

13. The true Servant of God – Jesus

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Over ten some years ago, with a few of our friends, my wife Karen and I went on an Alaska Inside Passage Cruise. It was a lot of fun. The best part of the cruise was that I could eat just about anything I wanted to eat and as much as I wanted. I even tried a French dish 'Escargot' just for the fun of it. But it wasn't fun for me after all. I ended up in the sick bay because I couldn't breathe well. I didn't know that I was allergic to snail. Here is an advice for you. Don't eat something you cannot pronounce if you are a redneck like me.

There were more than 3000 passengers and crew members in that ship and they all were doing whatever they needed to do or wanted to do from the bottom of the ship all the way to the top deck. In the meanwhile the ship was going through the course exactly as the captain of the ship was commanding .

The majority of humans somehow expect that God should do the things according to their desires and wants. But much to theirs and our surprise, our Lord does not cater His plan according to our wishes. He stays in the course that He planned way , way before the universe ever existed. The Bible even has audacity to say that we were created for God's glory and pleasure:

Isaiah 43:7 Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.

Revelation 4:11 You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.

As we will quickly go over from chapter 47 to 52, we will see that the Lord deals with Babylon, the future Gentile nations, Israel, but the most of all, He teaches us about His Son Jesus Christ and some of His earthly duty as the Servant of God.

A. THE HUMILIATION OF BABYLON

Isaiah 47:10-13 "For you have trusted in your wickedness; You have said, 'No one sees me'; Your wisdom and your knowledge have warped you; And you have said in your heart, 'I am, and there is no one else besides me.' 11 Therefore evil shall come upon you; You shall not know from where it arises. And trouble shall fall upon you; You will not be able to put it off. And desolation shall come upon you suddenly, Which you shall not know. 12 "Stand now with your enchantments And the multitude of your sorceries, In which you have labored from your youth-- Perhaps you will be able to profit, Perhaps you will prevail. 13 You are wearied in the multitude of your counsels; Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, And the monthly prognosticators Stand up and save you From what shall come upon you.

Yes, the Lord used Babylon to teach the idolatrous kingdom Judah a lesson, but the people of Babylon went too far against the Jewish people who were exiled there.

The rebuke of Babylon's pride is a simple fulfillment of a principle repeated several times in the Scripture:

James 4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

The ancient Babylon was the origin of occultism, paganism, and the base of much of the satanic works – sorceries, human sacrifice, astrology, fortune telling, and much more. As the followers of Christ, we should stay clear from any of these things, because the Lord is not in them.

B. NOT GOOD SERVANTS OF GOD

Isaiah 48:1-2 "Hear this, O house of Jacob, Who are called by the name of Israel, And have come forth from the wellsprings of Judah; Who swear by the name of the Lord, And make mention of the God of Israel, But not in truth or in righteousness; 2 For they call themselves after the holy city, And lean on the God of Israel; The Lord of hosts is His name:

Proclaiming oneself as a follower of God is easy, but living the life that reflects the commandments of God is not, like the people of Israel during the time of Isaiah didn't. The people in Israel acknowledged the Lord, and they had a profession of faith, but they had forsaken Him in their daily life.

How many people do you know who call themselves Christians, yet their lives do not show any indication of doing what the Lord tells them to do in the Bible? I hope and pray that none of us are in that category.

The believers who want what the world offers to them more than what the Lord has for them are cheating themselves. They are settling for temporal happiness and cheap entertainment that would make them feel good for a short time instead of the real lasting joy and peace and fulfillment of life that only comes from the Lord. This reminds me of the verses from the Book of Ephesians which we studied sometime ago:

Ephesians 3:14-21 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height-- 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Some of you may think, "Hey, those people who claim to be followers of God work in some ministries." For that comment, I'd like to draw your attention to what the Lord Jesus said in the Book of Matthew:

Matthew 7:22-23 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

C. THE SERVANT JESUS

Isaiah 49:1-7 "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. 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." 3 "And He said to me, 'You

are My servant, O Israel, In whom I will be glorified.' 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.'" 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), 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.'" 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 Messiah declares His mission in chapter 49. In v1, He was called in the womb of Mary. But His calling goes way back:

Micah5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."

The Messiah came as both a Servant and a Warrior, serving those who trust Him and ultimately judging those who resist Him. Contrary to those 'not -good-servant-of-God', the ancient Israel people, the Son of God was the greatest Servant of God.

The Lord called Israel to be a light to the Gentile nations by serving Him and following Him. But they failed it miserably like any other nation would do. Today, the church is God's light in this dark world, but like Israel, we seem to be failing in our mission to take the Good News to the ends of the earth.

Some of you might be wondering about the role of Jesus Christ as the Servant of God. "How can He be a Servant of God when He is the Son of God?" The answer is found in the Bible:

The term "Son of God" when it is in reference to Jesus is a claim of equality with God according to John 5:18. Furthermore, Jesus is the second person of the Trinity, the word that was made flesh.

Additionally, the term "Servant" does not mean that Jesus, who is God in flesh, cannot serve the people whom God the Father sent Him to redeem. Being the Servant and being the "Son of God" are different categories and are not mutually exclusive. Listen, being the Son of God is who He is; being the Servant of God was what He did on earth.

Matthew 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

D. GOD'S LOVE FOR ISRAEL

Isaiah 49:15-16 "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. 16 See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me.

What a beautiful way to assure God's love for Israel as well as us! I pity any fool who comes against Israel and the Jewish people because they are protected by Almighty God. Controlled by Satan and his demonic forces, the vast majority of people around the world despise and hate the Jewish people. Just about all the Arab

nations and Muslims want Israel to be wiped off from the map. Many of them wouldn't shed tears if there is another holocaust against the Jews. But none of that now. The Lord will protect them.

I used to be very much against Christians having tattoos because I've seen so many demonic and pornographic tattoos on the prison inmates to whom I used to minister before I started our church. But now I am not against it, nor am I for it. If someone wants to have tattoo, it is none of my business. Just keep those tattoo needles away from me unless you want to lose your arm. Remember this if you are planning to have a tattoo in future, as you grow older and your skin starts to follow the gravity, your once-majestic looking eagle tattoo is going to start to sag and will turn into something you don't expect.

Some Christians who want to justify their tattoos use this v16. They say, "Hey, God tattooed the Jews and us on His hands." No, this is about Jesus. This is the obvious and beautiful fulfillment of the nail-scarred hands of Jesus. When we see the nail-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?

E. HEAVEN AND EARTH WILL PASS AWAY

Isaiah 51:6 Lift up your eyes to the heavens, And look on the earth beneath. For the heavens will vanish away like smoke, The earth will grow old like a garment, And those who dwell in it will die in like manner; But My salvation will be forever, And My righteousness will not be abolished.

Both Jehovah's witnesses and Mormons think that they will dwell on this earth forever. They will be surprised as well as all the unbelievers of Jesus Christ. Apostle Peter wrote about it in the same way:

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

These are references to phenomenon surrounding the Second Coming of Jesus. This is ultimately when the justice of the Lord will be displayed to Israel and all nations. Some Bible scholars think that this is a figure of speech. Why? Because it might be too difficult for the Lord? Really? He created the whole thing in the first place and do they actually think that He cannot do it again? Yes, He will do it just as He said in the Bible.

But the righteousness and salvation of God are permanent. They remain, and are more permanent than even the heavens and the earth. We don't have to be afraid that God will change His character or His mind about us.

F. APPLICATIONS

1) Never doubt the love of God for you. His nail-scarred hands are proofs of His love, just for you.

2) We have the Servant King who served His Father and us. Let's serve Him and one another just like Jesus.