

A Trek Through Isaiah 65: 49:14-26

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For this week:

- Nation and Servant contrasted (Part 1) 49:1-14-26

Context

The Greater Deliverance: the Work of the Servant (49:1 - 55:13)
The Servant's mission 49:1-13
Nation and Servant contrasted 49:14 - 50:11
To the faithful remnant 51:1 – 52:12
The Servant's triumph 52:13 - 55:13

- In the book of the Servant (38 - 55): How will God's people be redeemed from captivity?
- This section (49 - 55) describes the greater deliverance (redemption from sin) accomplished through the Servant.
 - The Servant's mission: to redeem Israel and to redeem the world. 49:1-13
 - Nation and Servant Contrasted 49:14 – 50:9
 - To the faithful remnant 51:1 – 52:12
 - The Servant's triumph 52:13 - 55:13
 - The Servant bears the sins of all mankind. 52:13 - 53:12
 - The call to enter gladly and freely into the Servant's salvation. 54 - 55
 - To Zion. 54
 - To the world. 55

Nation and Servant Contrasted 49:14 – 50:11

- Here is the contrast between the nation and the Servant. Ruined Zion is an apt picture of the nation. They prefer misery to the LORD's promises; they are given multiple inducements to faith but will not trust. The Servant is warned of suffering to come, and responds with commitment. Even so, the LORD does not give up on His people but rather calls them to faith.

Contrast 49:14 - 50:9

- The nation's **complaint** 49:14

14 But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me."

- Israel does not believe in the deliverance just promised. Instead she complains.
- Forsaken. Vines: to leave; to leave behind, leave over, let go, give up, abandon
- Forgotten. Accidentally or deliberately not remembered.

- God's promises 49:15-26

- V15-17 The promise that God's people are not **forgotten**.

15 "Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. 16 Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me. 17 Your builders make haste; your destroyers and those who laid you waste go out from you.

- Can a woman forget. Picture of one of the closest human relationships.
- nursing child. Dependence.
- Son of her womb. Shared life.
- Even these may forget. Closest human relationships may fail.
- yet I will not forget you.

- Yet I. Emphatic. One of the strongest statements of God's love in the OT.

- Calvin says, "In a word, the Prophet here describes to us the inconceivable carefulness with which God unceasingly watches over our salvation, that we may be fully convinced that he will never forsake us, though we may be afflicted with great and numerous calamities."

- Behold. See with a gesture.

- I have engraved you on the palms of my hands

- Engraving done when He was nailed to the cross.

- As shown to doubting Thomas in Jn 20:24-28 Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

26 Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

- your walls are continually before me.

- He remembers their walls (either the present ruined walls or the glorious walls to come)

- Your builders make haste.
 - Verb tense: has begun and is continuing.
 - Zion's time of trial is over.
 - As Is 40:1-2 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.
- Builders...destroyers. Chiasitic structure.
- Laid you waste. Two verbs in the Hebrew. The LORD understands what they have gone through.

○ V18-20 The promise of **increase** and **security**

18 Lift up your eyes around and see; they all gather, they come to you. As I live, declares the LORD, you shall put them all on as an ornament; you shall bind them on as a bride does. 19 "Surely your waste and your desolate places and your devastated land— surely now you will be too narrow for your inhabitants, and those who swallowed you up will be far away. 20 The children of your bereavement will yet say in your ears: 'The place is too narrow for me; make room for me to dwell in.'

- Lift up your eyes around and see;
 - Calling her out of dejection and despair.
- they all gather, they come to you.
 - Zion's children
- you shall put them all on as an ornament; you shall bind them on as a bride does.
 - As a bride dresses and adorns herself on her wedding day.
- surely now you will be too narrow for your inhabitants,
 - Her children will fill the land to overflowing.
- and those who swallowed you up will be far away.
 - Complete security.
- The children of your bereavement will yet say in your ears.
 - Zion regarded herself as a mother whose children had been taken forcibly from her.
 - They will return, close enough to speak in her ear.

○ V21-23 The promise of world **dominion**

21 Then you will say in your heart: 'Who has borne me these? I was bereaved and barren, exiled and put away, but who has brought up these? Behold, I was left alone; from where have these come?' " 22 Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I will lift up my hand to the nations, and raise my signal to the peoples; and they shall bring your sons in their arms, and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders. 23 Kings shall be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers. With their faces to the ground they shall bow down to you, and lick the dust of your feet. Then you will know that I am the LORD; those who wait for me shall not be put to shame."

■ Who has borne me these?

- The city speaking.

■ Five descriptions of her plight

- Bereaved. No husband.
- Barren. Unable to have children.
- Exiled. Captive and evicted.
- Put away. Divorced.
- Left alone.

■ Thus says the Lord God, "Behold"

- The LORD answers the city: Look

■ I will lift up my hand to the nations, and raise my signal to the peoples

- The sovereign Lord needs only to make a gesture.
- To all nations and peoples.

■ Three results

- they shall bring your sons in their arms, and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders.

- Picture of small children being carried over obstacles.
- In view are both Jewish and Gentile believers.

- Kings shall be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers.

- Tender love given by rulers to Zion's children.

- With their faces to the ground they shall bow down to you, and lick the dust of your feet.

- Complete subservience to the nation Israel.

■ Then you will know that I am the Lord;

- Zion will recognize her God.

■ those who wait for me shall not be put to shame.

- Fulfilled in the Millennium
- Call to true faith.

○ V24-26 The promise of **deliverance**

24 Can the prey be taken from the mighty, or the captives of a tyrant be rescued? 25 For thus says the LORD: “Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken, and the prey of the tyrant be rescued, for I will contend with those who contend with you, and I will save your children. 26 I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh, and they shall be drunk with their own blood as with wine. Then all flesh shall know that I am the LORD your Savior, and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.” and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.”

- Can the prey be taken from the mighty, or the captives of a tyrant be rescued?
 - Tyrant. Better “righteous”.
 - Two questions about deliverance.
 - Is the LORD strong enough.
 - Is He in the right?
- Contend.
 - Argue a case at law.
 - The LORD will be shown as righteous even toward His foes.
- I will save your children. Salvation purely by grace.
- I will make your oppressors. Victory by superior power
- Then all flesh will know. Worldwide revelation
- that the LORD is Israel’s Savior, Redeemer, Mighty One of Israel
 - Israel’s Savior, Redeemer,
 - Mighty One of Israel. God’s power in view.

Discussion

We will break into three groups for discussion. The questions are

- 1. Not forgotten 49:15-17**
 - a. Engraved on the palms of My hands**
 - b. Your walls are ever before Me**
- 2. Increase 49:18-21**
 - a. Bereaved, barren, exiled, put away, left alone**
 - b. Lift up your eyes around and see**
 - c. You shall bind them on as a bride does.**
- 3. Deliverance 49:24-26**
 - a. Can the prey be taken from the mighty?**
 - b. Can the righteous captives be rescued?**

Remember to worship the Lord: (1) See (2) Know (3) Respond

For next week: Nation and Servant Contrasted (Part 2) 50:1-9

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