

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST OR THE LIGHT OF OUR OWN FIRE (ISAIAH 49-50)

Before I begin reading **Isaiah 49**, I'll reiterate what is, at this point, common knowledge to most of today's Christians. The Apostle Paul explained in **Romans 9** that not all of Israel are from the seed of Abraham/Isaac/Jacob. It is, those of the promise by faith in **Christ**, they are the true sons and daughters of God. Now God had said to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion." So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy." (**Romans 9:15-16**) Therefore, it behooves us to take heed to the Apostle James saying, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." (**James 4:10**) And as the Apostle Peter tells us, "Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." (**1 Peter 5:5-7**) Then also, The Apostle John reminds us, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us." (**1 John 1:8-10**)

=====
[**Isaiah 49:1-3 (A Call to all the Nations)**] "Listen, O coastlands, to Me, and take heed, you peoples from afar! The LORD [YHWH] 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; in the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me, and made Me a polished shaft in His quiver He has hidden Me."
=====

First of all, this is speaking of Christ Jesus and this is a prophesy to ALL of the nations, way before Christ Jesus was to come in the flesh, which would be around 700 years later. But through Isaiah, we ARE given the context to how the Redeemer would be manifested. Similarly, back in **Isaiah 9:6**, we are promised "For **unto us** a Child is born, **unto us** a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Joseph and Mary were both told that they should call Him Jesus/Iesus/Yeshua. Yet He would also be called many names that reveals/speaks to us as to Who HE IS, and what He would be and is to His people. Hidden no longer, the plan of God's redemption has been revealed to us, through Christ Jesus, our One and only Savior and Lord. We are told, "Therefore the Lord [Adonai=Lord/Master=Kurios/Kyrios in the Greek] Himself will give you a sign: behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel." (**Isaiah 7:14**) Immanuel, which means, God with us. (**Matthew 1:23**)

=====
[Isaiah 49:4 (The Servant)]“And He said to me, ‘You are My servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.’ Then I [THE SERVANT] said, ‘I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing & in vain; yet surely my just reward is with the Lord, & my work with my God.’ ”
=====

Christ Jesus is referred to as God’s Servant in numerous chapters in Isaiah. Yet Israel is here also called God’s servant. Likewise so are we. “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: “Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth”; Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might **live for righteousness**—by whose stripes you were healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.” (1 Peter 2:21-25) Just before that Peter explained, there are those who are disobedient, “But **you** are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.” (1 Peter 2:9-10) Now as servants of the Lord, we can be reminded and be encouraged, as we are promised, that our labor in Christ is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58) and His Word will not return void (Isaiah 55:11), as we are “being filled with the **fruits of righteousness** [bearing the fruit of the Spirit] which *are* by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.” (Philippians 1:11)

In a quote from gotquestions.org, “There are four “Servant Songs” of **Isaiah [42/49/50/52-53]** that describe the service, suffering, and exaltation of the Servant of the Lord, the Messiah [The Christ, the Anointed One of God]. All four songs show the Messiah to be God’s meek and gentle Servant.”¹ That should sound familiar to us. Jesus said, “**Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.** [As He is the Prince of Peace, shalom/eirene, where we can have a wholeness and completeness in Christ within ourselves, with others and with God. He continues by saying:] **Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.**” (Matthew 11:28-30) In the next chapter we will see how THE SERVANT, Christ Jesus, has to suffer greatly and be rejected by His own people. “BUT as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:12-13) To be “**born again**” as Jesus put it. **Isaiah 53** really describes His sufferings more fully and then also

1 <https://www.gotquestions.org/Servant-Songs.html>

says, "Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for **our transgressions**, He was bruised for **our iniquities**; the chastisement for **our peace** was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, **every one, to his own way**; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." (**Isaiah 53:4-6**) Christ Jesus is THE ARCHE, the Beginning, the Archetype/Prototype, of which we were created in His own image! Jesus said Himself, "**Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. I AM the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,**" says the Lord, "**who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.**" (**Revelation 1:7-8**)

=====
[Isaiah 49:5-6 (A Light to the Nations)] "And now the Lord 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 the Lord, and My God shall be My strength), indeed He says, '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; I will also give You as a **light to the Gentiles**, that You should be **My salvation to the ends of the earth.**' "

=====
Jesus said "**I AM the Light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.**" (**John 8:12**) As Jesus said in **John 3:21**, "**he who does the truth comes to the Light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.**" Then as we follow Him, He is our Light of life! **Psalms 119:104-106** says "Through Your precepts [His Word] I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. I have sworn and confirmed that I will keep Your righteous judgments." To hate every false way is to be following Jesus, our Light of life, as He said in (**John 14:6**), "**I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**" Jesus, also said, "**As long as I AM in the world, I AM the Light of the world.**" (**John 9:5**) Yet, Matthew, in recording Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount", quoted Jesus as saying, "**You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**" (**Matthew 5:13-16**) Your good works = what He is leading us in and working through us. (**Ephesians 2:10**)

=====
[Isaiah 49:7-12] Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, their Holy One, to Him whom man despises, to Him whom the nation abhors, to the Servant of rulers: "Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall

worship, because of the Lord who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel; and He has chosen You." Thus says the Lord: "In an acceptable time I have heard You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You [NOW IS OUR TIME AND DAY OF SALVATION IN CHRIST JESUS!]; I will preserve You and give You as a covenant to the people [The New Covenant in Christ], 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.' [In the Light!] "They shall feed along the roads, and their pastures shall be on all desolate heights. They shall neither hunger nor thirst, neither heat nor sun shall 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 a road, and My highways shall be elevated. Surely these shall come from afar; Look! Those from the north and the west, and these from the land of Sinim." [either far east or Sinai area]

=====
"Look to Me, and be saved, [says the LORD] all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. I have sworn by Myself; the word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that to Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath ["confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:11)]. He shall say, 'Surely in the Lord I have righteousness and strength. To Him men shall come, and all shall be ashamed who are incensed against Him. (Isaiah 45:22-24)

=====
[Isaiah 49:13-26 (Rejoice in our Restoration)] Sing, O heavens! Be joyful, O earth! And break out in singing, O mountains! For the Lord has comforted His people, and will have mercy on His afflicted. ["Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand." (Philippians 4:4-5)] But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me, and my Lord has forgotten me." Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, **I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands;** Your walls [broken] are continually before Me. Your sons shall make haste; your destroyers and those who laid you waste shall go away from you. Lift up your eyes, look around and see; all these gather together and come to you. As I live," says the Lord, "You shall surely clothe yourselves with them all as an ornament, and bind them on you as a bride does. (Rom. 8:28) For your waste and desolate places, and the land of your destruction, will even now be too small for the inhabitants; and those who swallowed you up will be far away. The children you will have, after you have lost the others, will say again in your ears, 'The place is too small for me; give me a place where I may dwell. 'Then you will say in your heart, 'Who has begotten these for me, since I have lost my children and am desolate, a captive, and wandering to and fro? And who has brought these up? There I was, left alone; but these, where were they?' " Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, **I will lift My hand in an oath to the nations, and**

set up My standard for the peoples; they shall bring your sons in their arms, and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders; kings shall be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers; they shall bow down to you with their faces to the earth, and lick up the dust of your feet. Then you will know that I am the Lord, for they shall not be ashamed who wait for Me." Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the captives of the righteous be delivered? But thus says the Lord: "Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible be delivered; for I will contend with him who contends with you, and I will save your children. I will feed those who oppress you with their own flesh, and they shall be drunk with their own blood as with sweet wine. All flesh shall know that **I, the Lord, am your Savior, and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.**"

Two things I'll interject into that. "Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord." (**Romans 12:19**) Then, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." (**Proverbs 3:5-6**)

[Isaiah 50:1-3 (The Servant, Israel's Hope)] Thus says the Lord: "Where is the certificate of your mother's divorce, whom I have put away? Or which of My creditors is it to whom I have sold you? For your iniquities you have sold yourselves, and for your transgressions your mother has been put away. Why, when I came, was there no man? Why, when I called, was there none to answer? Is My hand shortened at all that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver? Indeed with My rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness; their fish stink because there is no water, and die of thirst. I clothe the heavens with blackness, and I make sackcloth their covering."

Similarly, as God spoke through the prophet Jeremiah, He said, "They say, 'If a man divorces his wife, and she goes from him and becomes another man's, may he return to her again?' Would not that land be greatly polluted? But you have played the harlot with many lovers; yet return to Me," says the Lord. (**Jeremiah 3:1**) "But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth." (**Psalms 86:15**) Then, the Apostle Paul pleads with his listeners/readers, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." (**Romans 12:1-2**) Why? Because you are His!

[Isaiah 50:4-11 (The Light of Christ or the Light of Our Own Fire)]

"The Lord God has given Me [The Servant] the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to hear as the learned. The Lord God has opened My ear; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away. I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting. "For the Lord God will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; therefore I have set My face like a flint, and I know that **I will not be ashamed**. He is near who justifies Me; who will contend with Me? Let us stand together. Who is My adversary? Let him come near Me. Surely the Lord God will help Me; Who is he who will condemn Me? Indeed they will all grow old like a garment; the moth will eat them up. "Who among you fears the Lord? Who obeys the voice of His Servant? Who walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord and rely upon his God. Look, all you who kindle a fire, who encircle yourselves with sparks: Walk in the light of **your fire** and in the sparks you have kindled— This you shall have from My hand: You shall lie down in torment.

=====

So we have that choice today, regardless of our sins of the past, to choose between the Light of life in Christ Jesus or in our own light the kindles a fire of which brings forth destruction. As God spoke to His people according to the Old Covenant, according to the law, He said, " I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life [the Light of life!], that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them." (**Deuteronomy 30:19-20**)

"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (**Romans 8:31-39**) HE IS our Light of life!