

Isaiah 49

New King James Version (NKJV)

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The Servant, the Light to the Gentiles

1 “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.

2 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.”

3 “ And He said to me,

‘ You are My servant, O Israel, In whom I will
be glorified.’

4 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.””

5 “ 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),

6 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.””

7 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.”

8 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;

9 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. 10 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.

11 I will make each of My mountains a road,
And My highways shall be elevated.

12 Surely these shall come from afar; Look!
Those from the north and the west, And these
from the land of Sinim.”

13 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.

God Will Remember Zion

14 But Zion said, “The LORD has forsaken me,
And my Lord has forgotten me.”

15 “ 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.

16 See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands;

Your walls are continually before Me. 17 Your sons shall make haste;

Your destroyers and those who laid you waste Shall go away from you.

18 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. 19 “ 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.

20 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.’

21 Then you will say in your heart,

‘ Who has begotten these for me,
Since I have lost my children and am desolate,
A captive, and wandering to and fro?
And who has brought these up?
There I was, left alone;
But these, where were they?’”

22 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;

23 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.”

24 Shall the prey be taken from the mighty,
Or the captives of the righteous be delivered?

25 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.

26 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.”

