

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—The Suffering Servant Brings Salvation (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 49:1–13

The Call of the Messiah

- 1 Listen to me, coastlands,
and listen attentively, peoples from far away!
Yahweh called me from *the* womb;
from the body of my mother he made my name known.
- 2 And he made my mouth like a sharp sword;
he hid me in the shadow of his hand,
and he made me like an sharpened arrow;
he hid me in his quiver.
- 3 And he said to me, “You *are* my servant,
Israel, in whom I will show my glory.”

The Mission of the Messiah

- 4 But I myself said, “I have labored in vain;
I have used up my strength for nothing and vanity!
Nevertheless, my justice *is* with Yahweh,
and my reward *is* with my God.”
 - 5 And now Yahweh says,
who formed me from *the* womb as a servant for him,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might not be gathered,
for I am honored in the eyes of Yahweh,
and my God has become my strength.
- 6 And he says, “It is trivial for you to be a servant for me,

to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to bring back the preserved of Israel.
I will give you as a light *to the* nations,
to be my salvation to the end of the earth.” [\[Acts 13:47\]](#)
- 7 Thus says Yahweh, the redeemer of Israel, his holy one,

to the one who despises life,
to the one who abhors *the* nation,
to *the* slave of rulers:
“Kings shall see and stand up;
princes, and they shall bow down,
for the sake of Yahweh, who *is* faithful,
the holy one of Israel, and he has chosen you.”

Confirmation of the Messiah's Mission

- 8 Thus says Yahweh:

“I have answered you in a time of favor,
and helped you on a day of salvation, [\[2 Cor 6:1–2\]](#)
and watched over you,
and given you as a covenant of *the* people,
to raise up *the* land, to give *the* desolate hereditary property as an inheritance,
saying to the prisoners, “Come out!”
to those who *are* in darkness, “Show yourselves!”
they shall feed along *the* ways,
and their pasturage *shall be* on all *the* barren heights.
- 9 They shall not be hungry or thirsty,
and heat and sun shall not strike them,
for he who takes pity on them will lead them,
- 10

- and he will guide them to springs of water. [\[Rev 7:16–17\]](#)
- 11 And I will make all my mountains like a road,
and my highways shall lead up.
- 12 Look! These shall come from afar,
And look! These from *the* north and from *the* west
and these from the land of Sinim.”
- 13 Sing for joy, heavens, and rejoice, earth!
Mountains must break forth *in* rejoicing!
For Yahweh has comforted his people,
and he will take pity on his afflicted ones.

Isaiah’s Prophecy to Judah—Zion’s Restoration (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 49:14–50:3

Zion’s Complaint

- 49:14 But Zion said, “Yahweh has forsaken me,
and the Lord has forgotten me!”
- 15 Can a woman forget her suckling,
refrain from having compassion on the child of her womb?
Indeed, these may forget,
but I, I will not forget you!
- 16 Look, I have inscribed you on the palms of *my* hands;
your walls *are* continually before me.
- 17 Your children hasten;
your destroyers and those who laid you waste depart from you.
- 18 Lift your eyes up all around and see;
all of them gather; they come to you.
As surely as I live,
declares Yahweh,
surely you shall put on all of them like *an* ornament,
and you shall bind them on like *a* bride.
- 19 Surely your sites of ruins and desolate *places* and land of ruins,

surely now you will be too cramped for your inhabitants,
and those who engulfed you will be far away.
- 20 Yet the children born when you were bereaved will say in your hearing,

“The place is *too* cramped for me;
make room for me so that I can dwell.”
- 21 Then you will say in your heart,

“Who has borne me these?”
And, “I *was* bereaved and barren,
exiled and thrust away;
so who raised these?
Look at me! I was left alone;
where have these come from?”

God Will Free His Children from Oppression

- 22 Thus says the Lord Yahweh:

“Look! I will lift my hand up to *the* nations,
and I will raise my signal to *the* peoples,
and they shall bring your sons in *their* bosom,
and your daughters shall be carried on *their* shoulders.

- 23 And kings shall be your guardians,
and their queens your nurses.
They shall bow down, faces *to the* ground, to you,
and they will lick up the dust of your feet.
Then you will know that I *am* Yahweh;
those who await me shall not be ashamed.
- 24 Can war-booty be taken from *the* mighty?
or can a captive of a righteous *person* be rescued?

25 But thus says Yahweh:

“Indeed a captive of *the* mighty shall be taken,
and *the* war-booty of *the* tyrant shall be rescued,
for I myself will dispute *with* your opponent,
and I myself will save your children.

- 26 And I will feed your oppressors their *own* flesh,
and they shall be drunk *with* their blood as *with* wine.
Then all flesh shall know that I *am* Yahweh,
your savior and redeemer, the strong *one* of Jacob.”

Judah’s Captivity is not God’s Fault—It is Their Own

50:1 Thus says Yahweh:

“Where *is* this divorce document of your mother’s divorce, *with* which I dismissed her?
or to whom of my creditors did I sell you?
Look! you were sold because of your sin,
and your mother was dismissed because of your transgressions.

- 2 Why was there no man when I came,
no one who answered when I called?
Do I lack the strength to save?
Or *is there* no power in me to deliver?
Look! by my rebuke I dry up *the* sea;
I make *the* rivers a desert;
their fish stink because there is no water,
and they die because of thirst.
- 3 I clothe *the* heavens *with* darkness,
and I make their covering sackcloth.”

Isaiah’s Prophecy to Judah—The Suffering Servant Remains Faithful (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 50:4–11

The Suffering of the Messiah

- 50:4 The Lord Yahweh has given me the tongue of a pupil,
to know how to help the weary with a word.
He awakens morning by morning,
awakens an ear for me to listen as do the pupils.
- 5 The Lord Yahweh has opened an ear for me,
and I, I was not rebellious.
I did not turn backwards;
- 6 I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;
I did not hide my face from insults and spittle.

The Messiah’s Trust in God Remains Steadfast

7 And the Lord Yahweh helps me,

therefore I have not been put to shame;
therefore I have set my face like flint.

- 8 And I know that I shall not be ashamed;
 he who obtains rights for me is near.
 Who will contend with me? Let us stand together.
 Who is the master of my judgment? Let him approach me.
- 9 Look! The Lord Yahweh helps me.
 Who is the one who will declare me guilty?
 Look! All of them will be worn out like a garment;
 the moth will eat them.

The Destruction the Wicked Plan for the Messiah Falls Upon Themselves

- 10 Who among you is in fear of Yahweh,
 obeys the voice of his servant?
 Who walks in darkness
 and has no light,
 trusts in the name of Yahweh
 and depends on his God?
- 11 Look! All of you are kindlers of fire,
 who gird yourselves with flaming arrows.
 Walk in the light of your fire,
 and among the flaming arrows you have kindled!
 You shall have this from my hand:
 you shall lie down in a place of torment.

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Zion's Comfort (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 51:1–52:12

Future Blessing for Zion—the New Eden

- 51:1 “Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
 who seek Yahweh.
 Look to *the rock from which* you were hewn,
 and to *the excavation of the pit from which* you were quarried.
- 2 Look to Abraham your father,
 and to Sarah; she brought you forth.
 For I called him alone,
 but I blessed him and made him numerous.”
- 3 For Yahweh will comfort Zion;
 he will comfort all its sites of ruins.
 And he will make its wilderness like Eden,
 and its desert like the garden of Yahweh.
 Joy and gladness will be found in it,
 thanksgiving and *the* sound of song.

Justice to the Nations

- 4 “Listen attentively to me, my people,
 and my nation, listen to me!
 For a teaching will go out from me,
 and I will cause my justice to rest for a light to *the* peoples.
- 5 My righteousness *is* near; my salvation has gone out,
 and my arms will judge *the* peoples.
The coastlands wait for me,
 and for my arm they wait.
- 6 Lift up your eyes to the heavens
 and look to the earth beneath,
 for *the* heavens will be torn to pieces like smoke,
 and the earth will be worn out like *a* garment,
 and those who inhabit her will die like gnats.
 But my salvation will be forever,
 and my righteousness will not be broken to pieces.

Message for the Faithful

- 7 Listen to me, you who know righteousness,
people *who have* my teaching in their heart;
you must not fear *the* reproach of men,
or be terrified because of their abuse.
- 8 For a moth will eat them like garments;
a moth will devour them like wool,
but my righteousness will be forever,
and my salvation for generation after generation.”

The Mighty Redeemer

- 9 Awake! Awake; put on strength, O arm of Yahweh!
Awake as *in* days of long ago,
the generations of a long time back!
Are you not the one who cut Rahab in pieces,
the one who pierced *the* sea-dragon?
- 10 Are you not the one who dried up *the* sea,
the waters of *the* great deep,
the one who made *the* depths of *the* sea a way
for those who are redeemed to cross over?
- 11 So the redeemed ones of Yahweh shall return,
and they shall come *to* Zion with singing,
and everlasting joy *shall be* on their heads.
Joy and gladness shall appear;
sorrow and sighing shall flee away!
- 12 “I, I *am* he who comforts you;
who *are* you that you are afraid of man? He dies!
And of *the* son of humankind? He is sacrificed *as* grass!
- 13 And you have forgotten Yahweh, your maker,
who stretched out *the* heavens,
and founded *the* earth.
And you tremble continually, all day,
because of the wrath of the oppressor
when he takes aim to destroy.
But where *is* the wrath of the oppressor?
- 14 *The* fettered one shall make haste to be freed.
And he shall not die in the pit,
and he shall not lack his bread.
- 15 For I *am* Yahweh, your God,
who stirs up the sea, so that its waves roar;
Yahweh of hosts *is* his name.
- 16 And I have put my words in your mouth,
and I have covered you in the shadow of my hand,
to plant *the* heavens
and to found *the* earth,
saying to Zion, ‘You *are* my people.’”

The Cup of God’s Wrath

- 17 Rouse yourself! Rouse yourself!
Stand up, Jerusalem, who have drunk from the hand of Yahweh the cup of his wrath;
you have drunk the goblet, the cup of staggering;
you have drained *it* out.
- 18 There is no one who guides her among all *the* children she has borne,
and there is no one who grasps her by the hand among all *the* children she raised.
- 19 Two *things* here *have* happened to you—who will show sympathy for you?—
devastation and destruction, famine and sword—who will comfort you?
- 20 Your children have fainted;
they lie at *the* head of all *the* streets, like an antelope in a snare,

those who are full *of* the wrath of Yahweh,
the rebuke of your God.

21 Therefore hear now this afflicted *one*
and drunken *one* but not from wine.

22 Thus says your Lord, Yahweh,
and your God pleads the cause *of* his people:
“Look! I have taken from your hand the cup of staggering.
You shall not continue to drink the goblet, the cup of my wrath, any longer.

23 And I will put it in the hand of your tormenters,
who have said to you, ‘Bow down that we may pass over *you!*’
And you have made your back like the ground,
and like the street for those who pass over *you.*”

God Calls Zion to Awake

52:1 Awake! Awake; put on your strength, Zion!
Put on the garments of your beauty, Jerusalem, holy city!
For *the* uncircumcised and *the* unclean shall not continue to enter you any longer.

2 Shake yourself free from *the* dust! Rise up; sit, Jerusalem!
Free yourselves *from* the bonds of your neck, captive daughter of Zion!

3 For thus says Yahweh:

“You were sold for nothing,
and you shall be redeemed without money.”

4 For thus says the Lord Yahweh:

“My people went down *to* Egypt in the beginning, to dwell as aliens there, and Assyria oppressed him without cause.

5 And now what do I have here?” declares Yahweh, “for my people is taken without cause. Its rulers howl,” declares Yahweh—“and my name *is* reviled continually, all day. [\[Rom 2:24\]](#)

6 Therefore my people shall know my name, therefore in that day, that I *am* the one who speaks. Here am I.”

Zion’s Deliverance Comes

7 How delightful on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news,
who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns as a king.” [\[Rom 10:14–15\]](#)

8 The voices of your watchmen! They lift up *their* voices;
together they sing for joy;
for they clearly see Yahweh’s return *to* Zion.

9 Break forth,
sing for joy together, ruins of Jerusalem,
for Yahweh has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

10 Yahweh has bared his holy arm to the eyes of all the nations,
and all *the* ends of *the* earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Return from Exile

11 Depart, depart, go out from there! You must not touch any unclean thing.
Go out from the midst of it, keep clean, you who carry the vessels of Yahweh. [\[2 Cor 6:17\]](#)

12 For you shall not go out in haste,
and you shall not go in flight,
for Yahweh *is* going before you,
and your rear guard *is* the God of Israel.

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—The Suffering Servant Endures Reproach and Death (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

The Messiah's Suffering Eclipsed by His Exaltation

- 52:13 Look, my servant shall achieve success;
 he shall be exalted,
 and he shall be lifted up,
 and he shall be very high.
- 14 Just as many were appalled at you—
 such *was* his appearance beyond human disfigurement,
 and his form beyond the sons of mankind—
- 15 so he shall sprinkle many nations;
 because of him, kings shall shut their mouths.
 For they shall see what has not been told them,
 and they shall consider with full attention what they have not heard. [[Rom 15:21](#)]

The Messiah Will Not Appear in Majesty

- 53:1 Who has believed our message,
 and to whom has the arm of Yahweh been revealed? [[John 12:38](#); [Rom 10:16](#)]
- 2 For he went up like *a* shoot before him,
 and like *a* root from dry ground.
 He had no form and no majesty that we should see him,
 and no appearance that we should take pleasure in him.
- 3 *He was* despised and rejected *by* men,
 a man of suffering, and acquainted with sickness,
 and like one from whom others hide their faces, *he was* despised,
 and we did not hold him in high regard.

The Messiah Will Offer Himself as a Sacrifice for Sins

- 4 However, he was the one who lifted up our sicknesses,
 and he carried our pain, [[Matt 8:17](#)]
 yet we ourselves assumed him stricken,
 struck down *by* God and afflicted.
- 5 But he *was* pierced because of our transgressions,
 crushed because of our iniquities;
 the chastisement for our peace *was* upon him,
 and by his wounds we were healed.
- 6 All of us have wandered about like sheep;
 we each have turned to his own way;
 and Yahweh let fall on him
 the iniquity of us all. [[1 Pet 2:23–25](#)]
- 7 He was oppressed and afflicted,
 yet he did not open his mouth;
 he was brought like *a* lamb to *the* slaughter,
 and like a sheep is dumb before its shearers,
 so he did not open his mouth.
- 8 He was taken by restraint of justice,
 and who concerned himself with his generation?
 For he was cut off from the land of *the* living;
 he *received a* blow because of the transgression of my people. [[Acts 8:32–33](#)]
- 9 He made his grave with *the* wicked,
 and with *the* rich in his death,
 although he had done no violence,
 and *there was* no deceit in his mouth. [[1 Pet 2:22](#)]

The Messiah's Glorious Accomplished Work

- 10 Yet Yahweh was pleased to crush him;
 he made him sick.
 If [he] places his life a guilt offering,

- he will see offspring.
He will prolong days,
and the will of Yahweh will succeed in his hand.
- 11 From the trouble of his life he will see;
he will be satisfied.
In his knowledge, *the* righteous *one*, my servant, shall declare many righteous,
and he is the one who will bear their iniquities.
- 12 Therefore, I will divide to him *a portion* among the many,
and with *the* strong ones he will divide bounty,
because he poured his life out to death
and was counted with *the* transgressors; [\[Luke 22:37\]](#)
and he was the one who bore the sin of many
and will intercede for the transgressors.

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Zion's Spiritual Children (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 54

The Many Children of Zion

- 54:1 “Sing for joy, barren woman; who has not borne!
Burst forth *into* rejoicing and rejoice, *she* who has not been in labor!
For *the* children of *the* desolate woman *are* more than *the* children of *the* married woman,” says Yahweh. [\[Gal 4:27\]](#)
- 2 “Enlarge the site of your tent,
and let them stretch out the tent curtains of your dwelling place.
You must not spare; make your tent cords long
and strengthen your pegs,
- 3 for you will spread out *to the* right and *to the* left.
And your descendants will be heir *to the* nations,
and they will inhabit desolate towns.

God Has Not Rejected Israel Forever

- 4 You must not fear, for you will not be ashamed,
and you must not be confounded, for you will not feel abashed,
for you will forget the shame of your youth,
and you will no longer remember the disgrace of your widowhood.
- 5 For your husband *is* your maker, his name *is* Yahweh of hosts;
and your redeemer *is* the holy one of Israel, he is called the God of all of the earth.
- 6 For Yahweh has called you like a wife forsaken and hurt of spirit,
like *the* wife of childhood when she is rejected, says your God.
- 7 I abandoned you for a short moment,
but I will gather you with great compassion.
- 8 I hid my face from you *for* a moment, in the flowing of anger,
but I will have compassion on you with everlasting faithfulness” says your redeemer, Yahweh.
- 9 “For this *is like* the waters of Noah to me,
when I swore that the waters of Noah would never again pass over the earth,
so I swore that I would not be angry at you and rebuke you.
- 10 For the mountains may depart,
and the hills may sway,
but my faithfulness shall not depart from you,
and my covenant of peace shall not sway,”
says Yahweh, who has compassion on you,

Future Glory of Zion

- 11 “O afflicted *one*, driven away, *who* is not consoled.
Look! I *am* about to set your stones in hard mortar,
and I will lay your foundation with sapphires.
- 12 And I will make your battlements of ruby,
and your gates of stones of beryl,
and all your wall of precious stones.

- 13 And all your children *shall be* pupils of Yahweh,
and the peace of your children *shall be* great. [\[John 6:45\]](#)
- 14 In righteousness you shall be established.
- Be far from oppression, for you shall not fear,
and from terror, for it shall not come near you.
- 15 If indeed one attacks, *it is* not from me;
whoever attacks you shall fall because of you.
- 16 Look! I myself have created *the* craftsman who blows *the* fire of coals,
and who produces a weapon for his work;
also I myself have created *the* destroyer to destroy.
- 17 Every weapon formed against you shall not succeed,
and you shall declare guilty every tongue *that* rises against you for judgment.
This *is* the inheritance of the servants of Yahweh,
and their legal right from me," declares Yahweh.

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Yahweh's Invitation (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 55

A Divine Invitation to Spiritual Life

- 1 "Ho! Everyone thirsty, come to the waters!
And whoever has no money, come, buy and eat,
and come, buy without money,
wine and milk without price!
- 2 Why do you weigh out money for *what is* not food,
and your labor for what cannot satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat *what is* good,
and let your soul take pleasure in rich food.
- 3 Extend your ear, and come to me!
Listen so that your soul may live,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
the enduring proofs of the mercies shown to David. [\[Acts 13:34\]](#)
- 4 Look! I made him a witness to *the* peoples,
a leader and a commander *for the* peoples.
- 5 Look! You shall call a nation *that* you do not know,
and a nation *that* does not know you shall run to you,
because of Yahweh your God,
and the holy one of Israel, for he has glorified you."

Turn From Your Wickedness

- 6 Seek Yahweh while he lets himself be found;
call him while he is near.
- 7 Let *the* wicked forsake his way,
and *the* man of sin his thoughts.
And let him return to Yahweh, that he may take pity on him,
and to our God, for he will forgive manifold.
- 8 "For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts,
and your ways *are* not my ways,"

declares Yahweh.

- 9 "For *as the* heavens are higher than *the* earth,
so my ways are higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

God's Word Will Accomplish its Purpose

- 10 For just as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,

- and they do not return there
except they have watered the earth thoroughly
and cause it to bring forth and sprout,
and give seed to the sower
and bread to the eater, [[2 Cor 9:10](#)]
- 11 so shall be my word that goes out from my mouth.
It shall not return to me without success,
but shall accomplish what I desire
and be successful *in the thing* for which I sent it.
- 12 For you shall go out in joy,
and you shall be led in peace.
The mountains and the hills shall break forth before you, rejoicing
and all the trees of the field shall clap hands.
- 13 Instead of the thorn bush, *the* juniper shall go up;
instead of the brier, *the* myrtle shall go up,
and it shall serve as a memorial to Yahweh,
for an everlasting sign *that* shall not be cut off.”

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