

I. Included - Isaiah 49:1-4

1. The object of his prophecy (**verse 1**)
 - the “islands”
 - the “distant nations”
 2. Listen and hear
 3. Called
 - Rea -early call
 - from birth
 - mother’s womb
 - Rea -speaks to what we might call “destiny” - this is what I was “meant” to do
 - no ordinary human being (our writer says)
 - Rea -true... yet, Jeremiah 1: 5 recounts the same type idea - there “before I formed you in your mother’s womb”
 4. This messenger is “God with us” - Isaiah 7:14
 5. His mouth is sharpened (**verse 2**)
 - like a sword
 - a polished arrow (a unique arrow) - special
 - Rea -God often brings out His servants at just the right time... but until then they are hidden away. John the Baptist was such a messenger... shows up and is gone in a second.
 - hidden away in the quiver (for just the right time)
 6. You are my servant “Israel” (**verse 3**)
 - “Israel” refers to an individual not the nation - because of context
 - the nation had not fulfilled what God expected, so He sent this servant
 7. The servant responds (**verse 4**)
 - A. I have labored in vain
 - B. I have spent my strength
 - C. Therefore his reward is with God
 - *success has to do with pleasing God
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. When a message/ messenger is rejected - it is really not them that is rejected but the God who sent them
 2. The identity of the “servant” is debated
 - Jesus? (Messiah)
 - Isaiah?
 - the nation of Israel
 - *a combination of all?
 3. As a preacher/ messenger/ pastor - I’ve often felt “called from my mother’s womb”

II. Called - Isaiah 49:5-7

1. From my mother’s womb (**verse 5**)
 - to bring Jacob back to Him
 - Rea -God’s intent is always to “get His children back”
 - Rea -therefore, leave the 99 and go after the 1

2. Too small to get Israel back you'll also be a light to the Gentiles (**verse 6**)
 - to "restore"
 - to "bring back"
- Rea -the New Testament tells us that we have been given the ministry of "reconciliation" - 2 Cor. 5:17-21
- Rea -all the way to the Gentiles
- Rea -from the very beginning God had in mind the whole world, not just the Jews
3. The servant will be (**verse 7**)
 - despised
 - abhorred
4. Kings will see you
 - will humble themselves before you
5. This "redeemer" is "chosen"
 - the word for "chosen" is Messiah
- Rea
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. This prophecy looks far, far ahead
 2. So, a crucified Messiah - compare chapter 53
 3. "Redeemer"
 4. Compare the idea of "reconciler" and the "ministry of reconciliation" at 2 Cor. 5:17-21
 - He is the "salt" of the earth
 - we are (also) the "salt" of the earth

III. Vindicated - Isaiah 49:8-12

1. Answer and help (**verse 8**)
 - Rea -"favor" is actually "my" favor - in other words, in the time of my choosing/ favor
 - day of salvation - the year of jubilee
2. Make a new covenant - make "you" to be a covenant
 - Rea -Jesus Himself is the covenant (we meet God in Jesus) - a place of meeting - a tent/ tabernacle
3. **Verse 9** hearkens to the idea of jubilee year (50th year)
 - restore the land
 - reassign inheritances
 - captives in darkness
4. In that day (**verse 10**)
 - they will neither hunger nor thirst
 - He will guide them
 - just like the wilderness travels
 - He will help with the heat of the journey
 - Rea -the idea of being pilgrims - on a journey, "on the way" - which would carry the idea that God is involved with us in whatever our "wilderness"
 - Rea -we never stop we are always "on the way"
5. Mountains into highways (**verse 11**)
 - Rea -God will make a "way"
 - Rea -God goes before us and makes a pathway
6. People will come from far off (**verse 12**)
 - one of the extremes of the known world

Rea -the Gentiles

7. Call for the heavens to rejoice (**verse 13**)

Rea -God is doing a big thing - “Joy to the World”

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Out of their trial comes this future glory (prophecy of)
2. A future “day” (verse 10)
3. His “compassion” is displayed in His everlasting patience
4. God is with you in whatever your “wilderness”

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