### Isaiah

## Chapter 49

[Editor Note: The text says that much of the following is not being spoken by God, but by ‘the Lord,’ who communicated God’s words. So, we have not capitalized the personal pronouns where we think he was speaking.]   
  
1‘O islands; listen to this!  
 Yes, pay attention O nations;  
 For after some time, it will happen,’ said the Lord.  
  
 ‘From the belly of my mother, He called me by name  
 2And He made my mouth a sharp sword.  
 In the protection of His hand, He then hid me;  
 Yes, I’m the one He selected  
 As the favored arrow in His quiver.  
 3Then He said, ‘You are My servant!  
 And through you, I’ll be glorified.‘  
  
 4‘But I replied:  
  
 ‘I’m useless and tired.  
 So, it will all be in vain,  
 Since I’ve used all my strength and gained nothing.  
 I have been judged by Jehovah,  
 And all my works [were examined] by God.’  
  
 5‘But now,’ says Jehovah  
 (The One who shaped me as His servant from the belly),  
 ‘You must collect Jacob for Me  
 So that IsraEl will all be returned.’  
  
 ‘He said that before Him, I’ll be glorified,  
 And in my God, I’ll gain strength.  
 6He said:  
  
 ‘To be called My servant  
 Is truly the greatest of things;  
 For the tribes of Jacob, you will return,  
 And you’ll bring back the scattered of IsraEl.  
  
 ‘{Look!} I’ve made a Sacred Agreement with them  
 To be a race that will serve  
 As a light to the nations,  
 And I’ll bring them salvation to the ends of the earth.  
  
 7‘Yes Jehovah, IsraEl’s God  
 (The One who will bring them salvation) says this:  
  
 ‘You must treat [this person] as holy  
 Who views his life as having no value…  
 The one whom the nations will hate,  
 And be abhorred by the servants of rulers.  
  
 ‘But, kings will see him and rulers will rise;  
 Then before him, they all will bow low,  
 Because this Lord is trustworthy…  
 He’s My chosen and IsraEl’s most holy one!  
 Yes this most holy one can be trusted,  
 And he’s the one whom I’ve chosen,’ 8said Jehovah.  
  
 ‘So at a time that I have appointed,  
 I’ll pay attention to you,  
 And I’ll save you on the Day of Salvation.  
  
 ‘For, I’m the one by whom you were formed,  
 And now I have promised the nations  
 That I’ll reestablish your land…  
 You’ll inherit an inheritance that’s been wiped away.  
  
 9‘So, tell those in chains that they can now leave,  
 And tell those in the darkness to walk towards [the light]!  
 For in all your paths, there’ll be grazing,  
 And along all your roads, there’ll be pastures.  
  
 10‘There, you’ll no longer be hungry or thirsty,  
 And you won’t be burned by the sun or hot winds.  
 For My merciful one will send comfort to you  
 And lead you beside springs of water…  
 11He’ll flatten the mountains that stand in your way,  
 And the roads will serve as your pastures.  
  
 12‘{Look!} [My people] will come from a distance…  
 Some from the north and some from the west,  
 And others from the land of the Persians.  
  
 13‘So be glad, you heavens…  
 Yes, cry out in joy, O you earth…  
 And mountains, be splitting with glee!  
 For on His people, our God has shown mercy,  
 And to those who are meek, He brought comfort.  
  
 14‘For in Zion, these words have been spoken:  
  
 ‘By Jehovah, I had been abandoned…  
 By the Lord, I had been forgotten!’  
  
 15‘But, Jehovah replied and said this:  
  
 Will a woman forget her own child…  
 Will she forget to show mercy  
 On the one who sprang from her belly?  
  
 ‘Yet, if a woman could ever forget;  
 I will never forget you.  
 16For {Look!} I’ve sketched your walls on My hands,  
 So that you are always before Me.  
 17Thus, what was demolished will soon be rebuilt,  
 And those who destroyed you will soon be destroyed!’  
  
 18‘Look up, look around, and see it with your eyes!  
 {Look!} They’ve all been gathered and returned!’  
  
 ‘As I live,’ says Jehovah;  
 ‘You’ll wear them as ornaments over your clothes…  
 You’ll wear them as the jewels of a bride.  
  
 19‘Now, all of your desolate places  
 (Those which had once been destroyed,  
 As well as those which had fallen)  
 Will then become too confining  
 For all of those who will dwell there;  
 Since, those who once swallowed you down  
 Will then be sent far away.’  
  
 20‘And at that, my [people] will say in your ears:  
  
 ‘This place is too cramped for the sons we had lost;  
 So, please make new places where they can live!’  
  
 21‘And then you will ask in your hearts:  
  
 ‘Who made me a father to them?  
 For I’m childless, widowed, and an unwelcome stranger.  
 But these… Who told me to feed them?  
 Yes, I had been left all alone…  
 But these… From where did I get them?’  
  
 22‘Look, says Jehovah, the Lord,  
 I’ll be lifting My hand to the nations,  
 And on the islands, I’ll be raising My sign.  
 Then they’ll lift your sons to their chests,  
 And your daughters, they’ll lift on their shoulders.  
  
 23‘Their kings will then serve as your [butlers],  
 And their queens will be your wet nurses.  
 Before you, they’ll bow to the ground,  
 And they’ll lick the dust from your feet.  
  
 ‘Then you’ll know that I am Jehovah,  
 And those waiting for Me will never be shamed.’  
  
 24‘Can someone take loot from a giant,  
 And will the captured be saved without ransom?  
 25No, for thus says Jehovah:  
  
 ‘If someone can capture a giant,  
 He can take all the things that he owns…  
 In safety, he can loot from the strong.  
  
 ‘Now, I’m the One who is pleading your case,  
 And I’m the One who will rescue your sons.  
 26So, those who oppress you will eat their own flesh,  
 And the wine that they drink will be their own blood.  
  
 ‘Then, they will get drunk and all flesh will see  
 That I am Jehovah, your Savior…  
 The One who gives Jacob his power.’