

# GOD & THE SERVANT

March 10, 2013

The Greatest Complaint

Isaiah 49:1-13

## Psalm 111 ESV

IN WHICH WE SEE THAT IT PLEASES GOD THAT HIS PEOPLE PAY ATTENTION TO HIS WORKS  
Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.  
Great are **the works of the LORD**, studied by all who delight in them.  
Full of splendor and majesty is **his work**, and his righteousness endures forever.  
He has caused **his wondrous works** to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.  
He provides food for those who fear him; **he remembers his covenant forever**.  
He has shown his people the power of **his works**, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.  
**The works of his hands** are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy;  
they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.  
He sent redemption to his people; **he has commanded his covenant forever**.  
Holy and awesome is his name! The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

SO LET US **STUDY AND DELIGHT** IN THE WORKS OF THE LORD: for the works of the Lord are **FULL OF SPLENDOR AND MAJESTY**. They are **WONDROUS**. They are **POWERFUL**. They are **FAITHFUL AND JUST**.

## PRAYER HERE

LET US **STUDY AND DELIGHT** IN THEM! FROM THE 2<sup>nd</sup> Song, WHICH IS SUNG BY "THE SERVANT"

In the 1<sup>st</sup> SONG, we read of THE GREAT ASSIGNMENT OF THE SERVANT: **To bring forth justice to the nations... to be "given as a covenant for the people, as a light to the nations..."** What we have here is A REALLY BIG DEAL.

Now here in the 2<sup>nd</sup> SONG: **FIVE MORE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE SERVANT**

**Isaiah 49:1** THE SERVANT SINGS ABOUT BEING CALLED BY GOD (ON THE GREAT ASSIGNMENT)

Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name.

1. The Servant has something to say to the entire human race. "LISTEN TO ME... YOU PEOPLES FROM AFAR"

AND HE WAS CALLED BY THE LORD "FROM HIS MOTHER'S WOMB" --- AND NAMED BEFORE HE WAS BORN!  
**Matthew 1:20-23** ESV "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: [Isaiah] "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). CLEARLY, HE HAS SOMETHING TO SAY! FOR THEIR HAS NEVER BEEN ANYTHING IN HUMAN HISTORY AS WHAT IS BEING PREDICTED HERE!

**Isaiah 49:2,3** ESV THE SERVANT SINGS OF GOD'S CALL He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "**You are my servant**, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

2. The Servant has something to do for Israel and "as Israel."

HERE IS THE LORD DEALING WITH THE SERVANT AS IF HE WERE HIS SON: "**FATHER AND SON**" LANGUAGE.  
**Psalm 127:4,5** ESV Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate. WHICH OF COURSE HE WAS AND IS.

BUT HERE HE IS CONSIDERED HIS GREAT **SERVANT**.

ON THIS GREAT ASSIGNMENT. IT IS ALL GREAT, **BUT HERE'S A SURPRISE**.

**Isaiah 49:4** ESV But I said, "**I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity...**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Song SUNG BY THE SERVANT can be entitled "**THE GREATEST COMPLAINT**"!!!

IT IS THE SON OF GOD DOING THE COMPLAINING!!!

**Q: IS IT NOT WRONG FOR HIM TO COMPLAIN?** IS IT NOT A SIN FOR ANYONE TO? IS IT NOT FORBIDDEN?

**THE ANSWER:** IN SOME WAYS, CHRIST IS OUR EXAMPLE. **1 Peter 2:18-23** ESV Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect... if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin... but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

**BUT IN SOME WAYS, CHRIST IS UNIQUE**

**Hebrews 4:15** ESV For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

SO THERE IT IS: HE WAS / HE IS WITHOUT SIN, SO HE HAS A RIGHT TO COMPLAIN. AND

**Isaiah 49:4** ESV

But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely **my right is with the LORD, and my recompense with my God.**" HE COMPLAINS! **BUT NOTICE THE RESPECT --- AND CONFIDENCE (FAITH)**

SO THEN **Q. WHAT IS THE COMPLAINT EXACTLY?** "LABORING IN VAIN"??? "NOTHING AND VANITY"???

**3.** The Servant has something to complain about -- and does, with respect and confidence.

THE ANSWER COMES OUT IN THE RESPONSE OF GOD. **Isaiah 49:5-6** ESV And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be **his servant**, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him— for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength— "**It IS too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up THE TRIBES OF JACOB and to bring back THE PRESERVED OF ISRAEL; I will make you as a LIGHT FOR THE NATIONS, that my salvation may reach TO THE END OF THE EARTH.**"

GOD HEARS THE COMPLAINT **AND CONCEDES THE POINT:**

- + SAVING ONLY ISRAEL **IS TOO SMALL A REWARD!**
- + ONLY TO SAVE ISRAEL IS **TOO SMALL A RECOMPENSE** CONSIDERING THE COST INVOLVED.
- + THERE **MUST** BE MORE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE ASSIGNMENT THAN THAT!

**4.** The LORD hears the complaint and agrees with it.

**GOD AGREES WITH THE COMPLAINT:** AND IN RESPONSE "THROWS IN THE WHOLE WORLD"

And that is how "the likes of you and me" ever came to be saved!

**Isaiah 49:7-12** ESV GOD SINGS ASSURANCES TO HIS SERVANT

Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: "**Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.**" Thus says the Lord: In a time of favour I have answered you; in a day of salvation I have helped you; **I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages, saying to the prisoners, 'Come out,' to those who are in darkness, 'Appear.'** They shall feed along the ways; on all bare heights shall be their pasture; they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them. And I will make all my mountains a road, and my highways shall be raised up. **Behold, these shall come from afar, and behold, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene.**" [SYENE = "THE DEEP SOUTH": SOUTHERN EGYPT]

**GOD AGREES:** AND, IN RESPONSE TO HIS SERVANT'S COMPLAINT, THROWS IN THE WHOLE WORLD: and so people from all over the world, sinners from every tribe and nation on the earth have come to be saved!

**5.** The Lord gives the Servant something to say to the entire human race!

FROM THE NORTH AND THE WEST AND THE SOUTH .

**CONCLUSION:**

**Isaiah 49:13** ESV ISAIAH CALLS THE WHOLE WORLD TO SING!

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the LORD has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.

FROM THE NORTH AND THE WEST AND THE SOUTH --- AND FROM THE EAST. FROM ASSYRIA  
→ WHICH BECAME BABYLON → WHICH IN OUR DAY IS NOW IRAQ. **[RAND'S TESTIMONY HERE]**

AND GOD HAS GIVEN US SONGS TO SING...e.g.

**Psalms 111:1-10** TO BE READ RESPONSIVELY.

CLOSING CALL: TO THOSE WHO KNOW THEMSELVES TO BE "FAR FROM GOD. "YOU PEOPLES FROM AFAR"

NEXT SUNDAY: **MARCH 17**

The Greatest Humility: **Isaiah 50:4-9**

(Nate Wright)