

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, 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 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 He said to Me, "You are My Servant, Israel,
In Whom I will show My glory."

The Mission of the Messiah

- 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, so 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." [[Acts 13:47](#)]
- 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 will see and arise,
Princes will also bow down,
Because of the LORD who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel who has chosen You."

Confirmation of the Messiah's Mission

- 8 Thus says the LORD, "In a favorable time I have answered You,
And in a day of salvation I have helped You; [[2 Cor 6:1–2](#)]
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,
Nor 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. [[Rev 7:16–17](#)]
- 11 "I will make all My mountains a road,
And My highways will be raised up.
- 12 "Behold, these will 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.

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

Isaiah 49:14–50:3

Zion's Complaint

- 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.
- 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 will 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?'"

God Will Free His Children from Oppression

- 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 "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.
- 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 "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."

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

50:1 Thus says the LORD,

“Where is the certificate of divorce
By which I have sent your mother away?
Or to whom of My creditors did I sell you?
Behold, you were sold for your iniquities,
And for your transgressions your mother was sent away.

2 “Why was there no man when I came?
When I called, *why* was there none to answer?
Is My hand so short that it cannot ransom?
Or have I no power to deliver?
Behold, I dry up the sea with My rebuke,
I make the rivers a wilderness;
Their fish stink for lack of water
And die of thirst.

3 “I clothe the heavens with blackness
And make sackcloth their covering.”

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 GOD has given Me the tongue of disciples,
That I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word.
He awakens *Me* morning by morning,
He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple.

5 The Lord GOD has opened My ear;
And I was not disobedient
Nor did I turn back.

6 I gave My back to those who strike *Me*,
And My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard;
I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting.

The Messiah's Trust in God Remains Steadfast

7 For the Lord GOD helps Me,
Therefore, I am not disgraced;
Therefore, I have set My face like flint,
And I know that I will not be ashamed.

8 He who vindicates Me is near;
Who will contend with Me?
Let us stand up to each other;
Who has a case against Me?
Let him draw near to Me.

9 Behold, the Lord GOD helps Me;
Who is he who condemns Me?
Behold, they will all wear out like a garment;
The moth will eat them.

The Destruction the Wicked Plan for the Messiah Falls Upon Themselves

10 Who is among you that fears the LORD,
That obeys the voice of His servant,
That walks in darkness and has no light?
Let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.

11 Behold, all you who kindle a fire,
Who encircle yourselves with firebrands,
Walk in the light of your fire
And among the brands you have set ablaze.
This you will have from My hand:
You will lie down in 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 the LORD:
Look to the rock from which you were hewn
And to the quarry from which you were dug.
2 “Look to Abraham your father
And to Sarah who gave birth to you in pain;
When *he was but* one I called him,
Then I blessed him and multiplied him.”
3 Indeed, the LORD will comfort Zion;
He will comfort all her waste places.
And her wilderness He will make like Eden,
And her desert like the garden of the LORD;
Joy and gladness will be found in her,
Thanksgiving and sound of a melody.

Justice to the Nations

4 “Pay attention to Me, O My people,
And give ear to Me, O My nation;
For a law will go forth from Me,
And I will set My justice for a light of the peoples.
5 “My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth,
And My arms will judge the peoples;
The coastlands will wait for Me,
And for My arm they will wait expectantly.
6 “Lift up your eyes to the sky,
Then look to the earth beneath;
For the sky will vanish like smoke,
And the earth will wear out like a garment
And its inhabitants will die in like manner;
But My salvation will be forever,
And My righteousness will not wane.

Message for the Faithful

7 “Listen to Me, you who know righteousness,
A people in whose heart is My law;
Do not fear the reproach of man,
Nor be dismayed at their revilings.
8 “For the moth will eat them like a garment,
And the grub will eat them like wool.
But My righteousness will be forever,
And My salvation to all generations.”

The Mighty Redeemer

9 Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD;
Awake as in the days of old, the generations of long ago.
Was it not You who cut Rahab in pieces,
Who pierced the dragon?
10 Was it not You who dried up the sea,
The waters of the great deep;
Who made the depths of the sea a pathway
For the redeemed to cross over?
11 So the ransomed of the LORD will return
And come with joyful shouting to Zion,
And everlasting joy *will be* on their heads.
They will obtain gladness and joy,
And sorrow and sighing will flee away.

- 12 “I, even I, am He who comforts you.
Who are you that you are afraid of man who dies
And of the son of man who is made like grass,
13 That you have forgotten the LORD your Maker,
Who stretched out the heavens
And laid the foundations of the earth,
That you fear continually all day long because of the fury of the oppressor,
As he makes ready to destroy?
But where is the fury of the oppressor?

14 “The exile will soon be set free, and will not die in the dungeon, nor will his bread be lacking.

15 “For I am the LORD your God, who stirs up the sea and its waves roar (the LORD of hosts is His name).

16 “I have put My words in your mouth and have covered you with the shadow of My hand, to establish the heavens, to found the earth, and to say to Zion, ‘You are My people.’”

The Cup of God’s Wrath

- 17 Rouse yourself! Rouse yourself! Arise, O Jerusalem,
You who have drunk from the LORD’s hand the cup of His anger;
The chalice of reeling you have drained to the dregs.
18 There is none to guide her among all the sons she has borne,
Nor is there one to take her by the hand among all the sons she has reared.
19 These two things have befallen you;
Who will mourn for you?
The devastation and destruction, famine and sword;
How shall I comfort you?
20 Your sons have fainted,
They lie *helpless* at the head of every street,
Like an antelope in a net,
Full of the wrath of the LORD,
The rebuke of your God.
21 Therefore, please hear this, you afflicted,
Who are drunk, but not with wine:
22 Thus says your Lord, the LORD, even your God
Who contends for His people,
“Behold, I have taken out of your hand the cup of reeling,
The chalice of My anger;
You will never drink it again.
23 “I will put it into the hand of your tormentors,
Who have said to you, ‘Lie down that we may walk over you.’
You have even made your back like the ground
And like the street for those who walk over *it*.”

God Calls Zion to Awake

- 52:1 Awake, awake,
Clothe yourself in your strength, O Zion;
Clothe yourself in your beautiful garments,
O Jerusalem, the holy city;
For the uncircumcised and the unclean
Will no longer come into you.
2 Shake yourself from the dust, rise up,
O captive Jerusalem;
Loose yourself from the chains around your neck,
O captive daughter of Zion.

3 For thus says the LORD, “You were sold for nothing and you will be redeemed without money.”

4 For thus says the Lord GOD, “My people went down at the first into Egypt to reside there; then the Assyrian oppressed them without cause.

5 “Now therefore, what do I have here,” declares the LORD, “seeing that My people have been taken away without cause?” *Again* the LORD declares, “Those who rule over them howl, and My name is continually blasphemed all day long. [\[Rom 2:24\]](#)

6 “Therefore My people shall know My name; therefore in that day I am the one who is speaking, ‘Here I am.’”

Zion's Deliverance Comes

- 7 How lovely on the mountains
Are the feet of him who brings good news,
Who announces peace
And brings good news of happiness,
Who announces salvation,
And says to Zion, "Your God reigns!" [[Rom 10:14–15](#)]
- 8 Listen! Your watchmen lift up *their* voices,
They shout joyfully together;
For they will see with their own eyes
When the LORD restores Zion.
- 9 Break forth, shout joyfully together,
You waste places of Jerusalem;
For the LORD has comforted His people,
He has redeemed Jerusalem.
- 10 The LORD has bared His holy arm
In the sight of all the nations,
That all the ends of the earth may see
The salvation of our God.

Return from Exile

- 11 Depart, depart, go out from there,
Touch nothing unclean;
Go out of the midst of her, purify yourselves,
You who carry the vessels of the LORD. [[2 Cor 6:17](#)]
- 12 But you will not go out in haste,
Nor will you go as fugitives;
For the LORD will go before you,
And the God of Israel *will be* your rear guard.

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 Behold, My servant will prosper,
He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted.
- 14 Just as many were astonished at you, *My people*,
So His appearance was marred more than any man
And His form more than the sons of men.
- 15 Thus He will sprinkle many nations,
Kings will shut their mouths on account of Him;
For what had not been told them they will see,
And what they had not heard they will understand. [[Rom 15:21](#)]

The Messiah Will Not Appear in Majesty

- 53:1 Who has believed our message?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? [[John 12:38](#); [Rom 10:16](#)]
- 2 For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot,
And like a root out of parched ground;
He has no *stately* form or majesty
That we should look upon Him,
Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.
- 3 He was despised and forsaken of men,
A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
And like one from whom men hide their face
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

The Messiah Will Offer Himself as a Sacrifice for Sins

- 4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore,
And our sorrows He carried; [[Matt 8:17](#)]
Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten of God, and afflicted.
- 5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities;
The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him,
And by His scourging we are healed.
- 6 All of us like sheep have gone astray,
Each of us has turned to his own way;
But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all
To fall on Him. [[1 Pet 2:23–25](#)]
- 7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted,
Yet He did not open His mouth;
Like a lamb that is led to slaughter,
And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers,
So He did not open His mouth.
- 8 By oppression and judgment He was taken away;
And as for His generation, who considered
That He was cut off out of the land of the living
For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke *was due*? [[Acts 8:32–33](#)]
- 9 His grave was assigned with wicked men,
Yet He was with a rich man in His death,
Because He had done no violence,
Nor was there any deceit in His mouth. [[1 Pet 2:22](#)]

The Messiah's Glorious Accomplished Work

- 10 But the LORD was pleased
To crush Him, putting *Him* to grief;
If He would render Himself *as* a guilt offering,
He will see *His* offspring,
He will prolong *His* days,
And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand.
- 11 As a result of the anguish of His soul,
He will see *it and* be satisfied;
By His knowledge the Righteous One,
My Servant, will justify the many,
As He will bear their iniquities.
- 12 Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great,
And He will divide the booty with the strong;
Because He poured out Himself to death,
And was numbered with the transgressors; [[Luke 22:37](#)]
Yet He Himself bore the sin of many,
And interceded for the transgressors.

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

Isaiah 54

The Many Children of Zion

- 1 "Shout for joy, O barren one, you who have borne no *child*;
Break forth into joyful shouting and cry aloud, you who have not travailed;
For the sons of the desolate one *will be* more numerous
Than the sons of the married woman," says the LORD. [[Gal 4:27](#)]
- 2 "Enlarge the place of your tent;
Stretch out the curtains of your dwellings, spare not;
Lengthen your cords
And strengthen your pegs.
- 3 "For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left.

And your descendants will possess nations
And will resettle the desolate cities.

God Has Not Rejected Israel Forever

- 4 “Fear not, for you will not be put to shame;
And do not feel humiliated, for you will not be disgraced;
But you will forget the shame of your youth,
And the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more.
- 5 “For your husband is your Maker,
Whose name is the LORD of hosts;
And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel,
Who is called the God of all the earth.
- 6 “For the LORD has called you,
Like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit,
Even like a wife of *one’s* youth when she is rejected,”
Says your God.
- 7 “For a brief moment I forsook you,
But with great compassion I will gather you.
- 8 “In an outburst of anger
I hid My face from you for a moment,
But with everlasting lovingkindness I will have compassion on you,”
Says the LORD your Redeemer.
- 9 “For this is like the days of Noah to Me,
When I swore that the waters of Noah
Would not flood the earth again;
So I have sworn that I will not be angry with you
Nor will I rebuke you.
- 10 “For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake,
But My lovingkindness will not be removed from you,
And My covenant of peace will not be shaken,”
Says the LORD who has compassion on you.

Future Glory of Zion

- 11 “O afflicted one, storm-tossed, *and* not comforted,
Behold, I will set your stones in antimony,
And your foundations I will lay in sapphires.
- 12 “Moreover, I will make your battlements of rubies,
And your gates of crystal,
And your entire wall of precious stones.
- 13 “All your sons will be taught of the LORD;
And the well-being of your sons will be great. [[John 6:45](#)]
- 14 “In righteousness you will be established;
You will be far from oppression, for you will not fear;
And from terror, for it will not come near you.
- 15 “If anyone fiercely assails *you* it will not be from Me.
Whoever assails you will fall because of you.
- 16 “Behold, I Myself have created the smith who blows the fire of coals
And brings out a weapon for its work;
And I have created the destroyer to ruin.
- 17 “No weapon that is formed against you will prosper;
And every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn.
This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD,
And their vindication is from Me,” declares the LORD.

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

Isaiah 55

A Divine Invitation to Spiritual Life

- 1 "Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters;
And you who have no money come, buy and eat.
Come, buy wine and milk
Without money and without cost.
- 2 "Why do you spend money for what is not bread,
And your wages for what does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good,
And delight yourself in abundance.
- 3 "Incline your ear and come to Me.
Listen, that you may live;
And I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
According to the faithful mercies shown to David. [[Acts 13:34](#)]
- 4 "Behold, I have made him a witness to the peoples,
A leader and commander for the peoples.
- 5 "Behold, you will call a nation you do not know,
And a nation which knows you not will run to you,
Because of the LORD your God, even the Holy One of Israel;
For He has glorified you."

Turn From Your Wickedness

- 6 Seek the LORD while He may be found;
Call upon Him while He is near.
- 7 Let the wicked forsake his way
And the unrighteous man his thoughts;
And let him return to the LORD,
And He will have compassion on him,
And to our God,
For He will abundantly pardon.
- 8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD.
- 9 "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways
And My thoughts than your thoughts.

God's Word Will Accomplish its Purpose

- 10 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
And do not return there without watering the earth
And making it bear and sprout,
And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; [[2 Cor 9:10](#)]
- 11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth;
It will not return to Me empty,
Without accomplishing what I desire,
And without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it.
- 12 "For you will go out with joy
And be led forth with peace;
The mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you,
And all the trees of the field will clap *their* hands.
- 13 "Instead of the thorn bush the cypress will come up,
And instead of the nettle the myrtle will come up,
And it will be a memorial to the LORD,
For an everlasting sign which will not be cut off."