

# Isaiah 49

8-11-05

## “God’s Tattoo!”

### 1. **Intro:**

#### 1.1. New section:

- 1.1.1. **Old** – the prophet was concerned to show the supremacy of the God of Israel over the nations & their gods.
- 1.1.2. **New** – Israel’s glorious future.

### 2. **MESSIAH, HIS SERVANT! (1-13)**

#### 2.1. **A SERVANT!** (1-4)

#### 2.2. (1) Messiah -

#### 2.3. (2) He is now described as “Israel in whom I will be glorified” –

##### 2.3.1. In **contrast** to the nation of Israel, which had so grievously failed.

##### 2.3.2. **Shadow** – each of us must go there sometimes.

##### 2.3.2.1. The photograph of His face can only be developed in the dark room! (F.B.Meyer)

##### 2.3.2.2. In some realms of nature, **shadows & darkness** are the places of the greatest growth.

##### 2.3.2.2.1. The *Evening Primrose* only reveals its beauty as evening comes on.

##### 2.3.3. **A polished shaft** – Pebble beach, famous for the beautiful pebbles found there. (tourist from around the world collect them)

##### 2.3.3.1. Big difference between the rocks pounded by the waves, tossed, rolled, & rubbed together there.

##### 2.3.3.2. **Verses down the coast** where a quiet cove protects them from the face of the ocean, they are sheltered from storms...**yet** those stones are never sought by travelers.

##### 2.3.3.2.1. They are rough, unpolished, & devoid of beauty.

##### 2.3.3.3. **Polish** is the result of difficulties(friction!)

##### 2.3.4. **Quiver** – you are still in His quiver. Safe. Close.

##### 2.3.4.1. He is only keeping you nearby till the moment comes when he can send you out **quickly & confidently** on some mission that will bring Him glory! [Are you in a holding pattern?]

##### 2.3.4.2. Remember oh “*shadowed & isolated one*” remember how closely the quiver is tied to the warrior.

##### 2.3.4.2.1. Always **w/in easy reach** of His hand, & **jealously protected!**

- 2.4. (3) **My Servant** –
- 2.4.1. If this is Jesus designation, why do so many Christians buck against serving? (He didn't come to be served, but to serve!)
- 2.5. (4) His initial un-success! – i.e. “labor in vain”.
- 2.5.1. (4b) **What is His attitude with this un-success?** – as unto the Lord.
- 2.6. **A LIGHT!** (5,6)
- 2.7. His new task – Gentiles!
- 2.7.1. Yet really not a “new” task for it was God's heart from the beginning. [Missionary God]
- 2.7.2. Though this is speaking of Messiah, **Paul & Barnabus** make this for themselves (Acts 13:47)
- 2.7.3. **Do we have a share in this task?**
- 2.7.3.1. Jn.20:21 “**As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.**”
- 2.8. **A COVENANT!** (7-12)
- 2.9. (8) Messiah will fulfill the **covenant** w/His people – He will restore them to the land.
- 2.10. (9-12) He will gather them from the nations of the world.
- 2.10.1. And will protect & provide for them as he brings them home.
- 2.11. (10) He will lead you with Shepherd care!
- 2.12. (11) He will use **obstacles** in your life to advance his purpose/will!
- 2.12.1. [i.e. the mountains]
- 2.12.2. **Note:** they are **His** mountains! (like **His waves** in Ps.107:25)
- 2.12.3. **Q:** What are your mountains God has placed in your life presently?
- 2.12.3.1. Any People mountains? Things? Occupation? Thorn in the flesh? Your daily cross?
- 2.13. **A COMFORTER!** (13)
- 2.14. All of nature is pictured responding w/**joy** as Israel is restored to the land.

### **3. UNFAILING LOVE & CERTAIN DELIVERANCE! (14-26)**

- 3.1. **A TATTOO!** (14-16)
- 3.2. (14) Ever feel the Lord has forsaken or forgotten you!
- 3.2.1. **Does God really care about His me?**
- 3.2.2. **Promise:** The Lord **cannot forget** His own!
- 3.2.3. This assurance was given to the chosen race on the eve of their return from Babylon.

- 3.2.4. Listen to the Lord's voice take on tones of unusual persuasiveness.  
3.2.4.1. Ponder His assurances & compassion & comfort!
- 3.3. (15) **I will not forget!** – a Mothers love is “tops”...but not thee top!  
3.3.1. A mothers love is awesome!  
3.3.1.1. Someone once asked **Susanna Wesley** which one of her 11 children she loved the most. She wisely replied, *"I love the one who's **sick** until he's well, and the one who's **away** until he comes home."*  
3.3.1.2. Mothers struggle w/being a buffer between their kids & the sidewalk? Them and disappointment? Them and failure? How close they are supposed to get? How far to dare fall behind?
- 3.3.2. In Catholicism, going to **Mary** for prayer, or things, is promoted because a **mother** is known for being more “tender, caring, gentle, and patient, forgiving, & understanding.”  
3.3.2.1. But God's love for us **supersedes** a mother's love...“**They may forget, Yet I will not forget!**”  
3.3.2.2. The difference could be likened unto the difference of **the ray** of the sun, verses **the sun!**
- 3.4. (16) **On which hand?** – Oh, both Hands!  
3.4.1. (Pulpit) Drawn from the ancient practice of burning or puncturing figures & other mementoes upon the hand, arm etc., then often rubbing henna, indigo, gun powder, or some other color substance.  
3.4.2. **Inscribed** – speaks of not forgetting, permanent, indelibly marked, i.e. constantly present w/Him.  
3.4.2.1. **Not like man w/tattoo at beach**(blacked out).  
3.4.3. **Inscribed you** – not just your name...but **you!**  
3.4.3.1. Your person, your image, your case, your circumstances, your sins, your temptations, your weaknesses, your wants, your works, all your concerns. **I have them engraved there!**  
3.4.3.2. **Whichever hand He lifts He sees His people!**  
3.4.3.3. He treasures the remembrance of you!  
3.4.4. **Now** – He keeps His promise a 1000 times, & yet the next trial we doubt him again!  
3.4.4.1. **He never fails; He is never a dry well; He is never as a setting sun; He is never as a passing meteor; or a melting vapor; & yet** we are vexed with anxieties, overwhelmed with suspicions, & disturbed with fears, as if God were a mirage of a desert.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Spurgeon; M & E; Nov.7.

- 3.4.5. **Q:** Will you ever say again that God has forsaken you, when He has engraved you on his hands?
- 3.4.6. **Walls** – of Jerusalem.
  - 3.4.6.1. Even her broken walls are before his eyes, w/a view of their rebuilding.
  - 3.4.6.2. What's he eyeing in your life, w/a view rebuilding?
- 3.5. **A STANDARD!** (17-23)
- 3.6. (17) Those that **destroyed** Jerusalem will leave; those **rebuilding** will return!
  - 3.6.1. He will gather His family & bring them home!
- 3.7. (18-20) The city that had been desolate, will be **thronged with people** & w/their own children.
  - 3.7.1. (18) Like **ornaments** they will crowd the city.
  - 3.7.2. (21) They'll be astonished at their innumerable children/descendants
- 3.8. (23) **Wait for me** – in dependence of His promise, a resignation to his will.
  - 3.8.1. **Shame?** – the shame that comes from disappointment of expectations & hope!
    - 3.8.1.1. **"They shall not be ashamed!"**
- 3.9. **A CONTENDER!** (24-26)
- 3.10. **But the enemy seems too strong!**
- 3.11. (25,26) A love stronger than our strongest enemies!