

## Main Text

### ISAIAH 49:2-3 (NKJV)

- <sup>2</sup> 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.” <sup>3</sup> “And He said to me, ‘You *are* My servant, O Israel, In whom I will be glorified.’

### ISAIAH 49:6-8 (NKJV)

- <sup>6</sup> 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.’” <sup>7</sup> 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.” <sup>8</sup> 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;

### ISAIAH 49:2-3 (THE MESSAGE)

- <sup>2</sup> He gave me speech that would cut and penetrate. He kept his hand on me to protect me. He made me his straight arrow and hid me in his quiver. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, “You’re my dear servant, Israel, through whom I’ll shine.”

## ISAIAH 49:6-8 (THE MESSAGE)

- <sup>6</sup> He says, "But that's not a big enough job for my servant— just to recover the tribes of Jacob, merely to round up the strays of Israel. I'm setting you up as a light for the *nations* so that my salvation becomes *global*!" <sup>7</sup> GOD, Redeemer of Israel, The Holy of Israel, says to the despised one, kicked around by the nations, slave labor to the ruling class: "Kings will see, get to their feet—the princes, too—and then fall on their faces in homage Because of GOD, who has faithfully kept his word, The Holy of Israel, who has chosen you." <sup>8</sup> GOD also says: "When the time's ripe, I answer you. When victory's due, I help you. I form you and use you to reconnect the people with me, To put the land in order, to resettle families on the ruined properties."

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## Intro

- INTRODUCTION. This chapters is introduced by another poem about the Servant mentioned in 42:1-13.

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### Isaiah 42:1-4 (NKJV)

- <sup>1</sup> "Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One *in whom* My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. <sup>2</sup> He will not cry out, nor raise *His voice*, Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. <sup>3</sup> A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth. <sup>4</sup> He will not fail nor be discouraged, Till He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands shall wait for His law."
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- News of his service is to be proclaimed to all the nations (49:1), and his role is not only to restore Jacob (49:5) but also to be a light to the nations so that God’s salvation can extend to the ends of the earth (49:6).
- Although 42:4 hinted of some difficulty in completing the duties assigned to the Servant, here in 49:4 and 49:7 one learns that all his hard labor seems to be in vain and that some people despised and abhorred the Servant.
- Nevertheless, the Servant knew that God would give him his just reward (49:4) and that in the end those who abhorred him would change their minds and honor him by bowing down before him (49:7).
- This Servant will be glorified (49:5), and God will help him in his time of distress (49:8). Somehow this Servant will enable those in darkness to see the light that God provides (49:9), and then God will provide for all their needs (49:10). **This is part of the great comfort that God will provide for his people.**

The Servant’s preparation and responsibilities	49:1–6
The opposition to, the role, and results of the Servant	49:7–12
Hymn of praise	49:13

- The information in this Servant poem does not suggest a date for its composition. The captives in 49:9 are not people in Babylonian exile, and the highway in 49:11 is not the road the exiles will take to get back to the land of Judah. This passage refers to an eschatological “day of salvation” (49:8) where people from many nations in the north,



south, and west will come to God (49:12). As a consequence these people will have spiritual darkness removed from their eyes.

## The acceptable Time

2 Corinthians 6:2 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

## Bringing light in the darkness (Isa 49:1-7)

In the midst of the Servant speech (49:4) is a quotation of what God said to the Servant (49:5-6). Verse 4 indicates that there was some negative reaction to his ministry, but God reaffirms his plan (49:6 is similar to 42:6) to have the Servant's role include both the restoration of Israel as well as a ministry to all the nations on earth. The flow of the presentation is observable in the repeated "I said/the LORD said" clauses that introduce each new part of the paragraph. This material falls into three subsections.

Servant's relationship to God	49:1-2
God commissioned the Servant	49:3
Servant trusts God in spite of struggles	49:4
God's two-part commission for the Servant	49:5-6

- The Servant was commissioned with the purpose “to bring back, return,”<sup>35</sup> the people of Israel “to him” (to God). This indicates that the goal of the Servant’s work is to cause the people of Israel to return spiritually or turn back to God. The nation’s central problem that God was attempting to solve **through the Servant was the people’s personal relationship to God.**

**Light in the darkness (49:1–7).** What right did God’s Servant have to address the Gentile nations with such authority? From before His birth, He was called by God to His ministry (Jer. 1:5; Gal. 1:15); and God prepared Him like a sharp sword and a polished arrow (Heb. 4:12; Rev. 1:16). Messiah came as both a Servant and a Warrior, serving those who trust Him and ultimately judging those who resist Him.

All of God’s servants should be like prepared weapons. “It is not great talents God blesses so much as great likeness to Jesus

Today, the church is God’s light in this dark world (Acts 13:46–49; Matt. 5:14–16), and like Israel, we seem to be failing in our mission to take the Good News to the ends of the earth. We cannot do the job very effectively when only 5 percent of the average local church budget is devoted to evangelism!

As Jesus Christ ministered on earth, especially to His own people Israel, there were times when His work seemed in vain (Isa. 49:4). The religious leaders opposed Him, the disciples did not always understand Him, and those He helped did not always thank Him. He lived and labored by faith, and God gave Him success.

## Liberty to the captives (Isa 49:8–13)

Not only is God’s Servant the “new Israel,” but He is also the “new Moses” in setting His people free.

Nations despise, but God honors his Servant	49:7
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The Servant will be a light and covenant	49:8–9a
Captives will be free and cared for	49:9b–12

- The Servant would be despised of men, abhorred by the nation. Rulers would look upon him with disdain as one far inferior to themselves. Yet the time would come when kings and princes would render homage to him. This radical change of fortune would be brought about because the Holy One would be faithful to his Servant (49:7).
- “In a favorable time” God would answer the Servant’s cry for deliverance. That would usher in “a day of salvation.” In the light of Paul’s use of this passage (2 Cor 6:2), the time of God’s favor is the Gospel age. In this period the Servant would become “a covenant of the people,” i.e., the mediator of a covenant. **The servant would (1) “establish” (NASB margin) the land, the messianic kingdom; (2) release captives; (3) provide light; and (4) sustain those who follow him (49:8–10).**
- People would flow into the Servant’s kingdom from all regions, even distant Sinim (Syene), modern Aswan in southern Egypt. The work of the Servant would bring comfort to the afflicted. For this reason the people of God can shout for joy (49:11–13).

## Shadow

### SYNOPSIS

Primarily a symbol of protection, of the brevity of life

#### Shadow as a general symbol of protection

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Pastor Maurice Anderson

2016

Sunday, January 03,

**A symbol of God's protection**

[Ps 91:1](#)

**Psalm 91:1 (ESV) — 1** He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

# Sword/Word

**HEBREWS 4:12 (ESV)**

- <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

**EPHESIANS 6:17 (THE MESSAGE)**

- <sup>17</sup> and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. God's Word is an *indispensable* weapon.

**EPHESIANS 6:17 (ESV)**

- <sup>17</sup> and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

**SERVANTHOOD**

- The state of being the servant of others, especially of God. Scripture stresses the privileges and responsibilities of being a servant of God and points to Jesus Christ as the model of servanthood.

**servant** n. — a person working in the service of another.

**slave** n. — a person who is legally owned by someone else and whose entire livelihood and purpose was determined by their master.



MATTHEW 6:24 (THE MESSAGE)

- <sup>24</sup> “You can’t worship two gods at once. Loving one god, you’ll end up hating the other. Adoration of one feeds contempt for the other. You can’t worship God and Money both.

IT’S LIKE FIRE

- God’s Word is also likened to a fire which devours all that stands in its path and to a hammer “which breaks the rock in pieces” (Jer 5:14; 23:29)

## He Won’t Leave You

DEUTERONOMY 31:8 (THE MESSAGE)

- <sup>8</sup> God is striding ahead of you. He’s right there with you. He won’t let you down; he won’t leave you. Don’t be intimidated. Don’t worry.”

**There is no need to fear**   
**Just walk in the Lord**

## I Am Your Weapon

Isaiah 54:17 (NKJV)

- <sup>17</sup> No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue *which* rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness *is* from Me,” Says the LORD.