

To Inherit the Desolate Heritages

Isaiah 49:1 – 50:4

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~ Our Spiritual Safari invites you to come along with us as we go through the entire Bible together. The most important element on this expedition is prayer. Pray for wisdom, judgment, discernment, and understanding that causes you to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior and Lord. Pray that God's will is being done by and through this Spiritual Safari, and that God will lead me, directing every thought and word. Next, in terms of importance, is to read the section of Scripture for these reports *BEFORE* reading the safari report. We are in a very difficult area of the Bible to comprehend; and chapter forty-nine brings the third major division in the prophecy of Isaiah. Our safari does not divide the books of the Bible as a normal Bible study would, because we are not after the theological or doctrinal aspect. We're just trying to keep it honest, spiritual, and as real as we can present it by applying it in our lives, day by day. The only way we can ever demonstrate to God that we love Him is through obedience. If you have not read our previous reports on Isaiah, I highly suggest you go back and do so now.

Our last report ended with God saying, "*there is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked.*" That truth is patently obvious in the world today, with war-like man ever on that path. Constant conflict amongst nations, cities, business competition, within social realms, inside many homes - and in the religious world - denies peace to the lost man and world at large. That truth is essential to accept; and it is without compromise. Now, Isaiah is moving us towards the definitive revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ in his prophecy, with Christ presented as the suffering servant of God. The comfort of any living creature on the face of the earth under the sun comes from the Lord Jesus through His Holy Spirit – and that comfort is only for His Own children – although it is *available* to anyone who will accept, trust, and obey His commands. See, Israel has failed God at the time in which we are studying, and the Lord has determined their captivity must happen. Almost all prophets spoke primarily of Israel, yet found their final meaning in the Person of Christ Jesus:

Hosea 11:1when Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt ~

Matthew 2:15that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son ~

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XLIX

1 Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name.

~ Christ is again calling upon all nations of the world to hear Him. We have seen Isaiah say this before. When we listen to the Holy Spirit speak to us, through His prophet, from His Word, we'll hear the Lord Jesus Christ speak as the apostles heard Jesus speak to them on the Sea of Galilee. This is the prophecy where Christ moves out to become the Savior of the world, friends. The restoration of Israel is assured by God now - and He will never forsake them. That promise is reaffirmed here. These first seven verses are Christ's discourse to the world and, my friends, there is *NOTHING* that corresponds to this in any religion in this world. The Word of God is a sharp, two-edged sword; and Jesus' own enemies ultimately said, "*....never a Man spake as He spake!*" The Book of Revelation closes with the sword going out of His mouth with which He shall smite all nations. As we have already seen myriad times in Isaiah, God judges the nations of the world – *ALL* nations. Here, in Isaiah, at the time in which we are studying, verse three tells us God is speaking to Israel about these things....

2 And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;

3 And said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.

4 Then I said, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the LORD, and my work with my God.

~ Isaiah is, obviously, wondering whether his reports are being produced in vain. I mean, was this much writing necessary? Did anyone even read it? Who believed it? Did *anyone* care about Isaiah? Even so, his confidence remained in God Almighty. Christ's death on the cross was the most powerful victory this world has ever seen. That's what this means. So, the emphasis in this section of Scripture is on the suffering servant Jesus. Israel rejected Jesus at His first advent; but He accomplished salvation for the world, anyways. God wasn't the least bit surprised when the nation Israel rejected Christ. God is not perplexed that Israel continues to deny Christ to this day; and God is not even slightly disturbed at man's rebellion towards His Son in this present world. The plan and purpose of God is *NEVER* thwarted in even the slightest detail by the machinations of man – because that would be impossible. Unfortunately, the truths in this passage are neither recalled nor considered by God's people in the church today....

5 And now, saith the LORD that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength.

6 And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

7 Thus saith the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the LORD that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee.

~ The apostle Paul asked, "... if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles, how much more their

fulness?" In other words, if the Gospel continues to be presented to the world, even though Israel is denying the True and Living God, then imagine how much more effective it will be when God restores Israel, and begins using them again as His witness on earth during the Great Tribulation period and Millennial Kingdom. The greatest time of salvation for mankind will be after the rapture takes place. Interestingly, that brings about a national discussion regarding Israel's restoration in the remainder of this chapter.

God's ultimate eternal plans and purposes for the planet earth all center and revolve around the nation Israel; contingent upon them being back in the land according to fulfillment of Scriptural prophecy. That's when both Heaven and earth will rejoice. Israel should be in the land serving God and receiving blessings today – but they're not – not even close. The church should be in Heaven with Christ Jesus – but it's not – it's still in the world. Satan should be in hell, but he walks to and fro on the earth seeking whom he may devour. The Lord Jesus Christ should be sitting upon the literal throne in the literal Jerusalem in the literal Israel – but – as at the wedding in Canaan – His time has not yet come. Christ remains at the right hand of God in Heaven today....

8 Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;

9 That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves. They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places.

10 They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.

11 And I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be exalted.

12 Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim.

13 Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.

14 But Zion said, The LORD hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me.

15 Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.

16 Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.

17 Thy children shall make haste; thy destroyers and they that made thee waste shall go forth of thee.

18 Lift up thine eyes round about, and behold: all these gather themselves together, and come to thee. As I live, saith the LORD, thou shalt surely clothe thee with them all, as with an ornament, and bind them on thee, as a bride doeth.

19 For thy waste and thy desolate places, and the land of thy destruction, shall even now be too narrow by reason of the inhabitants, and they that swallowed thee up shall be far away.

20 The children which thou shalt have, after thou hast lost the other, shall say again in thine ears, The place is too strait for me: give place to me that I may dwell.

21 Then shalt thou say in thine heart, Who hath begotten me these, seeing I have lost my children, and am desolate, a captive, and removing to and fro? and who hath brought up these? Behold, I was left alone; these, where had they been?

22 Thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders.

23 And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.

24 Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered?

25 But thus saith the LORD, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children.

26 And I will feed them that oppress thee with their own flesh; and they shall be drunken with their own blood, as with sweet wine: and all flesh shall know that I the LORD am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.

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1 Thus saith the LORD, Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement, whom I have put away? or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away.

2 Wherefore, when I came, was there no man? 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? behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinketh, because there is no water, and dieth for thirst.

~ Israel's rejection of Christ as Messiah is the issue that *must* be cleared up with God before there will be any peace and safety in that land, friends. That's what's up-to-date in prophecy; and it's the only update we have! Christ came as their Messiah, as unto His Own, but His Own received Him not. Well, the reason Israel is in the constant state of persistent problematic predicaments they are experiencing is because they continue to reject the One Who God sent to deliver them. Today, Christ is being rejected by the entire world. Christ came meek and lowly to do the Father's will. If you want to "*speak a word in season*" you're going to have to know and understand the Word of God, my beloved. An omission in ones life of an educated, sincere, systematic, proper, correct, and complete study of the Word of God is one of the most egregious sins of the church today. People simply do not like to study the Bible – period. That's the reason for this Spiritual Safari....

3 I clothe the heavens with blackness, and I make sackcloth their covering.

4 The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned ~

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