

Isaiah Chapter 49 – The Servant, The Light of the Gentiles! God Will Remember Zion

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

JESUS MESSIAH – Chris Tomlin

He became sin Who knew no sin That we might become His righteousness

He humbled Himself and carried the cross. Love so amazing Love so amazing!

Refrain: Jesus Messiah, Name above all names, Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel

The rescue for sinners. The ransom from Heaven, Jesus Messiah, Lord of all!

His body, the bread, His blood, the wine, Broken and poured out all for love

The whole earth trembled, And the veil was torn. Love so amazing Love so amazing, yeah (Refrain)

All our hope is in You. All our hope is in You. All the glory to You, God, The light of the world (Refrain)

Jesus Messiah, Lord of all, the Lord of all, the Lord of All!

GENERAL OUTLINE OF ISAIAH: Referred to as the “Fifth Gospel” since the third century!

Possible date of kings reign” - Uzziah, - 792-740; Jotham, - 750-736; Ahaz, - 735-720 Northern Kingdom of

Israel falls to Assyria in 722BC; Hezekiah, - 715-699/686; Manasseh – 687-642

Isaiah’s time of prophecy - About a minimum of 40 years and possibly more than 60 years!

In the tenth year of Nabopolassar (616 BC) the Babylonians defeated the Assyrian army.

Cyrus takes Babylon. In October (539 BC), the Persian king Cyrus took Babylon.

ISAIAH 40:1-66:24

The prophecies of chapters 1-39 addressed Judah in her situation during Isaiah's ministry (739 B.C. until c. 686

B.C.). The prophecies of chapters 40-66 address Judah as though the prophesied Babylonian captivity

(Isa 39:5-7) were already a present reality, though that captivity did not begin until 605-586 B.C. The words

“There is no peace, says the Lord, for the wicked” (Isa 48:22; Isa 57:21) signal the divisions of this section

into three parts: chapters 40-48 (Comfort of Jehovah), chapters 49-57 (Salvation of Jehovah) and chapters 58-

66 (Glory of Jehovah).

Four Messianic Prophecies-Songs of the Suffering Servant: #1 Chapter 42:1-9 -Servant of Jehovah-Jesus; #2

Chapter 49:1-13-Servant of God; Savior of the World; #3 Chapter 50:4-9-Jehovah Adonai-Humility of Rejected

Prophet; #4 Chapter 52:13-53:12-Suffering Servant-Jehovah’s Servant-Sin Bearer.

ISAIAH 40-48

The broad section of Isaiah 40 through 48 focused on the promise of God’s deliverance of His people from their

captivity in Babylon, and the specific prediction of Cyrus, the Gentile king who would deliver them, Through the

section, God shows that His desire to deliver His people proves His love, His ability to deliver His people proves

His power, and His prophetic knowledge of the deliverer proves His uniqueness among all gods. Starting with

Isaiah chapters 49 through 57, there is no longer a mention of Cyrus, now the focus is on the ultimate deliverer,

the Messiah. Though there is still reference to the deliverance from Babylon’s captivity, the real focus is on the

ultimate deliverance the Messiah will bring.

Isaiah – Bible Timeline

739 BC	Isaiah Complains of Zion's Corruption	Isaiah 1 - 5
739 BC	Isaiah's Vision and Commission	Isaiah 6
735 BC	Isaiah's Prophecy of Immanuel	Isaiah 7
734 BC	Uriah/Zechariah Verification	Isaiah 8
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies a Child Is Born	Isaiah 9
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Judgments Upon Israel	Isaiah 9:8
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Judgment on Assyria	Isaiah 10
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies The Root of Jesse	Isaiah 11
730 BC	Isaiah's Joyful Thanksgiving	Isaiah 12
725 BC	Isaiah Prophecies against the Nations	Isaiah 13 - 22
725 BC	Isaiah's Valley of Vision	Isaiah 22
725 BC	Isaiah's Burden of Tyre	Isaiah 23
725 BC	Devastation on the Earth	Isaiah 24
725 BC	Isaiah's Songs of Praise	Isaiah 25 - 27
725 BC	Isaiah's Further Warnings	Isaiah 28 - 32
725 BC	Isaiah Prophecies a King Shall Reign	Isaiah 32
725 BC	Isaiah Declares God's Judgments	Isaiah 33, 34
725 BC	Isaiah Declares the Joyful Will Flourish in Zion	Isaiah 35
712 BC	Hezekiah's Illness and Healing	2 Kings 20, Isaiah 38
711 BC	Hezekiah Shows Treasures	2 Kings 20:12, Isaiah 39
711 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Captivity and Restoration	Isaiah 40 - 66
701 BC	Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem	2 Kings 18, Isaiah 36, 2 Chron. 32
701 BC	Hezekiah's Prayer	2 Kings 19, Isaiah 37

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OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

The Servant of the Lord
Isa 49:1 "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.

Isa 49:2 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."

Isa 49:3 "And He said to me, 'You are My servant, O Israel, In whom I will be glorified.'

Isa 49:4 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.' "

Isa 49:5 "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),

The second stanza #2 Chapter 49:1-13-Servant of God; Savior of the World;

vs. 1-2 The Messiah declares His mission. - His call and preparation. *Listen, O coastlands, to Me*: These words come prophetically from the Messiah, the Servant of the LORD revealed in previous chapters. Here, He commands the distant lands of the Gentiles - to *listen* to Him. *The LORD has called Me from the womb*: The Messiah, later revealed as Jesus Christ, was *called* from the *womb*. As shown in **Mic 5:2**, Jesus was called even before He was in Mary's womb, yet here He starts at the point which any man could relate to. *From the matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name*: This was fulfilled in **Mt. 1:21 & Luk 1:31**, where the LORD, through the angel Gabriel, declared the name of Jesus before the conception in Mary's womb. *He has made My mouth like a sharp sword*: This means that the very words of the Messiah have power and authority. (**Cf. John 7:64; 8:42-47; Rev. 19:15**) To show their authority, **the Messiah needs only to speak. In the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me, and made Me a polished shaft; in His quiver He has hidden Me**: The Messiah prophetically proclaims that He is like a carefully made and polished arrow in the service of the LORD, ready to be used at the right time. This probably refers to the *hidden* years of Jesus, when, until 30 years old, He lived in obscurity, and during the early year/s of His ministry (**cf. Joh 7:6, 8**) "My time has not yet come... has not yet fully come.", as a *polished shaft* waiting in the *quiver* of the LORD. The people's eyes were blinded to Jesus as the Messiah.

vs. 3-4 The Messiah's confidence in the LORD. *You are My servant, O Israel*: Since the rest of the context of this chapter indicates that this passage speaks of the Messiah, it is best to regard *Israel* as a reference to the Messiah. How can the LORD speak of the Messiah as *Israel*? First, because the Messiah comes from Israel, and is a representative of the nation. Second, because the Messiah fulfills the name *Israel*, which means, "governed by God." **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."** The translators of the New King James do not believe these words belong in the mouth of the Messiah, because they do not capitalize the pronoun **my**, as they would if they believed it spoke of the Messiah. Yet these words can be set prophetically in the mouth of the Messiah, because surely Jesus was tempted by the discouraging thought that all His work was *in vain* and *for nothing*. Yet He triumphed over such temptation by declaring, **my just reward is with the LORD**.

vs. 1-2 This is the voice of the Messiah speaking, calling for the people, including the distant land of the Gentiles, to listen, to hearken, "the Lord has called"! How attentively are we listening? Remember Christopher (Christ-Bearer) Columbus and his desire to take the gospel to the new world out to the west! One day at His Second Coming we will see our Lord Jesus Christ, with "My mouth like a sharp sword; strike the nations with it! Are we ready?"

vs. 3-4 "I have labored in vain". Jesus was put on the cross. He healed the sick, He showed God love to the people, He went about doing good. Everywhere He went, He was restoring lost man, and yet, they put Him on a cross. Perhaps that was the thought of Christ there on the cross is, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and in vain." But yet, He committed it all to the Lord. "Father into your hands I commend My spirit. Lord, I just leave it all with You. My work with my God." He just committed it all to God. We need to remember this, whenever we're discouraged in doing good, we just need to commit it all to God! Let not us believers think it strange that we are slighted when the Master himself was.

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OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Isa 49:6 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.' "
Isa 49:7 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."

The Restoration of Israel

Isa 49:8 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;

Isa 49:9 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.

Isa 49:10 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.

vs. 5-7 The Messiah blesses Israel and the nations. *To bring Jacob back to Him:* This shows that an important aspect of the Messiah's mission was to bring Israel back to the LORD. This shows that ethnic Israel has an enduring place in God's plan, and that plan will be fulfilled when *all Israel will be saved (Rom 11:26)*. *It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob . . . I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles:* Though part of the Messiah's mission is directed to Israel, He also has a mission *to the Gentiles*. What will the Messiah do for the Gentiles? *That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.* The **Messiah would not simply bring salvation; He would be! . . . salvation to the ends of the earth.** *Thus says the LORD . . . to Him whom man despises, to Him whom the nation abhors:* The LORD speaks to His Messiah, and reveals that He will be One **whom man despises**, and **whom His own nation abhors**. This is an important prophecy of the rejection of the Messiah, by mankind in general and by Israel specifically. *Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship:* Yet **in the end, the Messiah will not be despised or abhorred**. He will receive the worship and honor He deserves, because He is the *chosen* of the LORD.

vs. 8-10 The glory of the Messiah's ministry. *In an acceptable time I have heard You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You; I will preserve You:* The LORD God extended His help and preservation to the Messiah all through His earthly ministry. Yet if there is any specific time that **this promise was fulfilled, it was as Jesus died on the cross and trusted in the promise of resurrection**. It is beautiful to imagine Jesus comforting and strengthening His soul with these promises as He anticipated and endured the ordeal of the cross. He could know, based on this promise, **that the LORD would hear, help, and preserve Him. And give You as a covenant to the people:** Jesus, the **Messiah, doesn't merely bring a covenant; He is a covenant to the people.** *That You may say to the prisoners, "Go forth":* Jesus' ministry set people free from bondage and imprisonment. (Cf. *Mar 5:1-15; Luk 13:16; Eph 4:8; Joh 8:33-36; Gal 3:22-23*). *For He who has mercy on them will lead them, even by the springs of water He will guide them:* In an immediate sense, this refers to God's supply and sustaining of the exiles returning from Babylon to Judah, through the unseen hand of the Messiah. In the larger sense, it speaks of mercy and provision of God for people as they return to Him in the last days.

vs. 5-7 Nationally, Israel's original mission was to be a light to the world. But she turned inward, not wanting to be polluted by the pagan heathen. She lost compassion and vision for them. The nation of Israel failed. However, the true Israel-Jesus Christ-never lost sight of His calling. *Luke 2:32 A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.*" He lived and gave His life as the Light of the entire world and died to save all mankind! Which Israel are we the most like?

vs. 8-10 'Go forth,' To those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves.' When we see the light of our Messiah, our Redeemer, let our light shine.

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Isa 49:11 I will make each of My mountains a road, And My highways shall be elevated.

Isa 49:12 Surely these shall come from afar; Look! Those from the north and the west, And these from the land of Sinim."

Isa 49:13 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.

Isa 49:14 But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me, And my Lord has forgotten me."

Isa 49:15 "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.

Isa 49:16 See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me.

vs. 11-12 In the larger sense, as God draws scattered Israel back in the last day, it speaks of mercy and provision of God for His people. as they *shall come from afar. I will make each of My mountains a road*: The mountains in the way of the returning exiles - both in near and far fulfillment - would seem to defeat the purpose of the LORD. But they will not. *My mountains*. The mountains in the way are still the LORD's mountains, allowed there for a purpose. And the purpose is not to torment you, or because He hates you. **There is a loving, wise purpose for every mountain**, and God wants to make *each of My mountains a road! And these from the land of Sinim*: Some identify *Sinim* with a place in Egypt; others identify it with China and the east, but no one knows for sure. The idea is that God will bring back the captives, especially in the far fulfillment, from every conceivable place.

vs. 13-14 The LORD's faithfulness to Zion. The LORD is praised for goodness to Zion - and an objection is raised. *Sing, O heavens! For the LORD has comforted His people*: It is simply assumed that the people the *LORD has comforted* will praise Him; here, the *LORD calls for creation itself to add their voices in praise for all the Messiah has done. But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me."* In the midst of this great praise for the Messiah and His saving work, *Zion* - speaking of the highest hill in Jerusalem, and the place of God's people by association - *Zion* objects. *Zion* believes, "*The LORD has forsaken me, and my Lord has forgotten me.*" The rest of Isaiah 49 and Isaiah 50 will answer this question. Because of their captivity in Babylon, *Zion* wonders "**Does God really care about us?**" **God will answer, with strength and insight, this question** that many have asked since.

vs. 15-16. God does care, and the LORD proclaims His love and faithfulness to *Zion*. *Can a woman forget her nursing child*: Though bizarre accounts of unspeakable cruelty surface from time to time, everyone knows that a *woman* will never *forget her nursing child*. Yet the LORD says, *Surely they will forget, yet I will not forget you*. The LORD's affection for His people is **greater** than the devotion a woman has for *her nursing child*! *See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands*: This has obvious and beautiful fulfillment in the nail-scarred hands of Jesus. (*Cf. Zech. 12:10; Joh 20:27*) **When** we see those scarred hands of Jesus, we see how He has *inscribed* us on the *palms of His hands*. With such love, how could God ever forget His people? *Your walls are continually before Me*: The *walls* refer to the walls of the city of Jerusalem, which figuratively **speak of the health, the strength, the prosperity, and the security of God's people**. God is always mindful of the condition of His people, despite the objections of a doubting *Zion*.

vs. 11-12 My mountains. The mountains in the way are still the LORD's mountains, allowed there for a purpose. And the purpose is not to torment you, or because He hates you. There is a loving, wise purpose for every mountain, and God wants to make each of My mountains a road!

vs. 13-14 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. [14] But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me, And my Lord has forgotten me." Considering all that He has done for us, are we singing of His praises? Are we being joyful for you comfort and mercy? Or are we acting like *Zion* here, saying "*my Lord has forgotten me*"

vs. 15-16 Whenever we are tempted to think that God has forgotten us, we need only to do one thing. That is, to go to the Cross of Calvary because it's there we're reminded that He engraved us on the palm of His hands when in them He took the nails and paid the price for our sin!

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Isa 49:17 Your sons shall make haste; Your destroyers and those who laid you waste Shall go away from you.

Isa 49:18 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.

Isa 49:19 "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.

Isa 49:20 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.'

Isa 49:21 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?'

Isa 49:22 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;

vs. 17-18 Your sons (builders) shall make haste . . . you shall surely clothe yourselves with them all as an ornament: The LORD will bring back the exiled and captive sons of Zion to the Promised Land, and this will be *an ornament* for God's people. The LORD's love and faithfulness for Zion is also shown by His promise for their future. It isn't just demonstrated by the past and the present, **but also by His future plans for them.** This promise was partially fulfilled in the return of the exiles from Babylon, but will be ultimately fulfilled in the regathering of Israel in the last days

vs. 19-22 God does care, and He promises and affirms blessing for Zion. *For your waste and desolate places . . . will even now be too small for the inhabitants:* As the LORD brings the sons of Zion back to the Israel, they will fill the land in a glorious way. *There I was, left alone; but these, where were they?* The great blessing of the returning sons of Zion - in both near and far fulfillment - will come as an **astounding surprise.** God's blessing will seem to come from nowhere. Though the promise seems too good to be true, God confirms it with *an oath to the nations.* **God will rescue Israel from both their immediate and ultimate captivity.**

v. 17-18 Like as with Israel, has not God been faithful with us in the past? So, should we not be confident that **His plans for us will surely be realized as well? and His plans for the future.** *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.*

v. 19-22 Notice the great blessing of Zion's sons returning, even to the degree that the land will be too small for them. God's promised future blessings for Israel as well as for the church seem too good to be true, **But God has confirmed it with an oath to the nations! His purposes will stand – we can be assured of that!**

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Isa 49:23 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.

Isa 49:24 Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, Or the captives of the righteous be delivered?

Isa 49:25 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.

Isa 49:26 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.

*v. 23-26 Kings shall be your foster fathers: Many believe this text teaches that one day the greatest in the nation will love and care for the children of the Church, however, the prophet likely does not have the Church in mind, but future Israel. They shall bow down to you with their faces to the earth, and lick up the dust of your feet: “These expressions are probably only general poetical images, taken from the manners of the country, to denote great respect and reverence: and such splendid poetical images, which frequently occur in the prophetic writings, not as predictions to be understood and fulfilled precisely according to the letter. Lick up the dust of your feet refers to the great honor which the great ones of the world will give Israel. It is mainly on the basis of This verse may have led to the practice of kissing the pope’s feet. Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away: Babylon, the mighty empire, had taken Zion captive. But even they shall be taken away. God will shows His strength and love for Zion by giving unto Babylon what Babylon gave unto Zion. This was true for Zion when freed from the Babylonian captivity; it is even more true for those set free from captivity to Satan. Jesus spoke of spoiling Satan. Cf. Luk 11:21-22 . The pictures of eating their own flesh and drinking their own blood draw on the horrors of siege conditions. The **reality is that those who oppose the Lord and His people experience the self-destructiveness of sin - a recurring feature of the wars of the Lord.***

*vs. 23-26 “Then you will know that I am the LORD, For they shall not be ashamed who wait for Me.” His children who wait upon the Lord will never be ashamed! God will take care of you. God will provide. How comfortable and consistent are we in waiting on our LORD? All kings shall fall down before him. By all this it shall demonstrate that God is the Lord, the sovereign Lord of all, against whom there is no standing out nor rising up. Also, that those who wait for Him, depending on His promise, resigned to His will, shall not be made ashamed of their hope; *for the vision of peace is for an appointed time, and at the end it will speak and will not lie.*(Hab. 2:2). May our confidence in Him be sure!*

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The Christ-Bearer Bob Moore

In the twelfth century, before the Reformation began, a famous missionary by the name of Ramon Lull preached Christ in northern Africa. Although once Christian, that territory had forsaken the gospel many generations before and became Islamic. Ramon had come to that land to win its people back to Christ. While he was preaching in Bougie, a port city in what is now Algiers, the natives carried him to the beach where they stoned him and left him to die. Two merchants from Genoa, Italy happened to be in the same city on business. Having concluded it, they were walking on the beach while waiting to board their ship. They found Ramon still alive. Because he was known throughout the Christian world, these merchants recognized him and took him on board. On their way back to Italy, a storm drove the ship off course until it came near the island of Ramon's birth. Thinking that the sight of his homeland might encourage him, for Ramon was miraculously still alive, they carried him on deck and raised him so that he could see over the rail. After viewing his native terrain, he lifted his arm, pointing it westward, and with the last breath of his mouth said, "Beyond the seas that wash this land is another land whose natives know not God. Send men there." Then he died. When the merchants returned to Genoa, one of them told the story of Ramon Lull and his prophecy over and over to his children and grandchildren. That man was Stephen Columbus, grandfather of Christopher Columbus.

Christopher means "Christ-bearer." Ramon's prophecy underpinned what Columbus became. Even his name bore his divine mission. His goal was to take the name of Christ to a people across the sea. He envisioned the possibility of sailing westward from the coasts of Europe to another land, where he would find remnants of the lost tribes of Israel (Simon Wiesenthal, *Sails of Hope*, p 61) He conceived this thought during the time his culture taught that the earth was flat. A westward trip was thought to bring a ship and its occupants to the edge of the world, where they would suddenly meet death as they fell off. But Christopher believed the prophecy of Ramon Lull. He believed the Scriptures, too. He quoted Isaiah in his journal, particularly that which said, "Listen O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The Lord hath called me from the womb; unto the end of the earth." (Is 49:1,6). Columbus felt these words were directed at him. He believed the Lord had designated him to take the message of Christ to the ends of the earth. God had even created a way for him to go to them. Isaiah records, "Thus saith the Lord, which maketh a way in the sea, and a path in the mighty waters" (Is 43:16). Claiming inspiration from the Almighty, Christopher Columbus maintained that there was a route through the ocean leading to natives who needed to learn of Christ. He recorded these thoughts in his journal, writing, "It was the Lord who put into my mind (I could feel his hand upon me) the fact that it would be possible to sail from here to the Indies. All who heard of my project rejected it with laughter, ridiculing me. There is no question that the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit, because He comforted me with rays of marvelous inspiration from the Holy Scriptures. Columbus took his plan for sailing across the western ocean to the European kings. In return for financing his expedition, he promised a shorter route to the Indies than what was then available. The nation underwriting his discovery would have a big advantage in the race to provide Europe with goods from the East. The resulting wealth they could accumulate would be staggering. No one seemed seriously interested, although the project was widely discussed. In the end only King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain agreed to help him, and that was only at the insistence of Isabella. She had been engaged in converting the Jews throughout Spain to Christ, often under the threat of torture. At the same time their army had been pushing the Moslem Moors back out of Spain into Africa. With these two religious goals almost accomplished, a mission to the Indies appealed more to her than a quest for gold and trade. Her interest caused the king to supply the necessary funds. On August 3, 1492, Columbus led three small ships out of their Spanish port on a mission to discover and convert lost Israel to Christ.

As the weeks passed into a second month and the vast size of the ocean already traversed increased, the restlessness of the crews on all three ships grew. They had heard how others had failed in their attempt to sail westward, fighting head winds and being forced back to their ports. Some of these ships had wrecked. Columbus assured his men their trip was different. Previous explorers had tried to cross below the Tropic of Cancer, but the winds in that region blew from west to east, making a long western voyage impossible. God had shown him a path through the sea, north of the Tropic of Cancer, where the winds blew from east to west. He wrote in his journal, "For the execution of the journey to the Indies, I did not make use of intelligence, mathematics or maps. It is simply the fulfillment of what Isaiah had prophesied."

Isaiah Chapter 49 – The Servant, The Light of the Gentiles! God Will Remember Zion

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family Room, CCCM – [Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com); email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

The spiritual assurance uplifting and directing Columbus did not quiet the crew. The presence of an eastern wind did not mean land was ahead. They began to grumble. At first, they joked about throwing their captain overboard and returning home, but as time lengthened the mood became more somber. They were ready to make demands. The captains of the other two ships met on the night of October 9. Columbus persuaded them to give him three more days. If at the end of that time they had not found land, he would allow them to turn back. In his prayers that night he must have fervently pled with the God that had not only inspired him to undertake the trip, but who had brought him so far toward its completion, by asking divine assistance in helping him finish the journey within the few days he had left. His prayer was heard. The next day the ships made an amazing 59 leagues, almost doubling the previous day's output. On the second day they sighted a small twig with roses on it and at night saw a tiny light in the far distance. On the third day before sunrise, the crew of the Pinta sighted land, a low white cliff shining in the moonlight. They turned toward it. On the morning of the third day, October 12, 1492, Columbus landed on San Salvador. While Spain, in its thirst for gold, along with other nations, quickly began to overrun the land Columbus found, and although Columbus himself was too strongly motivated by the wealth he uncovered, his discovery of the American continents was, from beginning to end, a religious event. God revealed their existence, inspired the thought of their discovery and, even, propelled the ships so that the New World could be found. The revelation given through Ramon Lull had found fulfillment with Christopher Columbus. The missionary's words had been the foundation for the explorer's life. Of Jewish descent, he was chosen and used by God to discover the way for the Gentiles to bring the gospel of Christ to America and spread it among the people scattered on its land, so that at the proper time they could be gathered to their Savior. His dedication to this purpose and the extent of his devotion is revealed in his journal. He wrote, "No one should fear to undertake any task in the name of our Savior, if it is just and if the intention is purely for His holy service. The working out of all things has been assigned to each person by our Lord, but it all happens according to His sovereign will, even though He gives advice. He lacks nothing that it is in the power of men to give Him. Oh, what a gracious Lord, who desires that people should perform for Him those things for which He holds Himself responsible!"