

The Prophecies of Isaiah ⁶³

Lesson 30

In the second section of Vision 22, the Lord presents Himself as the Suffering Servant of the people who inhabit the world He created. In the first section, He establishes Himself as the only God; in this section, He establishes Himself as the only Savior.

Section 1	Section 2	Section 3
The Majesty of the Lord Isaiah 40 – 48	The Suffering of the Lord Isaiah 49-57	The Coming of the Lord Isaiah 58-66

Section 2, divides the Suffering of the Lord into four parts:

Part 1	Part 2	Part 3	Part 4
Because the Jews reject the Servant, He takes salvation to the Gentiles. Isaiah 49-50	A remnant of the Jews will believe in the Servant and be exalted. Isaiah 51:1-52:12	The Servant will suffer and then He will be exalted. Isaiah 52:13-53:12	The Servant will bring salvation to the Jews and the Gentiles. Isaiah 54-57

Figure 55: The Four Parts of Vision 22, Section 2

Part 1, Chapter 49 begins with the Lord's introducing Himself to Israel and the world as the rejected Redeemer and Savior.

Near Prophecy

THE INCARNATION OF THE LORD FORETOLD

Isaiah 49:1 Listen to Me, O islands, And pay attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called Me from the womb; From the body of My mother He named Me. ² And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword; In the shadow of His hand He has concealed Me, And He has also made Me a select arrow; He has hidden Me in His quiver. ³ And He said to Me, "You are My Servant, Israel, In Whom I will show My glory."

All landmasses on the earth surrounded by water are, in a greater sense than our definition of the word, islands to the Lord. The Lord addresses the islands, which can also mean coastland in Hebrew, in Isaiah 41:1. Of the 15 uses of the word in the Bible, 14 occur in Isaiah. In all cases, the word refers to all the people of world who are not direct descendants of Jacob and his 12 sons. Other places in the Scripture refer to them as Gentiles. Here in Isaiah 49, the Lord presents a prophecy concerning Himself for Hezekiah to deliver to Israel, recorded so the Gentiles will know that the Lord will also be their Savior. It is very interesting that the Lord addresses this prophecy to the Gentiles instead of the Jews especially because it is the first reference to His future incarnation.

The prophecy begins with "The Lord called Me from the womb." How can the Lord call Himself from the womb? More than two hundred years before, David uses the same idea when he says in Psalms 110:1, "The LORD says to my Lord: Sit at My right hand, Until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet." This passage is a far-reaching prophecy delivered through King David that calls for the incarnate Lord to ascend to heaven after His

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resurrection and remain there until it is time to return to earth at the time of His Second Coming. As creator of the earth, the Lord comes to be the Savior of all the people who live upon it and then, after some reject Him, He will return to His heaven and remain there until it is time for Him to return to put all His enemies under His feet for all time.

In Isaiah 49, the Lord announces His plan for His First Coming as the Savior. He will come as a Child, born from a mother's womb like all human beings. His earthly mother will not select His name, He will. After His incarnation, the words that come from His mouth will cut through all the traditions and lies just as a sharp sword slices through its intended target. He has hidden His intended incarnation until He arrives; His mission will then be clear and to the point. He will come from the Nation of Israel as His own Servant to show His own glory, His Godly splendor to all the nations of the world.

Why is the Lord called Israel here? It is not because He is Israel. In Isaiah, the Lord is to call Israel back to God. Here, He is called Israel because He will do what Israel was supposed to do. His work will be what He designed for Israel, to draw all men to God. Because Israel isolated her faith from the world, it is necessary for the Lord to complete the task.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 49:1-3	<i>Near Prophecy</i> The Lord comes to earth through the womb of a woman.	Fulfilled in 4 BC

Near Prophecy

THE PURPOSE OF THE LORD FORETOLD

Isaiah 49:4 But I said, "I have toiled in vain, I have spent My strength for nothing and vanity; Yet surely the justice *due* to Me is with the LORD, And My reward with My God." ⁵ And now says the LORD, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him, in order that Israel might be gathered to Him (~~For I am honored in the sight of the LORD, And My God is My strength~~), ⁶ 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 make You a light of the nations So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Continuing to foretell the future, He explains how He will see little reward for His service and no change in the nation that He chose during His time on earth. Eight hundred years after this prophecy, John the Apostle will write, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."⁶⁴ No doubt, the Lord will accomplish His plan and He will reward Himself for His great work.

The primary purpose of the Lord's coming to earth through the womb of a woman is to bring the descendants of Jacob back to Him. Leading Israel back to the Lord is not His only assignment as the Servant; He will also become the light that extends to all people to the ends of the world who hear His story.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 49:4-6	<i>Near Prophecy</i> The Lord comes to spread salvation to the ends of the world.	Fulfilled in 4 BC – 30 BC

⁶⁴ John 1:1

Far Prophecy

THE REJECTION OF THE LORD FORETOLD

Isaiah 49:7 Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, *and* its Holy One, To the despised One, To the One abhorred by the nation, To the Servant of rulers, " Kings shall see and arise, Princes shall also bow down; Because of the LORD who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel who has chosen You."

The Lord is the "Redeemer of Israel," yet Israel will despise and abhor Him when He arrives. The Apostle John confirms this statement in his Gospel.

John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

However, one day, all kings and princes will bow down to the Lord. Later in Philippians, Paul repeats that idea.

Philippians 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Lord has chosen Himself to be the faithful Witness, Redeemer, Servant, and Ruler of the world.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 49:7	<i>Near Prophecy</i> Israel will despise the Lord.	Fulfilled in 27 AD – 30 AD

Far Prophecy

THE SALVATION OF THE LORD FORETOLD

Isaiah 49:8 Thus says the LORD, "In a favorable time I have answered You, And in a day of salvation I have helped You; And I will keep You and give You for a covenant of the people, To restore the land, to make *them* inherit the desolate heritages; ⁹ Saying to those who are bound, 'Go forth,' To those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves.' Along the roads, they will feed, And their pasture will be on all bare heights. ¹⁰ "They will not hunger or thirst, Neither will the scorching heat or sun strike them down; For He who has compassion on them will lead them, And will guide them to springs of water.

"The favorable time" in this passage refers to the Kingdom of the Lord that will last for 1,000 years. The Lord will fulfill the covenant promise to Israel. About 150 years after this prophecy is fulfilled, the Lord uses Jeremiah to reveal more of the covenant. Here is a small but potent sample of the Lord's promise through Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 31:31 " Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. ³³ "But this is the covenant which I will make

with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, " I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ "And they shall not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

In spite of Israel's great sin against the Lord, He will forgive her, have compassion on her and will direct her to the springs of water to quench her thirst. At that time, all the Israelites who believe and trust in the Lord as their Redeemer will gather in the Promised Land; the land will be fertile and the water refreshing.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 49:8-10	<i>Far Prophecy</i> The Lord will be the Covenant with Israel.	Fulfilled at the Lord's Second Coming

Far Prophecy

THE COMFORT OF THE LORD FORETOLD

Isaiah 49:11 "And I will make all My mountains a road, And My highways will be raised up. ¹² "Behold, these shall come from afar; And lo, these *will come* from the north and from the west, And these from the land of Sinim." ¹³ Shout for joy, O heavens! And rejoice, O earth! Break forth into joyful shouting, O mountains! For the LORD has comforted His people, And will have compassion on His afflicted.

When the Lord prepares the land for His 1,000-year reign, all hindrances are removed; the high grounds are brought low and the low grounds are raised up so Israel can return to the Promised Land. She will return from the north, the west, and the land of Sinim. Where is Sinim? No commentator since 325 AD has been able to determine the location of the land of Sinim until the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. In one Isaiah manuscript found in the Qumran caves, the text reads "Syenites." The Syneites lived in modern-day Aswan, located in southeast Egypt, the home of the now famous Aswan Dam. When we look at the map, we see nothing south of Israel except water. All the sojourners would naturally come from the north, west, and southwest of Israel. At that time in the Lord's plan, the 1,000-year kingdom will stretch from the Nile to the Euphrates River, all the way to the city of Ur in modern-day Iraq. The Lord's presence on His throne will bring true comfort to believing Israel and to all believing Gentiles.



Map 26: The Land of Sinim or Aswan

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 49:11-13	<i>Far Prophecy</i> The Lord will gather all Israel back in the Promised Land.	Fulfilled at the Lord's Second Coming

Far Prophecy

THE REJECTION OF THE LORD FORETOLD

Isaiah 49:14 But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me, And the Lord has forgotten me." **15** "Can a woman forget her nursing child, And have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you. **16** "Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me.

The Lord uses dialogue to continue His message. Zion represents the people who live in Jerusalem where Isaiah is delivering this message to Hezekiah in 710 BC. The Lord is stating what Zion will say far in the future. When the city is the center of all attention and attack during the seven years of tribulation before the Lord comes, she will feel that the Lord has forgotten her. Although Israel will go through much tribulation until she finally turns to the Lord, He will not forget her and He will have compassion on all who trust in Him as Redeemer and Lord. Whether or not this verse is to be taken literally or figuratively one fact remains, the Lord has never and will never forget Israel.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 49:14-15	Far Prophecy Israel will think that the Lord has forgotten her.	Fulfilled during Israel's seven years of Tribulation before the Second Coming of the Lord

Far Prophecy

THE CONSTRAINTS OF THE LORD FORETOLD

Isaiah 49:17 "Your builders hurry; Your destroyers and devastators will depart from you. **18** " Lift up your eyes and look around; All of them gather together, they come to you. As I live," declares the LORD, "You shall surely put on all of them as jewels, and bind them on as a bride. **19** "For your waste and desolate places, and your destroyed land-- Surely now you will be too cramped for the inhabitants, And those who swallowed you will be far away. **20** "The children of whom you were bereaved will yet say in your ears, 'The place is too cramped for me; Make room for me that I may live here.' **21** "Then you will say in your heart, 'Who has begotten these for me, Since I have been bereaved of my children, And am barren, an exile and a wanderer? And who has reared these? Behold, I was left alone; From where did these come?'"

Some theologians try to place this return of the Jews to the Promised Land at the end of the Babylonian exile but that is not logical. The total number of people who returned from the Babylonian exile to the Promised Land is recorded in Ezra 2:64-65 as 49,897, a group far too small to be cramped in the Holy Land. This passage refers to the beginning of the time of Tribulation for Israel when she has made a peace treaty with a western king and Jews from all over the world return to Israel to live. Then the relatively small country will be over populated as described in this passage. When the tribulation becomes great during those days, Israel will believe that she has been forgotten. When the Lord returns to claim her and the world, her enemies will be put at the feet of the Lord and their home nations will look to Israel for guidance and acceptance in the 1,000-year kingdom.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 49:17-21	Far Prophecy Israel will return to the Promised Land to settle on the land.	Fulfilled at the beginning of the Second Coming of the Lord

Far Prophecy

THE STANDARD OF THE LORD FORETOLD

Isaiah 49:22 Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I will lift up My hand to the nations, And set up My standard to the peoples; And they will bring your sons in their bosom, And

your daughters will be carried on *their* shoulders. ²³ "And kings will be your guardians, And their princesses your nurses. They will bow down to you with their faces to the earth, And lick the dust of your feet; And *you* will know that I am the LORD; Those who hopefully wait for Me will not be put to shame.

When the standard of the Lord is raised over the earth, the Gentiles will worship with Israel before the Lord. All the Gentile nations will be friends of Israel, helping her on her land, caring for her needs as the Lord provides, transporting her citizens where they need to go and serving her as they serve and worship the true Lord.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 49:22-23	<i>Far Prophecy</i> Israel will be the premier nation of the world.	Fulfilled during the Lord's 1,000 year reign on earth

Far Prophecy

THE PROMISE OF THE LORD FORETOLD

Isaiah 49:24 " Can the prey be taken from the mighty man, Or the captives of a tyrant be rescued?" ²⁵ Surely, thus says the LORD, "Even the captives of the mighty man will be taken away, And the prey of the tyrant will be rescued; For I will contend with the one who contends with you, And I will save your sons. ²⁶ "And I will feed your oppressors with their own flesh, And they will become drunk with their own blood as with sweet wine; And all flesh will know that I, the LORD, am your Savior, And your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob."

The prey of a powerful man is rarely taken away from him or the captives of a tyrant rescued, especially in Isaiah's day, yet, when the Lord returns, He will rescue Israel from the mighty man who seeks to destroy her and the tyrant who desires to keep her in captivity. The destruction of Israel's enemies will be bloody, gruesome and complete. The Gentiles in the world who choose not to go against the Lord and Israel will acknowledge that He is Israel's Savior, Redeemer and unique Mighty One from the descendants of Jacob.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 49:24-26	<i>Far Prophecy</i> The Lord will destroy His and Israel's enemies.	Fulfilled on the day of the Lord's return at His Second Coming