

Behold the Messiah

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Isaiah 49-52.
- B. Isaiah 49 begins with the voice of the servant of Isaiah who would suffer.
- C. The promises are extended from the Jewish world to the entire world.

II. The preparation of the Lord.

- A. The beginnings of our Lord were made in obscurity.
- B. The Lord's destiny became clear.
- C. The Lord began to experience rejection and apparent failure in what He did, yet He still was confident in victory.
- D. Even royalty would acknowledge the Lord's greatness.

III. The restoration of Israel.

- A. God declares that He will not forget Israel.
- B. He underscores this with the promise that He has engraved them on the palms of His hands.
- C. God promises an amazing restoration.

IV. God answers the charge of forgetting Israel.

- A. God has the power to lay aside difficulties.
- B. The power is human pride though—it is when one realizes that he cannot make it on his own that he can receive from God's hand.
- C. We must learn to think as God thinks through His word.
- D. We have a high priest who understands our suffering.

V. A word of encouragement: trust and rely in God.

VI. A word of discouragement for those not relying in God: you will lie down in torment.

VII. Steps to recover from a discouraged heart.

- A. Hearken to God and count your blessings.

- B. Look ahead to the future.
- C. Hearken to God and put on strength.

VIII. God's call to awake.

- A. God calls to awake for His purpose is to put His words in our hearts to be a witness.
- B. God calls His people Jerusalem to awake in the promise of relief.
- C. God calls to awake for He will richly bless.

IX. We have many promises amidst suffering.

- A. There is nothing we face that is not common to man.
- B. God is faithful only to give us what we can take. (I Corinthians 10:13)
- C. Suffering will pass.

Application questions:

1. Does God ever fail to fulfill His promises? How do people get in the way of His promises?

2. Are there ways you are not relying on God? How can you begin to change your reliance?

3. What is the purpose of suffering? How are promises fulfilled through it?
