CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Isaiah Chapter 49 — The Servant of the Lord: Salvation to the Ends of the Earth

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Isaiah Chapter 49 is one of the great Servant passages of Isaiah.

The chapter opens with a voice speaking far beyond:

Jerusalem.

Judah.

Israel.

The Servant calls:

Coastlands.

Distant peoples.

Nations.

To listen.

His mission is:

Global.

He says:

> **“The Lord called Me from the womb.”**

His mission was not:

Accidental.

Improvised.

Late.

It belonged to:

God’s purpose.

The Servant's mouth is compared to:

A sharp sword.

He is compared to:

A polished arrow.

His mission operates through:

God's Word.

God's purpose.

God's strength.

God's timing.

Verse 3 creates an important interpretive question:

> **"You are My servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."**

Yet in verses 5–6 the Servant is commissioned to:

Bring Jacob back.

Restore Israel.

Therefore the Servant cannot simply be identical with unfaithful national Israel in every respect.

The best way to understand the passage is that the Servant represents and fulfills:

Israel's true calling.

He is the faithful representative of Israel who accomplishes what Israel as a nation failed to accomplish.

This points ultimately to:

Jesus Christ.

The New Testament repeatedly connects this Servant mission with:

Christ.

His salvation.

His light to the Gentiles.

His worldwide gospel.

The Servant's mission begins with:

Israel.

But does not end with:

Israel.

God says:

“It is too small a thing.”

Restoring Jacob alone is:

Too small.

The Servant will become:

A light to the nations.

So that:

“My salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

That is one of the greatest missionary declarations in the Old Testament.

The Servant who is:

Despised.

Rejected.

Humbled.

Will ultimately be:

Honored.

Kings will rise.

Princes will bow.

The Lord’s faithfulness will vindicate:

His chosen Servant.

Then Isaiah moves from the Servant’s mission to:

The day of salvation.

Prisoners are told:

Come out.

Those in darkness are told:

Show yourselves.

The redeemed are:

Fed.

Guided.

Protected.

Led beside:

Springs of water.

Mountains become:

Roads.

Highways rise.

People return from:

Every direction.

Heaven.

Earth.

Mountains.

Are commanded to:

Sing.

Why?

Because:

> **“The Lord comforts His people and will have compassion on His afflicted ones.”**

Yet Zion responds:

> **“The Lord has forsaken me.”**

That is one of the great emotional tensions of the chapter.

God promises:

Restoration.

Zion feels:

Forgotten.

God answers with one of Scripture’s tenderest pictures:

> **“Can a mother forget her nursing child?”**

Even if such a thing happened:

> **“I will not forget you.”**

Then:

> **“I have engraved you on the palms of My hands.”**

This is covenant remembrance expressed in vivid language.

Zion’s broken walls are:

Always before God.

The devastated city will become:

Crowded.

The barren place will overflow.

Children return.

Nations assist.

Kings serve.

Those who wait on God will:

Not be ashamed.

Finally the chapter asks:

Can captives be rescued from:

Powerful warriors?

God answers:

Yes.

He Himself will:

Contend.

Deliver.

Save.

The chapter ends with universal recognition:

> **“Then all mankind will know that I, the Lord, am your Savior, your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.”**

The central truth of Isaiah 49 is:

The Servant of the Lord, fulfilled ultimately in Jesus Christ, is called and prepared by God to restore Israel and carry salvation to the ends of the earth; through Him prisoners are released, darkness is overcome, the scattered are gathered, Zion is assured that God has not forgotten her, and the Lord demonstrates His power as Savior, Redeemer, and Mighty One by rescuing His people from every oppressor.

I. THE SERVANT CALLS THE NATIONS TO LISTEN

Isaiah 49:1 — Called from the Womb

> **“Listen to Me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from afar. The Lord called Me from the womb; from the body of My mother He named My name.”**

The audience is:

Global.

Coastlands.

Distant peoples.

The Servant’s calling begins:

Before birth.

Cross References

Jeremiah 1:5

God told Jeremiah that before he was formed in the womb, God knew him and appointed him for prophetic service.

Luke 1:31

Mary was told before Jesus’ birth what His name would be, showing that His identity and mission were established by God beforehand.

Galatians 1:15

Paul describes himself as set apart by God from his mother’s womb and called by grace for divine service.

Spiritual Principle

God’s purposes often begin before:

Human awareness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The mission may appear in history at one moment, but it can belong to God’s purpose long before that moment arrives.

II. THE SERVANT'S MOUTH IS A SHARP SWORD

Isaiah 49:2 — Hidden and Prepared

> **"He made My mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of His hand He hid Me. He made Me a polished arrow; in His quiver He concealed Me."**

Two images:

Sword.

Arrow.

Both describe:

Precision.

Effectiveness.

Penetrating power.

The Servant's primary weapon is:

His mouth.

His Word.

Cross References

Revelation 1:16

Christ is pictured with a sharp sword proceeding from His mouth, symbolizing the authority and power of His Word.

Hebrews 4:12

God's Word is living, active, sharper than a two-edged sword, penetrating deeply into the human heart.

Ephesians 6:17

The Word of God is called the sword of the Spirit.

Spiritual Principle

The Servant advances God's mission through:

Truth.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's Servant does not need a carnal sword when divine truth comes from His mouth.

III. THE POLISHED ARROW

An arrow must be:

Prepared.

Straightened.

Sharpened.

Held.

Released.

Spiritual Principle

Hidden preparation is still:

Preparation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God may conceal a servant before He publicly releases the servant into the assignment.

IV. “YOU ARE MY SERVANT, ISRAEL”

Isaiah 49:3 — The Servant Who Embodies Israel’s Calling

> **“He said to Me, ‘You are My servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.’”**

This verse requires careful reading.

The Servant is called:

Israel.

Yet later the Servant restores:

Israel.

Therefore He represents:

Israel.

Embodies:

Israel’s true mission.

Fulfills:

What Israel failed to fulfill.

Cross References

Isaiah 44:21

National Israel had already been identified as God's servant.

John 17:4

Jesus says He glorified the Father on earth by completing the work given to Him.

Isaiah 42:1

The earlier Servant passage describes the chosen Spirit-anointed Servant in whom God delights.

Spiritual Principle

The faithful Servant succeeds where:

The unfaithful servant nation failed.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus does not merely come from Israel; He fulfills Israel's God-given mission in perfect faithfulness.

V. THE SERVANT FEELS THE WEIGHT OF APPARENT FUTILITY

Isaiah 49:4 — "I Have Labored in Vain"

> **"But I said, 'I have labored in vain; I have spent My strength for nothing and in futility; yet surely My justice is with the Lord, and My reward is with My God.'"**

The Servant speaks from the experience of:

Apparent rejection.

Apparent failure.

Apparent fruitlessness.

Yet He does not conclude:

God failed.

He says:

My cause is with:

The Lord.

My reward is with:

God.

Cross References

Philippians 2:16

Paul speaks of wanting his labor not to have been in vain as he holds out the word of life.

Isaiah 40:27

Israel had complained that its way was hidden from the Lord and its cause disregarded, but God knew and saw.

Galatians 4:11

Paul expresses concern that his labor among the Galatians might prove fruitless because of their spiritual regression.

Spiritual Principle

Visible results are not the final measure of:

Faithfulness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

What looks wasted from earth may still be rewarded in heaven.

VI. THE SERVANT TRUSTS GOD WITH THE OUTCOME

The Servant does not deny:

Discouragement.

But He refuses to let discouragement define:

The final verdict.

Spiritual Principle

Faithfulness can continue even when results appear:

Small.

VII. FORMED TO BRING JACOB BACK

Isaiah 49:5 — The Servant Restores Israel

> **“And now the Lord says—He who formed Me from the womb to be His servant, to bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel might be gathered—For I am honored in the eyes of the Lord, and My God has been My strength.”**

This verse confirms the distinction:

The Servant is called Israel.

Yet the Servant brings:

Israel back.

His mission includes:

Restoration.

Gathering.

Cross References

John 6:38

Jesus says He came down from heaven not to do His own will but the will of the One who sent Him.

Isaiah 42:6

The Servant is called and upheld by God and made a covenant and light.

Philippians 2:7

Christ took the form of a servant and humbled Himself in His mission.

Spiritual Principle

The Servant restores people:

To God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The goal of redemption is not merely return to land.

It is return to:

The Lord.

VIII. “MY GOD HAS BEEN MY STRENGTH”

The Servant’s mission is not grounded in:

Self-sufficiency.

Spiritual Principle

Even the Servant’s work unfolds in dependence upon:

God’s strength.

IX. “IT IS TOO SMALL A THING”

Isaiah 49:6 — Salvation to the Ends of the Earth

> **“He said, ‘It is too small a thing for You to be My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and restore the preserved of Israel; I will also make You a light for the nations, that My salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.’”**

This is one of Isaiah’s greatest missionary texts.

Restoring Israel is:

Not unimportant.

But the mission is:

Larger.

The nations must receive:

Light.

The ends of earth must receive:

Salvation.

Cross References

Luke 2:32

Simeon identifies Jesus as a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to Israel.

Acts 13:47

Paul and Barnabas apply Isaiah’s light-to-the-nations mission to gospel proclamation among the Gentiles.

Acts 26:23

Paul testifies that the Messiah would suffer, rise, and proclaim light to both Israel and the Gentiles.

Spiritual Principle

God’s redemptive purpose is:

Global.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The gospel was never meant to stop at one border.

X. SALVATION REACHES THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

This includes:

Every ethnicity.

Language.

Nation.

People.

Spiritual Principle

Christ’s mission is:

Universal in invitation.

XI. THE DESPISED SERVANT WILL BE HONORED

Isaiah 49:7 — Kings Will Rise

> **“This is what the Lord says—the Redeemer of Israel and His Holy One—to Him who was despised and abhorred by the nations, to the servant of rulers: ‘Kings shall see You and rise up, princes shall bow down, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen You.’”**

First:

Despised.

Later:

Honored.

This anticipates themes developed further in:

Isaiah 52–53.

Cross References

Isaiah 52:15

Kings will be astonished by the Servant when the significance of His work is revealed.

Isaiah 53:3

The Servant is described as despised and rejected by people.

Philippians 2:10

Every knee will bow at the name of Jesus.

Spiritual Principle

Human rejection does not cancel:

Divine choice.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The One people despise may still be the One before whom kings ultimately bow.

XII. THE LORD IS FAITHFUL TO HIS SERVANT

The Servant's vindication rests upon:

God's faithfulness.

Spiritual Principle

Human rejection cannot overturn:

Divine approval.

XIII. THE TIME OF FAVOR

Isaiah 49:8 — The Day of Salvation

> **"This is what the Lord says: 'In the time of favor I will answer You, in the day of salvation I will help You. I will keep You and make You a covenant for the people, to restore the land and to reassign its desolate inheritances,'"**

The Servant is:

Answered.

Helped.

Kept.

Given as:

A covenant.

Cross References

2 Corinthians 6:2

Paul quotes this verse and declares that now is the favorable time and now is the day of salvation.

Isaiah 42:6

The Servant is again described as being made a covenant for the people.

Luke 4:19

Jesus announces the favorable time of the Lord as part of His Spirit-anointed mission.

Spiritual Principle

Salvation comes according to:

God’s appointed time.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God’s saving hour is not controlled by human calendars but by divine purpose.

XIV. THE SERVANT AS COVENANT

The Servant is not merely:

A messenger about covenant.

He is given as:

A covenant.

Spiritual Principle

God’s saving promises are embodied in:

The Servant.

XV. “COME OUT”

Isaiah 49:9 — Prisoners Released

> **“To say to the prisoners, ‘Come out,’ and to those in darkness, ‘Show yourselves.’**
> **They will feed along the roads, and find pasture on every barren height.”**

Captivity gives way to:

Freedom.

Darkness gives way to:

Visibility.

Barren heights give way to:

Pasture.

Cross References

Isaiah 42:7

The Servant opens blind eyes and releases prisoners from darkness.

Luke 4:18

Jesus proclaims liberty to captives and freedom to the oppressed.

Zechariah 9:12

Prisoners of hope are called to return to the stronghold under God’s restoring promise.

Spiritual Principle

The Servant does not decorate:

Prisons.

He opens:

Them.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When God says “Come out,” captivity no longer has the final claim.

XVI. PASTURE ON BARREN HEIGHTS

Places that appear:

Unproductive.

Become:

Provision.

Spiritual Principle

God can feed His people in places that look:

Empty.

XVII. NO HUNGER OR THIRST

Isaiah 49:10 — Compassion Guides Them

> **“They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the scorching heat or sun strike them down; for He who has compassion on them will guide them and lead them beside springs of water.”**

Who guides?

> **“He who has compassion.”**

Guidance flows from:

Compassion.

Cross References

Revelation 7:16

God’s redeemed people are pictured as no longer suffering hunger, thirst, or scorching heat.

Psalm 121:6

God protects His people from destructive exposure by day and night.

John 4:14

Jesus promises water that becomes a spring of eternal life within the one who receives it.

Spiritual Principle

God’s guidance is:

Compassionate.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God who leads you knows your thirst before He chooses the road.

XVIII. SPRINGS OF WATER

God’s provision is not merely:

Enough to survive.

It becomes:

Refreshment.

Spiritual Principle

The Redeemer guides toward:

Life.

XIX. MOUNTAINS BECOME ROADS

Isaiah 49:11 — Raised Highways

> **“I will turn all My mountains into a road, and My highways will be raised up.”**

Obstacles become:

Paths.

Cross References

Isaiah 40:3

A highway is prepared for the Lord through the wilderness.

Isaiah 35:8

A highway of holiness is promised for God’s redeemed people.

Isaiah 62:10

God’s people are commanded to prepare and raise a highway for returning people.

Spiritual Principle

God can transform:

Barrier.

Into:

Route.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The mountain you thought blocked the journey may become part of the road God uses to bring you home.

XX. THE SCATTERED RETURN FROM AFAR

Isaiah 49:12 — North, West, and Sinim

> **“See, they will come from afar—some from the north and from the west, and some from the land of Sinim.”**

The emphasis is:

Distance.

Scattered people return from:

Many directions.

The precise identification of “Sinim” has been debated.

The text’s central point is clear:

God gathers from distant regions.

Cross References

Isaiah 43:5

God promises to bring His people from east and gather them from west.

Isaiah 43:6

North and south are commanded to release God’s sons and daughters.

Zechariah 8:7

God promises to rescue His people from east and west and restore them.

Spiritual Principle

No distance is:

Too far.

XXI. ALL CREATION REJOICES

Isaiah 49:13 — God Comforts His Afflicted Ones

> **“Shout for joy, O heavens; rejoice, O earth; burst into song, O mountains! For the Lord comforts His people and will have compassion on His afflicted ones.”**

Heavens.

Earth.

Mountains.

All:

Sing.

Why?

Comfort.

Compassion.

Cross References

Isaiah 44:23

Creation is called to sing because God has redeemed Jacob.

Psalm 96:11

Heaven and earth rejoice in God's righteous reign.

Isaiah 52:9

Jerusalem's ruins are called to sing because God has comforted and redeemed His people.

Spiritual Principle

God's compassion deserves:

Cosmic praise.

XXII. ZION FEELS FORGOTTEN

Isaiah 49:14 — "The Lord Has Forsaken Me"

> **"But Zion said, 'The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me.'"**

What a contrast.

Verse 13:

God comforts.

Verse 14:

Zion says:

I am forgotten.

This shows that:

Feelings can contradict:

Promises.

Cross References

Isaiah 40:27

Israel had previously complained that its way was hidden from God.

Psalm 77:9

The psalmist asks whether God has forgotten mercy during a season of deep anguish.

Lamentations 5:20

The suffering community asks why God seems to have forgotten and forsaken them so long.

Spiritual Principle

Feeling forgotten does not mean:

Being forgotten.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never let the silence of the moment become louder than the promise of God.

XXIII. CAN A MOTHER FORGET HER CHILD?

Isaiah 49:15 — "I Will Not Forget You"

> **"Can a mother forget her nursing child, and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even if she may forget, I will not forget you!"**

God chooses one of humanity's strongest natural bonds:

A nursing mother and child.

Then says:

My remembrance is stronger.

Cross References

Isaiah 44:21

God had already promised Israel:

> **"I will not forget you."**

Psalm 27:10

Even if father and mother forsake, the Lord receives and cares for His servant.

Hosea 11:8

God speaks with profound covenant compassion and reluctance to give His people up.

Spiritual Principle

God's covenant remembrance exceeds:

Human affection.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The strongest human love is still only an illustration of a faithfulness greater than itself.

XXIV. ENGRAVED ON GOD'S HANDS

Isaiah 49:16 — Zion Is Ever Before Him

> **"See, I have engraved you on the palms of My hands; your walls are ever before Me."**

Not written:

Lightly.

Engraved.

The picture is:

Permanent remembrance.

Cross References

Isaiah 43:1

God says He has called His people by name and claimed them as His own.

Psalm 102:14

God's servants cherish Zion's stones and grieve over its ruins.

John 10:28

Jesus says His sheep are secure in His care and will not be ultimately snatched away.

Spiritual Principle

Zion's ruins are not:

Out of sight.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The walls may be broken on earth while remaining fully present before God.

XXV. "YOUR WALLS ARE EVER BEFORE ME"

God sees:

What is broken.

Spiritual Principle

God never confuses:

Ruins.

With:

Abandonment.

XXVI. THE CHILDREN RETURN

Isaiah 49:17 — Destroyers Depart

> **“Your children will hasten back, while those who destroyed you will depart.”**

A reversal:

Children:

Return.

Destroyers:

Leave.

Cross References

Isaiah 60:14

Those associated with former oppression will eventually acknowledge God’s work in Zion.

Ezra 1:5

Families and leaders rose to return and rebuild Jerusalem after exile.

Nehemiah 2:17

Nehemiah calls the returned community to rebuild Jerusalem’s broken walls.

Spiritual Principle

God can reverse:

Departure.

Destruction.

Loss.

XXVII. ZION WEARS HER CHILDREN LIKE JEWELS

Isaiah 49:18 — Restoration as Bridal Ornament

> **“Lift up your eyes and look around: all your children gather and come to you. As surely as I live,’ declares the Lord, ‘you will wear them all as ornaments; you will put them on like a bride.’”**

Children become:

Adornment.

The city once humiliated becomes:

Beautiful.

Cross References

Isaiah 60:4

Zion is told to lift her eyes and see sons and daughters returning from afar.

Isaiah 61:10

Salvation and righteousness are pictured like beautiful garments and bridal adornment.

Revelation 21:2

The holy city is pictured like a bride beautifully prepared.

Spiritual Principle

God can transform:

Shame.

Into:

Beauty.

XXVIII. DESOLATION BECOMES OVERCROWDING

Isaiah 49:19 — Too Small for the Inhabitants

> **“Though you were ruined and made desolate and your land laid waste, now you will be too small for your inhabitants, and those who devoured you will be far away.”**

The contrast is remarkable.

Before:

Empty.

After:

Too full.

Cross References

Isaiah 54:1

The barren woman is called to sing because her children will become unexpectedly numerous.

Isaiah 54:3

God promises expansion to the right and left as descendants inherit nations.

Zechariah 2:4

Jerusalem is pictured expanding beyond walls because of its growing population.

Spiritual Principle

God’s restoration can exceed:

Replacement.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can fill the place that grief convinced you would always remain empty.

XXIX. “MAKE ROOM FOR US”

Isaiah 49:20 — Growth Beyond Expectation

> **“The children born during your bereavement will yet say in your hearing, ‘This place is too small for us; make room for us to live here.’”**

Bereavement produces:

Children.

Loss gives way to:

Growth.

Cross References

Isaiah 54:1

The barren one receives more children than expected under God’s restoration.

Galatians 4:27

Paul quotes Isaiah's barren-woman imagery in relation to God's expanding people.

Isaiah 54:2

The tent must be enlarged to make room for unexpected increase.

Spiritual Principle

God may require:

Expanded expectations.

XXX. "WHERE DID THESE COME FROM?"

Isaiah 49:21 — Zion Astonished by Grace

> **"Then you will say in your heart, 'Who has borne me these children? I was bereaved and barren, exiled and rejected. Who brought them up? I was left all alone, but these—where have they come from?'"**

Zion is:

Astonished.

Grace exceeds:

Expectation.

Cross References

Isaiah 54:1

The barren woman's unexpected fruitfulness becomes a picture of restoration.

Isaiah 66:8

Zion's sudden birth and multiplication are presented as astonishing acts of God.

Romans 11:11

Paul describes Israel's history as serving within God's wider saving purpose toward the Gentiles.

Spiritual Principle

Restoration may become so great that the healed person asks:

How did this happen?

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Grace sometimes answers emptiness with abundance so surprising that all you can do is wonder.

XXXI. GOD BECKONS TO THE NATIONS

Isaiah 49:22 — Sons and Daughters Carried Home

> **“This is what the Sovereign Lord says: ‘See, I will beckon to the nations, I will lift up My banner to the peoples; they will bring your sons in their arms and carry your daughters on their shoulders.’”**

The nations become:

Instruments of restoration.

Cross References

Isaiah 66:20

The nations are pictured bringing God’s scattered people back as an offering to the Lord.

Romans 15:12

Paul quotes Isaiah concerning the nations placing their hope in the messianic Root of Jesse.

Isaiah 60:9

Ships and nations assist in bringing Zion’s sons home.

Spiritual Principle

God can use former outsiders as:

Helpers in restoration.

XXXII. KINGS BECOME GUARDIANS

Isaiah 49:23 — Those Who Hope in God Will Not Be Ashamed

> **“Kings will be your guardians, and their queens your nursing mothers. They will bow down before you with their faces to the ground; they will lick the dust at your feet. Then you will know that I am the Lord; those who hope in Me will not be put to shame.”**

Human authority is:

Reversed.

Kings now:

Serve.

The central promise:

Hope in God will not end in:

Final shame.

Cross References

Isaiah 60:16

Zion receives support from nations and kings and learns that the Lord is Savior and Redeemer.

Psalm 72:11

Kings and nations are pictured bowing before the righteous king.

Revelation 21:24

The kings of the earth bring their glory into the redeemed city.

Spiritual Principle

Hope in God is:

Never wasted.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Waiting on God may feel humiliating for a season, but God says the final outcome of faith will not be shame.

XXXIII. CAN THE WARRIOR'S CAPTIVES BE RESCUED?

Isaiah 49:24 — The Humanly Impossible Question

> **"Can plunder be taken from warriors, or captives rescued from the fierce?"**

Human answer:

Probably not.

Divine answer:

Yes.

Cross References

Matthew 12:29

Jesus speaks of binding the strong man before plundering his house, illustrating superior authority over the enemy.

Luke 11:21

A strong man may guard possessions until someone stronger comes and overcomes him.

Colossians 2:15

Christ is pictured triumphing over hostile powers and exposing them openly.

Spiritual Principle

The strength of the captor does not determine:

The power of the Redeemer.

XXXIV. GOD ANSWERS: “YES”

Isaiah 49:25 — God Contends for His People

> **“But this is what the Lord says: ‘Yes, captives will be taken from warriors, and plunder retrieved from the fierce. I will contend with those who contend with you, and I will save your children.’”**

God personally says:

I will contend.

I will save.

Cross References

Genesis 12:3

God promised to bless those who blessed Abraham and oppose those who treated him with contempt.

Jeremiah 50:33

Israel and Judah are oppressed by captors, yet their Redeemer is strong enough to plead their cause.

Psalm 68:18

God is pictured ascending in victory and leading captives in triumph.

Spiritual Principle

God does not merely:

Watch conflict.

He contends for:

His people.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Your enemy may be stronger than you.

He is not stronger than your Redeemer.

XXXV. “I WILL SAVE YOUR CHILDREN”

This promise returns to the chapter’s:

Generational theme.

Spiritual Principle

God’s saving concern extends beyond:

One generation.

XXXVI. OPPRESSORS FACE JUDGMENT

Isaiah 49:26 — All Humanity Will Know the Savior

> **“I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh; they will be drunk on their own blood as with wine. Then all mankind will know that I, the Lord, am your Savior, your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.”**

The language is:

Severe.

Judgment imagery describes:

Self-destruction.

Violent collapse.

Divine retribution.

It should not be read as:

God delighting in cruelty.

It announces the decisive overthrow of:

Oppression.

Cross References

Ezekiel 39:17

Severe feast imagery is used symbolically to describe catastrophic judgment upon hostile forces.

Revelation 16:6

Those who shed innocent blood are judged with imagery of receiving blood to drink, expressing justice corresponding to their violence.

Genesis 49:24

Jacob’s Mighty One is associated with the Shepherd and Rock who preserves and strengthens His people.

Spiritual Principle

Oppression does not:

Escape judgment forever.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The same God who tenderly remembers Zion also powerfully confronts those who destroy her.

XXXVII. “ALL MANKIND WILL KNOW”

The goal reaches beyond:

Israel.

The nations will recognize:

Lord.

Savior.

Redeemer.

Mighty One.

Spiritual Principle

Deliverance becomes:

Revelation.

XXXVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 49 TEACHES ABOUT THE SERVANT

Called from:

The womb.

Prepared.

Hidden.

Sent.

Rejected.

Vindicated.

Global in mission.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Servant is prepared in God’s purpose before He is recognized by the world.

XXXIX. WHAT ISAIAH 49 TEACHES ABOUT CHRIST

The Servant:

Restores Israel.

Brings light to nations.

Carries salvation to earth’s ends.

Is despised.

Is later honored.

Becomes covenant.

Releases captives.

These themes converge powerfully in:

Jesus Christ.

Spiritual Principle

Christ fulfills the Servant mission not only by saving individuals but by advancing God’s redemptive purpose among:

The nations.

XL. WHAT ISAIAH 49 TEACHES ABOUT MISSION

> **“Too small a thing.”**

God’s vision is:

Larger.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A church that only looks inward has forgotten the Servant whose light reaches the ends of the earth.

XLI. WHAT ISAIAH 49 TEACHES ABOUT APPARENT FAILURE

The Servant says:

I labored in vain.

Yet:

God holds His reward.

Spiritual Principle

Faithfulness and immediate visible success are not:

Identical.

XLII. WHAT ISAIAH 49 TEACHES ABOUT REJECTION

Despised first.

Honored later.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Human rejection cannot cancel divine election.

XLIII. WHAT ISAIAH 49 TEACHES ABOUT THE DAY OF SALVATION

There is:

An appointed time.

Spiritual Principle

Grace has:

A divine season.

XLIV. WHAT ISAIAH 49 TEACHES ABOUT FREEDOM

Prisoners hear:

Come out.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Redemption changes status from captive to free.

XLV. WHAT ISAIAH 49 TEACHES ABOUT GUIDANCE

Compassion guides.

Spiritual Principle

God’s leadership is not cold:

Management.

It flows from:

Mercy.

XLVI. WHAT ISAIAH 49 TEACHES ABOUT GOD’S LOVE

A mother might:

Forget.

God:

Will not.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God’s faithfulness is not merely equal to the strongest human love.

It exceeds it.

XLVII. WHAT ISAIAH 49 TEACHES ABOUT GOD'S MEMORY

"I have engraved you."

Spiritual Principle

God's covenant remembrance is:

Intentional.

Persistent.

XLVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 49 TEACHES ABOUT RESTORATION

Desolate land becomes:

Overfilled.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can restore beyond the size of the wound.

XLIX. WHAT ISAIAH 49 TEACHES ABOUT HOPE

"Those who hope in Me will not be put to shame."

Spiritual Principle

Biblical hope rests in:

God's character.

Not:

Circumstances.

L. WHAT ISAIAH 49 TEACHES ABOUT OPPRESSION

God says:

I will contend.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The oppressed may lack power, but they are not necessarily without a Defender.

LI. WHAT ISAIAH 49 TEACHES ABOUT GOD AS SAVIOR

The final titles:

Savior.

Redeemer.

Mighty One.

Spiritual Principle

God possesses both:

Compassion to save.

Power to save.

LII. LISTEN, COASTLANDS

The Servant addresses:

Distant lands.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The gospel begins with a voice that already expects the nations to listen.

LIII. CALLED BEFORE BIRTH

The Servant’s identity precedes:

Public ministry.

Spiritual Principle

Calling is rooted in:

God’s purpose.

LIV. NAMED FROM THE WOMB

Identity comes from:

God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The world may later debate who the Servant is, but God knows the Servant before the world sees Him.

LV. SHARP SWORD MOUTH

Truth can:

Pierce.

Judge.

Expose.

Heal.

Spiritual Principle

God’s Word is never:

Blunt.

LVI. HIDDEN IN GOD’S HAND

Protection.

Preparation.

Timing.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Being hidden is not the same as being forgotten.

LVII. POLISHED ARROW

Prepared for:

Precision.

Spiritual Principle

God does not waste:

Preparation.

LVIII. CONCEALED IN THE QUIVER

The release waits for:

Timing.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God may hold an instrument back until the exact moment of purpose.

LIX. “IN WHOM I WILL BE GLORIFIED”

The Servant’s purpose is:

God’s glory.

Spiritual Principle

True ministry ends with:

God glorified.

LX. “I HAVE LABORED IN VAIN”

The Servant knows:

Discouragement.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Feeling that your labor was wasted is not proof that God agrees.

LXI. “MY REWARD IS WITH MY GOD”

The final evaluation belongs to:

God.

Spiritual Principle

Faithfulness trusts:

God’s accounting.

LXII. BRING JACOB BACK

Redemption is:

Return.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Servant does not merely gather crowds; He brings people back to God.

LXIII. “MY GOD HAS BEEN MY STRENGTH”

The Servant’s honor and strength are:

God-centered.

Spiritual Principle

Divine mission requires:

Divine strength.

LXIV. “TOO SMALL A THING”

What a phrase.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God’s vision for salvation is larger than the borders of our natural concern.

LXV. LIGHT TO THE NATIONS

Light travels:

Outward.

Spiritual Principle

The Servant’s mission cannot remain:

Hidden.

LXVI. SALVATION TO EARTH'S ENDS

Global.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

No nation is beyond the intended reach of God's saving message.

LXVII. DESPISED SERVANT

The world sees:

Weakness.

God sees:

Chosen One.

Spiritual Principle

Popularity is a poor measure of:

Divine approval.

LXVIII. KINGS RISE

The rejected becomes:

Honored.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can reverse the verdict of history.

LXIX. "THE LORD IS FAITHFUL"

Why does vindication come?

God:

Faithful.

Spiritual Principle

The Servant's confidence rests in:

The Sender.

LXX. TIME OF FAVOR

God determines:

The hour.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God’s delays are not evidence that His appointed time does not exist.

LXXI. DAY OF SALVATION

Salvation is not:

Theory.

It enters:

History.

Spiritual Principle

Grace acts in:

Time.

LXXII. COVENANT FOR THE PEOPLE

The Servant embodies:

Promise.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God’s covenant faithfulness comes to us personally through the Servant.

LXXIII. PRISONERS HEAR A COMMAND

“Come out.”

Spiritual Principle

Grace calls for:

Response.

LXXIV. DARKNESS LOSES ITS CAPTIVES

Those hidden in darkness:

Appear.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Servant brings people out of the places where darkness told them to stay hidden.

LXXV. PASTURE ON BARREN HEIGHTS

Unexpected:

Provision.

Spiritual Principle

God can feed His people where conditions say:

Nothing grows.

LXXVI. NO HUNGER

Sustaining grace.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God who frees also feeds.

LXXVII. NO THIRST

Living supply.

Spiritual Principle

Deliverance includes:

Provision.

LXXVIII. COMPASSIONATE GUIDE

He guides because:

He cares.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God’s direction is never detached from God’s heart.

LXXIX. SPRINGS OF WATER

The destination includes:

Refreshment.

Spiritual Principle

God knows when His people need:

Water.

LXXX. MOUNTAINS INTO ROAD

Obstacle becomes:

Infrastructure.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can use the very thing you thought was blocking the journey to help complete it.

LXXXI. FROM AFAR

Distance conquered.

Spiritual Principle

God’s gathering reach is:

Unlimited.

LXXXII. HEAVENS, EARTH, MOUNTAINS SING

Creation recognizes:

Grace.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When redemption becomes too large for one voice, Isaiah recruits creation into the choir.

LXXXIII. ZION SAYS “FORSAKEN”

Feelings can be:

Powerful.

Spiritual Principle

Pain interprets silence quickly.

Faith waits for:

God’s answer.

LXXXIV. ZION SAYS “FORGOTTEN”

God answers:

Impossible.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The feeling of abandonment must be tested against the promise of remembrance.

LXXXV. THE NURSING MOTHER

Deepest natural tenderness.

Spiritual Principle

God borrows human love as:

An illustration.

Then exceeds it.

LXXXVI. “I WILL NOT FORGET YOU”

Not:

Might not.

Will:

Not.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God’s remembrance does not depend on Zion’s ability to feel remembered.

LXXXVII. ENGRAVED, NOT WRITTEN

Writing could:

Fade.

Engraving suggests:

Permanence.

Spiritual Principle

God’s remembrance is not:

Casual.

LXXXVIII. WALLS BEFORE GOD

Even ruins remain:

Seen.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The broken place you think God stopped looking at may still be constantly before Him.

LXXXIX. CHILDREN HASTEN BACK

Restoration gains:

Momentum.

Spiritual Principle

God can reverse:

Scattering.

XC. DESTROYERS LEAVE

Oppressors are not:

Permanent residents.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The destroyer may have occupied the scene, but he does not own the final chapter.

XCI. BRIDAL ORNAMENT

Restored people become:

Beauty.

Spiritual Principle

Grace adorns what grief once emptied.

XCII. TOO SMALL FOR INHABITANTS

Desolation becomes:

Crowding.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can turn “too empty” into “make room.”

XCIII. BEREAVEMENT BECOMES FRUITFULNESS

A miracle of:

Restoration.

Spiritual Principle

God can bring future life after:

Past grief.

XCIV. “WHERE DID THESE COME FROM?”

The question of:

Amazed grace.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Some blessings arrive so far beyond expectation that the only reasonable response is wonder.

XCV. GOD BECKONS TO NATIONS

He commands:

International movement.

Spiritual Principle

Nations can become instruments in:

God’s gathering work.

XCVI. BANNER TO THE PEOPLES

Public signal.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God’s restoration is not ashamed to become visible.

XCVII. SONS IN ARMS

Tender image.

Spiritual Principle

Restoration is:

Personal.

XCVIII. DAUGHTERS ON SHOULDERS

Careful transport.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can use others to carry what has become too weary to walk alone.

XCIX. KINGS AS GUARDIANS

Power reversed into:

Service.

Spiritual Principle

God can make earthly authority serve:

Redemptive purpose.

C. “YOU WILL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD”

Restoration becomes:

Knowledge.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The goal of blessing is not merely changed circumstances but deeper recognition of God.

CI. HOPE WILL NOT BE ASHAMED

Waiting can feel:

Risky.

Spiritual Principle

Hope in God is:

Never ultimately foolish.

CII. THE STRONG CAPTOR

Humanly:

Too strong.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Your captivity may be beyond your strength without being beyond God’s.

CIII. “YES”

God’s answer to impossible rescue.

Spiritual Principle

Divine possibility begins where human possibility ends.

CIV. “I WILL CONTEND”

God enters:

The conflict.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not merely sympathize with His people’s battle; He can take up their cause.

CV. “I WILL SAVE YOUR CHILDREN”

Again:

Generations.

Spiritual Principle

God’s promises create reasons to pray beyond:

Our lifetime.

CVI. JUDGMENT ON OPPRESSORS

Severe.

Just.

Final.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God’s compassion toward the oppressed requires that oppression will not be tolerated forever.

CVII. ALL MANKIND WILL KNOW

God’s saving identity becomes:

Public.

Spiritual Principle

Deliverance has:

Missionary value.

CVIII. SAVIOR, REDEEMER, MIGHTY ONE

Three titles.

One God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God is willing to save, able to redeem, and mighty enough to finish what He begins.

CIX. ISAIAH 48 AND ISAIAH 49

Isaiah 48

Israel is called:

Stubborn.

Isaiah 49

The faithful Servant appears:

Called.

Prepared.

Obedient.

Sent.

Key Truth

The contrast between stubborn Israel and the faithful Servant helps explain why God’s saving purpose advances through the Servant who fulfills Israel’s calling.

CX. ISAIAH 42 AND ISAIAH 49

Isaiah 42

The Servant:

Brings justice.

Is gentle.

Is light to the nations.

Isaiah 49

The Servant:

Restores Israel.

Is light to the nations.

Carries salvation to earth’s ends.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Servant’s mission keeps expanding as Isaiah reveals more of His identity and work.

CXI. ISAIAH 49 AND JESUS

The New Testament links this chapter’s themes to:

Christ.

Light to Gentiles.

Salvation.

Servanthood.

Worldwide mission.

Paul also applies the Servant’s mission language to the church’s gospel proclamation.

Spiritual Principle

Christ fulfills the mission uniquely, and His people participate in proclaiming the salvation He brings.

CXII. TEN GREAT CONTRASTS IN ISAIAH 49

1. Hidden Servant → Worldwide Mission

2. Apparent Futility → Divine Reward

3. Israel Alone → Ends of the Earth

4. Despised Servant → Honored Servant

5. Prison → Freedom

6. Darkness → Visibility

7. Barren Heights → Pasture

8. Forsaken Feeling → Unfailing Remembrance

9. Desolation → Overflowing Population

10. Powerful Captor → Mighty Redeemer

Key Truth

Isaiah 49 is a chapter of divine reversal in which apparent failure becomes global salvation, desolation becomes abundance, forgotten Zion becomes remembered Zion, and captivity gives way to redemption.

CXIII. TWELVE GREAT LESSONS FROM ISAIAH 49

1. God's Servant Is Called by Divine Purpose

Principle:

The mission begins with God's initiative.

2. The Servant Speaks God's Powerful Word

Principle:

Truth is central to His mission.

3. The Servant Embodies Faithful Israel

Principle:

He fulfills the calling national Israel failed to fulfill.

4. Apparent Failure Is Not Final Failure

Principle:

The Servant entrusts reward to God.

5. Salvation Is Global

Principle:

The Servant is light to the nations.

6. Rejection Will Become Vindication

Principle:

The despised Servant will be honored.

7. Salvation Brings Freedom

Principle:

Prisoners are called out of captivity.

8. God Guides with Compassion

Principle:

The Redeemer leads beside springs of water.

9. God Does Not Forget Zion

Principle:

His remembrance exceeds a mother's love.

10. God Restores Beyond Expectation

Principle:

Desolation becomes overcrowding.

11. Those Who Hope in God Will Not Be Finally Ashamed

Principle:

Waiting on God has a faithful ending.

12. God Defeats Oppression

Principle:

No captor is too strong for the Mighty One of Jacob.

CXIV. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Who is speaking at the beginning of Isaiah 49?

The Servant of the Lord.

Question 2

Who is called to listen?

The coastlands and distant peoples.

Question 3

When was the Servant called?

From the womb.

Question 4

What is His mouth compared to?

A sharp sword.

Question 5

What is He compared to besides a sword?

A polished arrow hidden in God’s quiver.

Question 6

Why is the Servant called “Israel”?

He embodies and fulfills Israel’s true servant mission.

Question 7

How do we know the Servant is distinguished from national Israel?

Because He is sent to bring Jacob back and restore Israel.

Question 8

What does the Servant say about apparent failure?

He says He has labored in vain, yet entrusts His cause and reward to God.

Question 9

What is the Servant’s mission toward Israel?

To bring Jacob back and gather Israel.

Question 10

Is restoring Israel the entire mission?

No.

God says that would be too small.

Question 11

What additional mission does the Servant receive?

To be a light to the nations.

Question 12

How far will God’s salvation reach?

To the ends of the earth.

Question 13

How is the Servant treated initially?

He is despised and abhorred.

Question 14

What will eventually happen?

Kings will rise and princes will bow in recognition of God’s vindication.

Question 15

What happens in the day of salvation?

God answers, helps, keeps, restores, and releases.

Question 16

What are prisoners told?

“Come out.”

Question 17

What are those in darkness told?

“Show yourselves.”

Question 18

Who guides the redeemed?

The One who has compassion on them.

Question 19

Where does He lead them?

Beside springs of water.

Question 20

What happens to mountains?

God turns them into roads.

Question 21

From where do the scattered return?

From distant regions in multiple directions.

Question 22

Why does creation sing?

Because God comforts and has compassion on His afflicted people.

Question 23

What does Zion believe?

That God has forsaken and forgotten her.

Question 24

How does God answer?

He says even if a nursing mother forgot her child, He would not forget Zion.

Question 25

What does the engraving on God’s palms symbolize?

Permanent covenant remembrance.

Question 26

What happens to Zion’s children?

They return and gather.

Question 27

What happens to Zion’s desolation?

It becomes so full that more room is needed.

Question 28

Who assists in the restoration?

Nations, kings, and queens.

Question 29

What promise is given to those who hope in God?

They will not ultimately be put to shame.

Question 30

Can the warrior’s captives be rescued?

Yes.

God Himself says He will contend and save.

Question 31

Who is ultimately revealed through the deliverance?

The Lord, Savior, Redeemer, and Mighty One of Jacob.

CXV. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 49 asks several searching questions.

Am I Listening to the Servant?

The chapter begins:

> **“Listen to Me.”**

Am I listening to:

Christ?

Do I believe God's calling has purpose even before I understand it?

Do I trust God during hidden seasons?

Am I discouraged because my labor appears:

Fruitless?

Can I say:

> **"My reward is with My God"?**

Is my vision too:

Small?

Am I concerned only about:

My circle?

My church?

My community?

Or do I share God's concern for:

The nations?

Do I recognize Jesus as:

Light to the nations?

Do I believe God can vindicate faithfulness after:

Rejection?

Is there a prison God is saying:

> **"Come out"**

from?

Is there darkness where He is saying:

> **"Show yourself"?**

Can I trust God to guide me because:

He has compassion?

Am I facing a mountain that seems to block:

The road?

Do I feel:

Forgotten?

Forsaken?

Abandoned?

Have I allowed my feelings to overrule:

God’s promise?

Do I believe:

“I will not forget you”?

Can I imagine the place of desolation becoming:

Too small for blessing?

Am I willing to:

Make room?

Am I waiting on God without:

Shame?

Is there a captor I think is:

Too strong?

Have I forgotten:

The Mighty One of Jacob?

CXVI. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“The God Who Engraved You on His Hands Has Not Lost Sight of Your Broken Walls”

Zion says:

> **“The Lord has forgotten me.”**

God says:

> **“I have engraved you on the palms of My hands; your walls are ever before Me.”**

Principle:

God’s silence is not forgetfulness, broken walls are not evidence of abandonment, and the Redeemer can remember His people even while they are still staring at ruins.

CXVII. THE SERVANT’S GLOBAL VOICE

He speaks to:

Faraway peoples.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Servant’s first recorded audience in Isaiah 49 is already larger than Israel.

CXVIII. THE SWORD AND THE ARROW

Both require:

Skill.

Direction.

Purpose.

Spiritual Principle

God’s Word is:

Precise.

CXIX. THE SERVANT HIDDEN

Preparation may occur in:

Silence.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not despise the season when God keeps you in the quiver.

CXX. “IN WHOM I WILL BE GLORIFIED”

Ministry exists for:

God.

Spiritual Principle

The Servant does not seek:

Self-glory.

CXXI. LABOR IN VAIN?

The Servant feels:

The question.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not confuse visible rejection with divine rejection.

CXXII. THE REWARD IS WITH GOD

Human applause:

Unreliable.

Spiritual Principle

God’s evaluation is:

Final.

CXXIII. JACOB BROUGHT BACK

The mission is:

Restorative.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus does not merely expose wandering; He brings wanderers home.

CXXIV. LIGHT FOR NATIONS

The Servant becomes:

God’s worldwide light.

Spiritual Principle

Salvation is meant to:

Spread.

CXXV. “TOO SMALL”

A challenge to:

Narrow vision.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sometimes what we call a big ministry is still smaller than God’s heart.

CXXVI. DESPISED BEFORE HONORED

Cross before:

Crown.

Humiliation before:

Exaltation.

Spiritual Principle

God’s path to glory does not always bypass:

Rejection.

CXXVII. TIME OF FAVOR

God answers:

At the right time.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Waiting does not mean the favorable time is imaginary.

CXXVIII. COVENANT SERVANT

The Servant is central to:

Restoration.

Spiritual Principle

God’s promises come together in:

Him.

CXXIX. “COME OUT”

Captivity hears:

Authority.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Freedom begins when the captive believes the Redeemer’s command more than the prison’s claim.

CXXX. “SHOW YOURSELVES”

Darkness hides.

Grace reveals.

Spiritual Principle

Redemption removes:

Shameful hiding.

CXXXI. PASTURE ON HEIGHTS

Provision where expected:

Barrenness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can put pasture on the hill everyone else calls barren.

CXXXII. COMPASSION GUIDES

The Shepherd’s heart governs:

The Shepherd’s path.

Spiritual Principle

Divine direction is loving direction.

CXXXIII. MOUNTAINS BECOME HIGHWAYS

What seemed:

Against you.

Can become:

Under God.

A path.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can turn resistance into roadway.

CXXXIV. FROM NORTH AND WEST

God gathers:

Widely.

Spiritual Principle

Scattering does not exceed:

God’s reach.

CXXXV. CREATION BURSTS INTO SONG

Why?

Compassion.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God’s mercy is worthy of more celebration than human speech can contain.

CXXXVI. ZION’S FALSE CONCLUSION

Pain says:

Forgotten.

Spiritual Principle

Suffering can produce conclusions God never:

Spoke.

CXXXVII. GOD’S ANSWER IS PERSONAL

Not merely:

A theological explanation.

He says:

> **“I will not forget you.”**

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sometimes the answer to fear is not an explanation of circumstances but a promise of relationship.

CXXXVIII. ENGRAVED HANDS

The imagery is:

Permanent.

Spiritual Principle

God’s people remain:

Before Him.

CXXXIX. BROKEN WALLS STILL SEEN

God has not:

Looked away.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Your ruins may be evidence of what was lost, but they are also the place God can begin rebuilding.

CXL. CHILDREN RETURN

Loss does not get:

Final possession.

Spiritual Principle

God can restore what scattering removed.

CXLI. MAKE ROOM

Blessing requires:

Expansion.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not pray for increase while refusing to enlarge the tent.

CXLII. ASTONISHED ZION

> **“Where have they come from?”**

Spiritual Principle

Grace can exceed:

Memory.

CXLIII. NATIONS CARRY THE CHILDREN HOME

Formerly distant peoples become:

Participants.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can use unexpected hands to carry home what He loves.

CXLIV. KINGS BOW

Political power recognizes:

Divine sovereignty.

Spiritual Principle

No earthly rank is:

Too high.

CXLV. HOPE WITHOUT SHAME

Delay:

Yes.

Final disgrace:

No.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Hope in God may be tested, but it will not ultimately be exposed as foolish.

CXLVI. WARRIORS AND CAPTIVES

Captivity looks:

Legal.

Secure.

Permanent.

Spiritual Principle

God is not intimidated by:

The captor.

CXLVII. “YES”

God answers the impossible question:

Yes.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never answer “impossible” before the Redeemer has spoken.

CXLVIII. GOD CONTENDS

The Defender steps forward.

Spiritual Principle

The battle is not:

Yours alone.

CXLIX. SAVE YOUR CHILDREN

The heart of God extends:

Generationally.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Pray as though God’s redemptive concern reaches people who will live after you are gone.

CL. MIGHTY ONE OF JACOB

The God who remembers tenderly is also:

Mighty.

Spiritual Principle

Divine compassion is not:

Weakness.

CLI. ISAIAH 49 AND THE GOSPEL

Called Servant.

Despised Servant.

Light to nations.

Salvation to earth’s ends.

Freedom for prisoners.

Compassion for afflicted.

Gathering of scattered.

Victory over captors.

All these themes converge in:

The gospel of Christ.

Key Truth

Isaiah 49 shows that the mission of the Servant is nothing less than the worldwide advance of God’s salvation through the One who restores, liberates, gathers, comforts, and ultimately triumphs.

CLII. ELEVEN GREAT MOVEMENTS IN ISAIAH 49

1. The Servant Is Called

From the womb for divine purpose.

2. The Servant Is Prepared

Like a sword and polished arrow.

3. The Servant Entrusts Apparent Failure to God

His reward remains with the Lord.

4. The Servant Restores Israel

Jacob is gathered back.

5. The Mission Expands to the Nations

Salvation reaches earth’s ends.

6. The Despised Servant Is Vindicated

Kings and princes honor Him.

7. Prisoners Are Released

Darkness gives way to freedom.

8. The Redeemed Are Guided and Provided For

Compassion leads them beside water.

9. Zion Is Assured She Is Not Forgotten

She is engraved on God’s hands.

10. Desolation Becomes Abundance

The land becomes too small for its restored population.

11. God Defeats Oppressors

The Savior and Redeemer rescues captives from the fierce.

Key Truth

Isaiah 49 moves from the Servant’s hidden calling to worldwide salvation, from Zion’s sense of abandonment to overflowing restoration, and from captivity to the public victory of the Mighty Redeemer.

CLIII. FINAL APPLICATION

Isaiah Chapter 49 begins with:

A voice.

> **“Listen to Me.”**

The voice belongs to:

The Servant.

He was called:

Before birth.

Prepared:

Like a sword.

Polished:

Like an arrow.

Hidden:

Until God’s time.

That teaches us something immediately.

God’s work does not begin when:

People notice it.

Sometimes God prepares:

In secret.

Then the Servant says something surprising:

“I have labored in vain.”

Even the Servant’s mission passes through a place where visible results can look:

Disappointing.

But He does not say:

Therefore God failed.

He says:

“My reward is with My God.”

That is faithfulness.

When you have:

Preached.

Taught.

Prayed.

Served.

Loved.

Witnessed.

Worked.

And the results seem:

Small—

Remember:

God keeps the final account.

Then God says something breathtaking:

“It is too small a thing.”

Restoring Israel alone is not:

Large enough.

The Servant will become:

Light.

To:

Nations.

Salvation must reach:

The ends of earth.

That means the heart of God is:

Missionary.

The gospel is:

Global.

Christ belongs to:

No single culture.

Nation.

Race.

Language.

Then the Servant is:

Despised.

But kings will:

Rise.

Princes will:

Bow.

Human opinion changes.

God’s choice:

Does not.

Then comes:

The day of salvation.

Prisoners hear:

“Come out.”

Those in darkness hear:

“Show yourselves.”

God does not merely tell captives:

Try harder.

He announces:

Freedom.

Then the journey begins.

Will there be:

Roads?

God says:

I can turn mountains into:

Roads.

Will there be:

Water?

God says:

I will lead beside:

Springs.

Will the scattered return?

Yes.

From:

Far away.

Then all creation begins:

Singing.

But Zion says:

“The Lord has forsaken me.”

How human.

God is announcing:

Restoration.

Zion is still feeling:

Abandonment.

Maybe that is where you are.

God says:

I am working.

You say:

I feel forgotten.

Then God answers:

Can a mother forget:

Her baby?

You know how strong:

That bond.

Can be.

Then God says:

Even if she could—

“I will not forget you.”

And then:

“I have engraved you on the palms of My hands.”

Not:

Written in pencil.

Not:

Placed on a temporary list.

Engraved.

Then God says:

Your walls are:

Before Me.

That means God sees:

The broken place.

He has not ignored:

The ruin.

He has not forgotten:

The city.

Then suddenly:

Children return.

The city fills.

The barren place becomes:

Crowded.

And Zion says:

Where did all these come from?

That is restoration so large it surprises:

The restored.

Then comes one final question:

Can captives be taken from:

A warrior?

Maybe the captor is:

Too strong.

Maybe the chain is:

Too old.

Maybe the bondage looks:

Permanent.

God says:

“Yes.”

What a word.

Yes.

Captives can be:

Freed.

Plunder can be:

Recovered.

Children can be:

Saved.

Oppressors can be:

Defeated.

Why?

Not because the captive became:

Stronger.

Because the Redeemer is:

Mighty.

So Isaiah 49 says:

When your labor looks wasted—

Trust:

God’s reward.

When your vision becomes small—

Remember:

The ends of the earth.

When you feel rejected—

Remember:

The Servant was despised.

When you feel trapped—

Hear:

“Come out.”

When you cannot see the road—

Remember:

Mountains can become highways.

When you feel forgotten—

Hear:

“I will not forget you.”

When you see broken walls—

Remember:

They are still before God.

When your life feels empty—

Prepare to:

Make room.

When the enemy looks too strong—

Wait for God's:

"Yes."

Because the God of Isaiah 49 is:

Savior.

Redeemer.

Mighty One of Jacob.

And the Servant He sends brings:

Salvation.

To:

The ends of the earth.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for:

Your Servant.

Thank You for:

Jesus Christ.

The One called.

Sent.

Prepared.

Rejected.

Vindicated.

The Light of the nations.

Thank You that Your salvation reaches:

The ends of the earth.

Father, when our labor feels:

Fruitless.

Teach us to say:

“My reward is with my God.”

Keep our vision from becoming:

Small.

Give us a heart for:

The lost.

The nations.

The distant.

Those still sitting in:

Darkness.

Thank You that through Christ prisoners hear:

“Come out.”

Lead people from:

Bondage.

Darkness.

Fear.

Sin.

Shame.

Father, when the journey is difficult:

Feed us.

When we thirst:

Lead us to springs.

When mountains rise:

Make roads.

When distance separates:

Gather.

Father, when we feel:

Forgotten—

Speak again:

“I will not forget you.”

When we look at:

Broken walls—

Remind us they are still:

Before You.

When our lives seem:

Empty—

Give us faith to believe You can fill them again.

When we wonder where the blessing could come from:

Amaze us with:

Grace.

Father, teach us to:

Hope in You.

Keep us from:

Shame.

Contend with those things that:

Contend against Your purpose.

Rescue:

Captives.

Save:

Children.

Defeat:

Oppression.

And let the world know:

You are:

Savior.

Redeemer.

Mighty One.

May Jesus Christ be proclaimed as:

Light.

Hope.

Salvation.

To every:

Nation.

People.

Language.

And land.

In His name,

Amen.

Key Verse

> **“I will also make You a light for the nations, that My salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.” — Isaiah 49:6**

Central Truth

The Lord’s faithful Servant, fulfilled ultimately in Jesus Christ, is called and prepared by God to restore Israel and bring salvation to the ends of the earth; through Him prisoners are released, darkness is overcome, the scattered are gathered, the afflicted are guided with compassion, Zion is assured that God will never forget her, desolation becomes abundance, and captives are rescued by the Lord who reveals Himself as Savior, Redeemer, and Mighty One of Jacob.

Isaiah 49 in One Sentence

Isaiah presents the divinely called Servant who fulfills Israel’s mission by restoring Jacob and becoming light and salvation to the nations, shows the despised Servant ultimately vindicated, announces freedom for prisoners and guidance for the redeemed, assures forgotten Zion that she is engraved on God’s hands, promises restoration so abundant that desolate places overflow, and concludes that the Lord Himself will rescue captives, defeat oppressors, and make all humanity know Him as Savior, Redeemer, and Mighty One of Jacob.