go forth** / in other words: **be set free**;

and to those in darkness,

**Show yourselves** / not only see; but be seen. **Enter the light**.

And now, Moffatt adds this little phrase

*...on the road home*

**They will feed in the ways** / in the way they are going,

and their pastures will *even* be in all the high places / in other words: there will be provision, where you least expect it...

*...on the road home* / and with this great Shepherd leading:

<sup>10</sup> **They will not hunger nor thirst;**

**nor will the heat or sun smite them:**

**for He who has mercy on them will lead them** / that is our great Shepherd,

**even by the springs of water will guide them** *...on the road home*.

Verse <sup>11</sup> **And I will make all My mountains a way** / now, what does that mean? What are the Lord's mountains? Well, here are eight of them to consider:

1. **Mount Ararat** - Noah's mountain of God's faithfulness among the great devastation.
2. **Mount Moriah** - Abraham's mountain of faith and faithfulness.
3. **Mount Sinai** - where the uncompromising law of 10 was engraved.
4. **Matthew's Sermon on the Mount** - where the Word was made flesh.
5. **The Mount of Transfiguration** - where the glorious Son appeared briefly in His true nature; clothed in light.
6. **Mount Calvary** - where Christ, the Redeemer paid the ransom price we could not pay.
7. **The Mount of Olives** - looking forward to that blessed hope of Jesus return.
8. **And Mount Zion** - the City of God... where we hope to have our names found written.

The LORD says...

**And I will make all My mountains a way,**

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**and My highways will be exalted** / they will be lifted up. They would sing: *Moses came to know His ways; His very high ways. The ways of the LORD... will not be hid; they will be high and lifted up – Psalm 103.*

**Verse 12 Behold** / pay attention,

**these** / these people in the Islands... including where they dispersed and spread to from those islands; these people listening and responding... to this message;

**these will come from far:**

**and, lo** / **mark this**; highlight and circle this part,

**these from the north and from the west** / so, did you mark it? Did you circle it? You know, where this prophecy was given, the prophet Isaiah looked to the north and to the west. And just take a map, and you come to the great Commonwealth; Israel in the Islands.

And the last phrase says...

**and these from the land of Sinim.**

Whereas no one really knows where Sinim is; still, we understand from these words that people will come... from many other places – like from every nation tribe and language group;

And if you pause and think about it, there are many good reasons why some religious leaders do not want their people to pay attention to the bible -- without their help, simply because it bypasses them... and moves people beyond their ability to control.

You know, a first grader can understand what Isaiah wrote: there is no confusion about those who will come **from the north and from the west... in the Isles at the end of the earth.**

To God Be The Glory! Be faithful!

