

In Search of The Servant of God

(Part 2- Isaiah 49:1-13)

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Introduction: Isaiah is painting an incredible picture of a servant that was to come.

- A. Israel needed to be comforted after Isaiah revealed the great judgment of God that was to come.
 - 1. Babylon would destroy Jerusalem and take them into captivity. **(Isa 39:5-7)**
 - 2. Israel's restoration was also spoken of through Cyrus. **(Isa 44:28)**
 - 3. These events while unparalleled in human history would pale in comparison to the coming servant.
- B. We need to see the incredible power of the word of God and how He works His ways. **(Isa 44:6-8)**
 - 1. I challenge the unbeliever and the believer alike to look into this powerful message.
 - 2. To the human eye that child born in a manger seemed less than insignificant. You need to look again at what the servant of God can do.

I. The fullness of time

- A. This servant was for a time in the shadow of God's hand. **(Isa 49:1-2)**
 - 1. He was like a concealed weapon, hidden from the enemy 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)**
 - a. Mystery- "the content of that which has not been known before but which has been revealed to an in-group or restricted constituency"
 - b. This mystery has now been revealed!
- B. Consider the power of revealing Jesus at this time. **(Gal 4:4-5)**
 - 1. The hypocrisy and ultimate destruction of Israel was obvious.
 - 2. From the earlier captivity Jews were scattered all over the world and would be a base for the spread of the gospel. **(Rom 1:16-17)**
 - 3. The Roman government would provide a common government and language as well as a great transportation system. Paul used this to a great advantage.
 - 4. How did the world respond to this servant?

II. The apparent failure

- A. The ministry of Christ appeared a failure. **(Isa 49:3-4)**
 - 1. John summarized His reception among the people of God. **(John 1:10)**
 - 2. Jesus could look out from the cross and see what appeared to be a failure. **(Psa 22:1-2, 6-8)**
 - 3. At any time men would have said that what they saw with their eyes would amount to nothing. Jesus' own family struggled with this. **(Jn 7:3-5)**

We can prove our faith by our commitment to it and in no other way. Any belief that does not command the one who holds it is not a real belief--it is only a pseudo-belief. It might shock some of us profoundly if we were suddenly brought face-to-face with our beliefs and forced to test them in the fires of practical living. -- A.W. Tozer

- B. Jesus knew success would only come one way, in the glorification of God.
1. Jesus is called Israel in verse 2 because he was closely identified with that nation and would deliver that nation. **(Isa 49:2, 5)**
 2. Jesus wanted only one thing, to glorify God. **(John 7:18; 8:50-51)**
 3. How was Jesus able to face the cross? He wanted only one thing! **(John 12:27-33)**
 4. What could God do with us if we would have that mind?

III. The rejected and despised castaways

- A. Jesus was to bring back and reunite Israel. **(Isa 49:5)**
1. How could that be? Consider the Assyrian disaster, the Babylonian captivity and the soon to be destruction of Jerusalem?
 2. Jesus accomplished this in the establishment of the church. **(Acts 15:13-17)**
 - a. James is quoting this verse as fulfilled. **(Amos 9:11-12, 14)**
 - b. This is the ultimate Israel, the spiritual kingdom of God.
- B. Jesus would unite Jew and Gentile! **(Isa 49:6)**
1. The first seemed utterly impossible. This verse tells us that is nothing compared to what God will do through His servant!
 2. Consider the struggle of having Jew and Gentile together. **(Eph 2:11-16)**
 3. The greatest display of the power of God is in the changing of men's hearts.
- C. Jesus was a hated reject of the world. **(Isa 49:7)**
1. This is no surprise to those who read the Bible. **(1 Pt 2:7-8)**
 2. Jesus did not come in a way to impress men with their artificial standards.
 3. Men were often offended in the presence of this servant.
 4. Even his enemies recognized that Jesus played no favorites. **(Mk 12:14)**
- D. His followers would also be hated rejects of the world. **(Isa 49:8-9)**
1. They would be in prison to sin and in darkness without hope.
 2. When they followed this servant they would be opposed and attacked. **(Jn 15:18-21)**
 3. Please do not try to impress the world. You will put out your light in the process and join with our enemies in destroying the work of God.

IV. The impossible highway

- A. People will come to God from places that were considered unreachable. **(Isa 49:11-13)**
1. Access to God for a sinful man seems impossible!
 2. Jesus built that bridge through His sacrificial death.
- B. The gospel makes it possible for people at anyplace and at any time to serve Him. **(Mt 28:18-20)**
1. Have you seen this servant?
 2. What would a servant of this servant be like?

Conclusion: Is the glory of God our goal?