

## CHAPTER 21

*The Messiah will be a light to the Gentiles and will free the prisoners—Israel will be gathered with power in the last days—Kings will be their nursing fathers—Compare Isaiah 49. About 588–570 B.C.*

1 <sup>a</sup> And again: Hearken, O ye house of Israel, all ye that are broken off and are driven out because of the wickedness of the pastors of my people; yea, all ye that are broken off, that are scattered abroad, who are of my people, O house of Israel. Listen, O <sup>b</sup> isles, unto me, and hearken ye people from <sup>c</sup> far; the Lord hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name.

2 And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;

3 And said unto me: Thou art my <sup>a</sup> servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.

4 Then I said, I have labored in <sup>a</sup> vain, I have spent my strength for naught and in vain; surely my judgment is with the Lord, and my work with my God.

5 And now, saith the Lord—that <sup>a</sup> formed me from the womb that I should be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him—though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the Lord, and my God shall be my <sup>b</sup> strength.

6 And he said: It is a light thing that thou shouldst be my servant to raise up the <sup>a</sup> tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel. I will also give thee for a <sup>b</sup> light to the <sup>c</sup> Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the ends of the earth.

7 Thus saith the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nations abhorreth, to servant of rulers: Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the Lord that is faithful.

8 Thus saith the Lord: In an acceptable time have I heard thee, O isles of the sea, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee; and I will preserve thee, and give thee <sup>a</sup> my servant for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;

9 That thou mayest say to the <sup>a</sup> prisoners: Go forth; to them that sit in <sup>b</sup> darkness: Show yourselves. They shall feed in the ways, and their <sup>c</sup> pastures shall be in all high places.

10 They shall not hunger nor thirst, neither shall the heat nor the sun smite them; for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.

11 And I will make all my mountains a way, and my <sup>a</sup> highways shall be exalted.

12 And then, O house of Israel, behold, <sup>a</sup> these shall come from far; and lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim.

13 <sup>a</sup> Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; for the feet of those who are in the east shall be established; and <sup>b</sup> break forth into singing, O mountains; for they shall be smitten no more; for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his <sup>c</sup> afflicted.

14 But, behold, Zion hath said: The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me—but he will show that he hath not.

15 For can a <sup>a</sup> woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have <sup>b</sup> compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may <sup>c</sup> forget, yet will I not forget thee, O house of Israel.

16 Behold, I have graven thee upon the <sup>a</sup> palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.

17 Thy children shall make haste against thy destroyers; and they that made thee <sup>a</sup>waste shall go forth of thee.

18 Lift up thine eyes round about and behold; all these <sup>a</sup>gather themselves together, and they shall come to thee. And as I live, saith the Lord, thou shalt surely clothe thee with them all, as with an ornament, and bind them on even as a bride.

19 For thy waste and thy desolate places, and the land of thy destruction, shall even now be too narrow by reason of the inhabitants; and they that swallowed thee up shall be far away.

20 The children whom thou shalt have, after thou hast lost the first, shall <sup>a</sup>again in thine ears say: The place is too strait for me; give place to me that I may dwell.

21 Then shalt thou say in thine heart: Who hath begotten me these, seeing I have lost my children, and am <sup>a</sup>desolate, a captive, and removing to and fro? And who hath brought up these? Behold, I was left alone; these, where have they been?

22 Thus saith the Lord God: Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the <sup>a</sup>Gentiles, and set up my <sup>b</sup>standard to the people; and they shall bring thy sons in their <sup>c</sup>arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders.

23 And <sup>a</sup>kings shall be thy <sup>b</sup>nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers; they shall bow down to thee with their face towards the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the Lord; for they shall not be ashamed that <sup>c</sup>wait for me.

24 For shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the <sup>a</sup>lawful captives delivered?

25 But thus saith the Lord, even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered; for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children.

26 And I will <sup>a</sup>feed them that oppress thee with their own flesh; they shall be drunken with their own blood as with sweet wine; and all flesh shall <sup>b</sup>know that I, the Lord, am thy <sup>c</sup>Savior and thy Redeemer, the <sup>d</sup>Mighty One of Jacob.