



"A Future Hope" (Isaiah 49-54)
Danny Hodges – OT2379

* Isaiah is one of the foremost prophetic books for a number of reasons. Mentioned in the N.T. more than any other book; second most quoted after Psalms. Paul quoted or alluded to Isaiah some eighty times in his epistles & in at least three of his recorded messages (Acts 13:22-23, 34, 47; 17:24-29; 28:26-28). Ch.53 quoted or alluded to more than 85 times in N.T.; Speaks more than any other prophet of the coming kingdom. Chs. 1-39 deal with sin and judgment, while chs. 40-66 deal with blessing and restoration (OT 39 books, NT 27 books!). Events took place around 700 B.C.; Isaiah ministered at least 58 years. His ministry is to a religious yet rebellious people...God had already judged the northern kingdom of Israel. They fell to the Assyrians in 722 B.C. Now the southern kingdom (Judah) is being threatened...

I. THE TEXT

49:1-7 Israel in v.3 cannot refer to the nation, because the servant here who is called Israel is to "bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself" (v.5a). The Servant here is clearly the Messiah, and he is called Israel because he fulfills what Israel has failed in, first of all, living up to their name (governed by God), second, displaying God's splendor, third, being a light to the Gentiles, so that salvation may be brought to the ends of the earth (v.6b), and fourth, to restore the rightful inheritance that Israel had forfeited as a result of their sin, rebellion, and lack of faith (vv.8-9).

49:13 This is meant to cause to respond in faith, looking forward to what God has promised to accomplish for them in the future....but...

49:14 These are people who have lost their faith, and because of the terrible circumstance they find themselves in, they feel that the Lord has not only forsaken them, but forgotten them.

49:15-16a What an amazing statement is that in v.16!

50:1b God reminds them of why calamity has overtaken them, but once again, does not leave them without hope...

50:4-7 Luke 9: 51 As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus *resolutely* set out for Jerusalem.

* Despite Rome ruling over them, and the religious leadership of the Jews steeped in hypocrisy, God had not forgotten them. For three years he had walked their streets in human flesh, and now he set his face like flint to give his life for them...

50:8-10 Don't you think this passage influenced Paul when he wrote Rom.8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...see also 54:17.

50:11 John 9: 41 Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

52:13-54:1 (Gal.4:27, children of faith)

II. LESSONS

A. If You Ever Feel Forsaken, Forgotten by The Lord, Look To The Cross.

* Isa. 49:16a he has engraved us on the palm of His hands

* See also Jer..31:3; Heb.13:5

B. If Present Circumstances In Life Rob You Of Hope, Look To His Word.

* Heb.6: 19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,

* As we read about his works in the past, we are reminded of our hope for the future.

- God's promise to Abraham & Sarah (Isa.51:1-2)

- Israel's deliverance from Rahab, a mythical sea monster representing Egypt

(Isa.51:9-11).

- David in the wilderness, running from Saul

- Job, etc. etc.

* Psalm 30:5

C. Believe In & Anticipate The Future Glory He Has Promised

* A day coming when Christ will rule and reign (Isa.51:4)

* End to this present world (Isa.51:6)

* A day when sorrow and sighing will flee away (Isa.51:11)

* An end to judgment as a result of sin (Isa.51:22)

* An end to sin and wickedness (Isa.52:1; Rev.21:27)

* A glorious future for children of faith (Isa.54:11-12)

D. Proclaim The Good News (Isa.52:7, 10)

* Matthew 28:19-20