

# A Morning Retreat

Saturday, April 25 @ 9:30 am  
Streaming at [dallasbible.online.church](https://dallasbible.online.church)



## EXCERPTS FROM ISAIAH 49:1-18

### A Call to Listen

1 Listen to me\*, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The Lord called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. 2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. 3 And he said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.” 4 But I said, “I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the Lord, and my recompense with my God.”

### The Messiah Will Restore Israel & the Entire World

5 And now the Lord says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him—for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—6 he says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” 7 Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: “Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

### The Messiah is On His Way!

8 Thus says the Lord: “In a time of favor I have answered you; in a day of salvation I have helped you; I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages, 9 saying to the prisoners, ‘Come out,’ to those who are in darkness, ‘Appear.’ They shall feed along the ways; on all bare heights shall be their pasture; 10 they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them.

*\*The speaker (“me”) in this passage is Jesus, Israel's Messiah*

### The Great Compassion of the Lord

13 Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted. 14 But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me." 15 "Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. 16 Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me. 17 Your builders make haste; your destroyers and those who laid you waste go out from you. 18 Lift up your eyes around and see; they all gather, they come to you. As I live, declares the Lord, you shall put them all on as an ornament; you shall bind them on as a bride does."

## **SOME COMMENTS ON ISAIAH 49:1-18**

The book of Isaiah has two main sections - chapters 1-39 and chapters 40-66. In section one, according to OT scholar Dr. Allen Ross, "the northern kingdom of Israel had been carried into captivity (722 B.C.), and the kingdom of Judah was in the middle of idolatry and evil." Israel's evil behavior had resulted in God's divine judgment in the form of exile (see Deuteronomy 28). In the second section, Isaiah predicts ANOTHER exile, this time at the hands of the Babylonians (586-536 B.C.).

So what does exile feel like? It feels like being ripped away from your homeland and isolated in a foreign place. It feels like a never ending in-between. It feels like loss of control, loss of identity, loss of security. In some ways, it feels like the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the book of Isaiah, the people cry out to God: Do you see us? Do you remember us? Will you save us? Can we trust you?

Isaiah 49 answers these questions with a resounding YES! Yahweh sees His people, cares for His people, and will rescue His people. Moreover, He loves all the people of the world, not just Israel. And out of His incredible mercy and compassion, He has decided to one day send a Messiah who will be a LIGHT to all the nations.

This Messiah will provide salvation, security, hope, and abundance. And He will love His people with a ferocity like that of a mother who passionately adores her children. He will know them so intimately that their names will be written on His hands. This is the God we serve - an intimate, passionate, all-seeing, all-caring, rescuing Savior. And this God is not done yet - He will return again to fulfill every promise He has made!