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**SERIES: Isaiah, Part 2 (Comfort For His People)**

**TITLE: Program 19 – I Will Not Forget You**

**THURSDAY**

**OPEN**

Have you ever felt forsaken by God, Precious One? Do you feel like God has abandoned you? You were counting on Him to show up. You were counting on Him to do something. You were counting on Him to deliver you, but He didn't do it, and you have found yourself in pain and trauma, and you are wondering where God is. You know what the Word says, but you are saying, "No, no, no. The Lord's forsaken me. The Lord's forgotten me." O Precious One, He can't; you're on His palms. We'll talk about it today.

**PART ONE**

As we look today at Isaiah 49 we're going to look at God's servant, Israel. We're going to look at Messiah, and we're going to look at your responsibility and my responsibility that we will carry out if we really listen to God, if we know "Thus says the Lord." Now when you come to Isaiah chapter 49 God is speaking and He says, **"Listen...O islands, and pay**

**attention, you peoples from afar....” (Isaiah 49:1)** And what He’s going to show them in this chapter is, yes, the good news, the gospel is for Abraham. [It is for the Jews. It is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes, to the Jew first and also to the Gentiles.] (PARAPHRASE Romans 1:16) Who are the Gentiles? They’re the islands. They’re those people that are from afar. In other words, this good news, this message that is light, that’s going to shine in the darkness, is a message for all the world. And it’s your responsibility and my responsibility to get that message out, I mean, to go. I wish I could stand up. I broke my ankle very, very badly and right now I can’t stand up, and I can’t physically go. But listen, in my wheelchair I can really make tracks. And I can really serve the Lord. We are to go. Now as we start Isaiah 49 there is debate on who this is in the first four verses. Is this speaking of Israel or is this speaking of Jesus Christ the Messiah? Well He directs the message and He calls the servant, Israel. That’s the way I personally lean. But I want you to know there are others that say, “Oh no, He’s talking about the Messiah.” Messiah is the Promised One, the Anointed One, the Christ. “Messiah” is the Hebrew word for Christ, the Promised One, the Anointed One in the New Testament which is Jesus Christ, “Yeshua”. All right now, let’s look, if this could possibly be Israel. In verse 1 it says, “**...The LORD...,**” and I’m in the third line, “**...the LORD called Me from the womb; from the body of My mother He [God] named Me. He has made My mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of His hand He has concealed Me...He has...made Me a select arrow....” (Isaiah 49:1-2)** Now we automatically think, Jesus. From the womb of Mary, that He is like a sharp arrow, that His mouth is like a sharp sword. And we think about Revelation chapter 19. But then you flip the page if you’re in the New American Standard, and it says, “**...He has hidden Me in His quiver. He said to Me, ‘You are My Servant, Israel, in Whom I will show My glory.’” (Isaiah 49:2-3)** All right now, I talked about this yesterday, but I want us to look at a couple of cross-references just

so that you know that I'm aware of these different views. Isaiah 44, verse 2, and I've got this written in pencil next to verse 1 of Isaiah 49, Isaiah 44, verse 2. Now let me start in verse 1. **"But now listen, O Jacob, My servant, and Israel, whom I [God] have chosen: thus says the LORD who made you and formed you from the womb, who will help you, 'Do not fear, O Jacob My servant; and you Jeshurun whom I have chosen.'"** (Isaiah 44:1-2) So we know very clearly that God has called Israel from the womb. Now we know that He began the nation of Israel through one man, Father Abraham. We know that. We know that He promised Abraham in Genesis chapter 12 that He would make a great nation of him and that He would bless those that blessed him and He would curse those that cursed him, and in him, in Abraham, all the nations of the earth would be blessed. (See Genesis 12:2-3) Now when He says, "all the nations of the earth," He's saying that this good news is not just for one people, but it is for the whole world, and that's important for you to understand. All right now, as we look at this I also want you to look at chapter 46, verse 3. In chapter 46, verse 3 it says, **"Listen to Me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, you who have been borne by Me from birth and have been carried from the womb; even to your old age I will be the same, and even to your graying years I will bear you...!"** (Isaiah 46:3-4) So we know that this could relate to Israel. We know that when we go on and we read it that He calls them Israel. And He says **"...in [you] I will show My glory."** (Isaiah 49:3) If we were to go back to Isaiah chapter 2, in Isaiah chapter 2 in verses 1 to 3, if you'll go back there 'cause I want you to see how He's going to show His glory. A true glory means a true estimate. That which has weight, that which has value. So He's going to show us the true estimate of who He is in Isaiah chapter 2 as He talks about the last days when all the nations will come to the mountain of Israel. He's talking about Zion, Mount Zion where the temple will be rebuilt. And by the way, the temple was there before the mosque was ever there. He says in verse 3,

**“And many peoples will come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He [the God of Jacob] may teach us concerning His ways...that we may walk in His paths.’ For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem....He will judge between [many] nations [He] will render decisions for many [people] ....” (Isaiah 2:3-4)** In other words, this is the true weight. Messiah is going to be there. So we see that God is going to show His glory in Israel. But also, and I usually don’t like to do this when we’re studying Isaiah ’cause I want you to discover it yourself, but I’ve got to do it this time. So go to Isaiah chapter 60. In Isaiah chapter 60 this is what we read. **“Arise, [and] shine; for your light has come....”** Now watch the word, “light”. **“...And the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.”** “You, who?” should be our question. **“For behold, darkness will cover the earth...deep darkness the peoples; but the LORD will rise upon you and His glory will appear upon you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.” (Isaiah 60:1-3)** And then it talks about how the wealth of nations are going to come to you, (See Isaiah 60:6) and how foreigners, verse 10, are gonna build up your walls and your gates are not going to be closed. And then you come to verse 14. **“The sons of those who afflicted you will come bowing to you, and all those who despised you [you were despised] will bow themselves at the soles of your feet; and [then] they will call you the city of the LORD, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel.” (Isaiah 60:14)** This is the future of Israel. And so because of all of that I personally hold to or lean towards this being Israel because it says “Israel.” It says, **“But [you] said, [‘I’ve] toiled in vain, [I’ve] spent My strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely the justice due...Me is with the LORD, and My reward [is] with...God.” (Isaiah 49:4)** Now one of the things that you see in Isaiah is, you see Israel saying, “Where is the justice due me?” And God will give them the justice due them. And God will give them a reward or a lack of reward. Now let’s go on

to verse 5. **“And now says the LORD, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant...,”** sounds like the same thing. But listen to the next line. **“...To bring Jacob back to Him....”** Who’s Jacob? Israel. **“...So that Israel might be gathered to Him....” (Isaiah 49:5)** Oh, now wait a minute. Who’s this one that’s a servant from the womb that is called to bring Jacob back to the Lord? Well, let’s keep reading. When you don’t know, keep reading; keep observing. He says, **“...(For I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and My God is My strength).”** And **“He says, ‘Is it 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 [also] will...make You a light to the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.’ Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and its Holy One, to the despised One, to the One abhorred by the nation...,”** singular, “nation.” **“...To the Servant of rulers, ‘Kings will see and arise [and] princes will...bow down, because of the LORD who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel who has chosen You.’” (Isaiah 49:5-7)** Who is this? I believe that this is Messiah. I believe that this is “Yeshua”. This is Jesus Christ. This is a prophecy. This is the One that God is going to use to bring Israel back to God. So in verses 1 to 4 you see His Servant Israel. Now you see His Servant Jesus who is going to be used in the redemption of Israel, also, so that His salvation may reach to the ends of the earth. If you just stop and think, Precious One, if you just stop and think and you think the whole scope of the Word of God, if you think the whole counsel of God, then you begin to understand this better. And that’s what we’re going to do in the next segment after you listen to this announcement that I don’t want you to miss. So I’ll see you in just a minute.

## **PART TWO**

Remember we talked about feeling forsaken by the Lord and we’re gonna see that in Isaiah 49, verse 14 when it says, **“But Zion said, ‘The LORD**

has forsaken me, and the LORD has forgotten me.” And it says, **“Can a woman forget her nursing child and have no compassion on the son of her womb?”** He says, **“...Even these may forget, but I will not forget you....I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands....”** (Isaiah 49:14-16) I’m not gonna forget you Israel. As a matter of fact, what’s He going to do? He’s going to raise up a Servant that is going to restore Jacob, that is going to restore Israel. Now watch what it says. Let’s go back to verse 6. **“He says, ‘Is it too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob [all twelve tribes] and to restore the preserved ones of Israel....’”** “The preserved ones of Israel” is another way to mark the “remnant,” those that remain faithful. Not all Israel’s going to be saved. But some of Israel will be saved. The Israel that is living in the days when Jesus returns as King of kings, those will be saved. But those that die before will not. So now what He says He wants: **“...to raise [them up]....”** He wants **“...to restore the preserved ones of Israel;** [but He wants to make His Servant] **a light to the nations so that [His] salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”** (Isaiah 49:6) So this is the way God does it. He has Abraham; Abraham has a seed. And this is Genesis chapter 15 and Genesis chapter 15 is interpreted for us in Galatians chapter 3, saying: [And the promise was not made to seeds as to many, but as seeds as to one, that is Christ.] (See Galatians 3:16) In other words; now watch, out of Abraham, out of the loins of Abraham is going to eventually come Messiah. So Messiah is going to come out, just picture me standing on the shoulders of Abraham with my hands out in the shape of a cross, that’s Jesus coming up out of Abraham. When the gospel of Matthew opens up it starts off— and I want you to see it, or at least write it down because it’s so significant; so significant. Here it is the genealogy, and you think “What can be significant?” It’s crucial. And it says, **“The record of the genealogy of Jesus...,”** “Yeshua” **“...the Messiah, the son of David....”** Now listen, **“...the son of Abraham.”** (Matthew 1:1) So His roots go all the way back.

So what you have is Abraham and then Isaac and Jacob—the nation of Israel—out of the nation of Israel. Out of the tribe of Judah comes the house of David. Out of the house of David comes Jesus who is the Son of David. So you have Abraham. You have the nation. You have the Messiah. But does God stop there? No, He has the gospel to the ends of the world. So now watch what happens. In Isaiah, and you’ve got to think with me. I mean, I’m not giving you milk. You need meat so you can grow up. So we’re growing up together. He says, **“...I will...make You a light [to] the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” (Isaiah 49:6)** Now do you know that this is a quote from Acts chapter 13, in verse 47? And I want us to look at this, Acts chapter 13. Oh I love the Word of God! I love how it fits together. I love seeing the big picture. In Acts chapter 13, in verse 44 it says, **“The next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of the Lord. But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and [they] were blaspheming. [And] Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, ‘It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first....’** You who? You Jews. **“...Since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life...,”** and that’s what you do when you reject the gospel you’re saying, “I’m not worthy of eternal life.” What a fool you are. **“...Behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us....” (Acts 13:44-47)** Now who is “us”? “Us” is Paul. “Us” is Barnabas. “Us” is the new church. “It starts off with Jew, and then comes “Jew and Gentile in one body, the church.” He says, **“For so the Lord...commanded us...,”** and he quotes Isaiah that we’re reading, **“I have placed You as a light for the Gentiles, that You may bring salvation to the end of the earth.” (Acts 13:47)** When Jesus Christ got ready to ascend to heaven, what did He say? He says, [“You tarry here. You’re gonna receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you are going to be witnesses unto Me in Jerusalem, in Judea, in Samaria, the

land of Israel, and to the uttermost parts of the earth.”] (PARAPHRASE Acts 1:8) And that’s what they are doing. Now when it says “...**The Redeemer...and [His] Holy One...the [One] despised....**” (Isaiah 49:7) Jesus was despised. Jesus was rejected. It says, “...**The One abhorred by the nation....**” In John chapter 1, verse 11 it says “**He came [to] His own [His own people] and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them [He] gave [the] power to become the sons of God....**” (John 1:11, KJV) So what you see here is, He is “...**the Servant of rulers....**” He is the One that “...**kings will see and arise, [and]...bow down [before Him]....**” (Isaiah 49:7) So you have Israel, and out of Israel comes Messiah, and from Messiah, through Israel again and the church, salvation goes out to all the nations. Listen, you nations; listen. He is not just the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. But He is there for all men. And Galatians chapter 3 tells us this. It doesn’t matter what race you are. It doesn’t matter what nation you live in. It doesn’t matter whether you were born in a Muslim nation, a Hindu nation, a Buddhist nation. It doesn’t matter. Those gods are gods of man’s imagination. They are not God. There is only one, and I’m quoting God. He says, “**I am the LORD, and there is no other...there is no God [besides Me]....**” (Isaiah 45:5) And so you and I then seeing this and believing this, it says, “**There is neither Jew, nor Greek [Gentile], there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**” (Galatians 3:28) Galatians 3, verse 29, “**And if you belong to Christ...,**” to “Meshiach,” “...**then you are Abraham’s descendants [seed], heirs according to [the] promise.**” (Galatians 3:29) So the gospel is to go into all the world, but: “**Thus says the LORD, ‘In a favorable time I have answered You, and in a day of salvation I have helped You...I will keep You and give You...a covenant [to] the people....**” This is Jesus. “...**To restore the land, to make them inherit the desolate heritages; saying to those [that] are bound, ‘Go forth,’ [and] to those who are in darkness, ‘Show**



**yourselves.’ Along the roads they will feed, and their pasture will be on....[the] bare heights. They will not hunger or thirst, nor will the scorching [scorching] heat or sun strike them down; for He who has compassion on [you] will lead them...[I] will guide them to springs of water. I will make all [the] mountains a road...My highways will be raised up.” (Isaiah 49:8-11) Behold, these will come from afar; and lo, these will come from the north...from the west, and these from the land of Sinim. Shout for joy, O heavens! ...Rejoice, O earth! Break...into joyful shouting, O mountains! For the LORD has comforted His people....” That’s the way this segment opens up. “...And [He] will have compassion on His afflicted. But Zion has said, ‘The LORD has forsaken me...the LORD has forgotten me.’” And He says, “Can a woman forget her nursing child...? [These] have...compassion on the son of [the] womb? [And]...they may forget, but I [won’t] forget you...[I’ve engraved] you on [My] palms....” (Isaiah 49:12-16) When Jesus Christ hung on that cross He was nailed to the cross for the sins of the world. The gospel was to the Jew first and then to the Gentile. Jesus died for all men. God has not forgotten Israel. He’s not forgotten you. Hang on to that until tomorrow.**