

THE LORD IS OUR BANNER, PT. 3 (ISAIAH 49)

The **Servant, the Light to the Gentiles** is a subtitle attached to **Isaiah 49**. The Servant that is spoken of throughout **Isaiah 49** is speaking of Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Our Redeemer, the One who saves us from our sins against God. Even as Job prophesied in his suffering, he said, "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth." (**Job 19:25**) Christ Jesus is referred to as God's Servant in numerous chapters in Isaiah. In a quote from gotquestions.org, "There are four "Servant Songs" of Isaiah that describe the service, suffering, and exaltation of the Servant of the Lord, the Messiah [The Christ, the Anointed One of God]. All four songs show the Messiah to be God's meek and gentle Servant." That should sound familiar to us. Jesus said, "All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [As He is the Prince of Peace, shalom/eirene, where we have a wholeness and completeness in Christ within ourselves, with God, and even with other brothers and sisters in Christ. Jesus could've also then said, 'lay down your burdens of religion and philosophy yet He continues by saying:] Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (**Matthew 11:27-29**)

Jesus spoke of that in His Great Commission to His disciples saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (**Matthew 28:18-20**) Likewise Jesus said this, "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you." (**John 14:15-17**) Right after that Jesus said, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." (**John 14:23**) We are loving Jesus as He first loved us and we are not just learning of Him but from Him, personally. Then as the Apostle John tells us, "By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." (**1 John 3:16**) That there encompasses the teachings of Jesus by obeying the Great Commandment to love God with all of our heart, soul, strength and mind, and then also loving our neighbors as ourselves. (**Mark 12:30-31**) Combining then the Great Commission with the Great Commandments gives us the phrase that we are "sharing and showing the love and the gospel of Christ Jesus", as we are led by and learn from Him! We also then have God's Word for the Holy Spirit to guide us according to His will

and His ways. Jesus summed up His life and ministry by responding to a couple of disciples of John the Baptist, who had sent them to Jesus to ask if He was "the Coming One", meaning the Messiah that they were looking for and expecting. Jesus replied, in both Matthew's gospel account as well as Luke's saying the exact same thing. As I read Jesus' response, consider how that especially applies to US spiritually. "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me." (**Luke 7:21-23**) That is close to what we can read of in **Isaiah 29:18-21**, "In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness. [He's calling us out of the darkness and into His marvelous light, personally! (**1 Peter 2:9**)] The humble also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. For the terrible one is brought to nothing, the scornful one is consumed, and all who watch for iniquity are cut off—who make a man an offender by a word, and lay a snare for him who reproves in the gate, and turn aside the just by empty words." So, as it is written, "Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord." (**Romans 12:19**)

Gotquestions.org continues by saying, "He [Christ] is [also] a royal figure [He's the King of kings], representing Israel in its ideal form; He is the High Priest, atoning for the sins of the world. [Not only are we being called out of the darkness of sin and evil and into His marvelous light, of which that is how we then live our lives as children of God, we are told, "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy." (**1 Peter 2:9**)] Isaiah predicted that this Servant of the Lord would deliver the world from the prison of sin. In the royal terminology of the ancient Near East, a servant was a "trusted envoy," a "confidential representative," or "one who is chosen." The Servant Songs are found in **Isaiah 42:1-9**; **Isaiah 49:1-13** [which we're reading today]; **Isaiah 50:4-11**; and **Isaiah 52:13-53:12**."¹

In **Isaiah 42**, it begins by God saying, "Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles." That word Gentiles is of the root of the word "goy", which basically means all of the other nations besides Israel. There was and is but One "Elect One" of God who can, will, and does establish God's justice and His righteousness to His people. As it says in **Psalms 33:5**, "He loves

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

righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord". And in **Psalm 37:6**, "He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday." Our righteousness IS His Righteousness. **Ephesians 2:8-10** tells us "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." That means we are expected to walk according to and in His Righteousness. He works in us His Righteousness and we are also to be practicing righteousness by faith in His Righteousness. "Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous." (**1 John 3:7**) One more for us, "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; mercy and truth go before Your face." (**Psalm 89:14**) Mercy and truth! "All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, to such as **keep His covenant and His testimonies.**" (**Psalm 25:10**) We seek after and walk in His mercy, His truth, we find His Righteousness and His Justice! Jesus tells us in **John 14:6**, "**I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**"

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Isaiah 49:1-4 "Listen, O coastlands, to Me, and take heed, you peoples from afar! The Lord has called Me from the womb; from the matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name. [Not that Christ Jesus was created and called solely from the womb. **Hebrews 1:1-4** tells us, "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds [aions]; who being the **brightness of His glory** and the **express image of His person**, and **upholding all things by the word of His power**, when He had **by Himself purged our sins**, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they." Isaiah continues:] And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me, and made Me a polished shaft in His quiver, He has hidden Me." And He said to me, 'You are My servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.' Then I said, 'I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and in vain; yet surely my just reward is with the Lord, and my work with my God.' "

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"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was **life**, and the life was the **light of men**. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it." "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. **He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God,

to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (**John 1:1-5, 10-13**) That is, those who are "born-again" as Jesus put it, born of the Holy Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ. (**Romans 8:9**)

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Isaiah 49:5-8 "And now the Lord says, Who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, to bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel is gathered to Him (For I shall be glorious in the eyes of the Lord, and My God shall be My strength), indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a **light to the Gentiles**, that You should be **My salvation** to the ends of the earth.' " Thus says the Lord, the **Redeemer of Israel**, their **Holy One**, to Him whom man despises, to Him whom the nation abhors, to the Servant of rulers: "Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the Lord who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel; and He has chosen You." Thus says the Lord: "In an acceptable time I have heard You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You; I will preserve You and give You as a covenant to the people, to restore the earth, to cause them to inherit the desolate heritages;

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The Apostle Paul quoted **Isaiah 49:8** saying, "We then, as workers together with Him [Christ Jesus] also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (**2 Corinthians 6:1-2**) Each and every day of our lives as a child of God is our day of salvation in Christ Jesus. Jesus said, "**I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.**" (**John 15:5**) He then goes on to say, "**As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.**" (**John 15:9-10**) Back to Isaiah:

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Isaiah 49:9-13 That You may say to the prisoners, 'Go forth,' to those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves.' "They shall feed along the roads, and their pastures shall be on all desolate heights. They shall neither hunger nor thirst, neither heat nor sun shall strike them; for He who has mercy on them will lead them, even by the springs of water He will guide them. I will make each of My mountains a road, and My highways shall be elevated. Surely these shall come from afar; Look! Those from the north and the west, and these from the land of Sinim." Sing, O heavens! Be joyful, O earth! And break out in singing, O mountains! For the Lord has comforted His people, and will have mercy on His afflicted.

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That reminded me of, as Jesus is the Good Shepherd, Psalm 23 that begins, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake." (Psalm 23:1-3) That is where He leads us, it is then up to us to follow Him, to walk in His Righteousness, to drink of His water, as Jesus told the Samaritan woman, "whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." (John 4:13-14)

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Isaiah 49:14-26 (God Will Remember Zion)

But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me, and my Lord has forgotten me." "Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; your walls are continually before Me. Your sons shall make haste; your destroyers and those who laid you waste shall go away from you. Lift up your eyes, look around and see; all these gather together and come to you. As I live," says the Lord, "You shall surely clothe yourselves with them all as an ornament, and bind them on you as a bride does. "For your waste and desolate places, and the land of your destruction, will even now be too small for the inhabitants; And those who swallowed you up will be far away. The children you will have, after you have lost the others, will say again in your ears, 'The place is too small for me; give me a place where I may dwell.' Then you will say in your heart, 'Who has begotten these for me, since I have lost my children and am desolate, captive, and wandering to and fro? And who has brought these up? There I was, left alone; but these, where were they?' " Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I will lift My hand in an oath to the nations, and set up **My standard for the peoples**; they shall bring your sons in their arms, And your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders; kings shall be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers; they shall bow down to you with their faces to the earth, and lick up the dust of your feet. Then you will know that I am the Lord, for **they shall not be ashamed who wait for Me.**" Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the captives of the righteous be delivered? But thus says the Lord: "Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, And the prey of the terrible be delivered; for **I will contend with him who contends with you**, and I will save your children. I will feed those who oppress you with their own flesh, and they shall be drunk with their own blood as with sweet wine. **All flesh shall know that I, the Lord, am your Savior, and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.**"

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To close, Jesus tells us in **Revelation 22:12-17**, "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." Blessed are those who do His

commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star." And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely."

God's standard is also translated as banner that "refers to a banner or standard that is lifted up as a signal or rallying point. It is often used in the context of military or communal gatherings, serving as a visible sign to guide or unite people. In a broader sense, it can symbolize a divine sign or miracle, representing God's intervention or presence." His banner, His standard is in Christ Jesus as we are told through Isaiah, "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, **Who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious.**" (Isaiah 11:10) "He brought me to the banqueting house, And his banner over me was love." (Song of Solomon 2:4) "Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God." (Revelation 19:9)