

“Principle of Just Due” Isaiah 49:1-26

Context: Isaiah is a book of prophecies about salvation, as subtly indicated by the Hebrew meaning of Isaiah’s name. For the next eight chapters we will be considering a special section addressing the Gospel of salvation through God’s suffering servant, the Christ. The section is set off and completed by the repetition of a proclamation that warns of unrelenting tumult for those opposing God’s character, purpose, and plans for redemption (cf. 48:22; 57:21). The content of the section seems to go beyond the faithful of Israel by further describing earlier revelations of God’s ministry of atonement and celebration to a broader Remnant. These are rescued out of the world’s structure of sin and redeemed for His future established Kingdom, a kingdom of life in a newly created heavens and earth.

Life Principle: God promises that the toil of His servants will be rewarded with His just due in His time for His glory (cp. Isaiah 49:4).

1. Just due as God’s reward – Isaiah 49:1-7

Verse 5 makes it clear that the Servant of the Lord is not the collective of Israel but a real individual. His mission as Savior is ordained before his birth. At first His work is concealed, then revealed through His proclamation. Although He is rejected, abandoned, and hated by man, He brings salvation first to the Jew and then to the Gentiles even to the utter ends of the earth. Who else could this be than Jesus Christ?

2. Just due in God’s timing – Isaiah 49:8-13 cp. Ephesians 4:8ff

In contrast to the disdain of earthly rulers revealed in the previous verses, a prophecy is made concerning Christ’s vindication as king and the promised fulfillment of God’s covenant for salvation. It is revealed by His resurrection from the dead, His liberation of the lost from their captivity to sin, and His eternal provision of peace for His own.

3. Just due as God’s testimony – Isaiah 49:14-26

Hope is proclaimed to all who are oppressed. This hope is based on God’s proclamation that He remembers the helpless and brings about deliverance to the hopeless in order to make known the power of His redemption as Savior of those who turn to Him for emancipation from their corruption.

Study questions:

- Isaiah 49:4 speaks of God’s servant as feeling that his life is empty in the sense of being poured out (cf. TWOT #2161c). As a **Bible study method**, look up passages that describe ways in which servants of God poured themselves out on His behalf (cf. Matthew 26:28; Romans 5:5ff; Philippians 2:17ff; 2 Timothy 4:6; Revelation 16:6ff). What was Jesus Christ’s reward for pouring Himself out for the salvation of the Remnant? What was Paul’s reward for being poured out for the Remnant? Are you being poured out for the sake of the Remnant? What is your hope for your toil?
- How do the following descriptions by New Testament writers establish Jesus as the Servant of the Lord identified in Isaiah 49:1-7 (cf. Luke 1:31; Peter 1:20; John 1:14; Matthew 26:56; Acts 1:9; 2:33; Hebrews 10:12ff; Matthew 15:24ff; Matthew 28:19ff)? What was His mission? What does it have to do with your mission?
- In Isaiah 49:4 reveals that God’s call to His mission comes with a reward according to the fulfillment of His calling (see footnotes 5-9 ‘**On Last Things**’ in our **doctrinal statement** under **what we believe** at www.gracepointfellowship.org)? What does His mission to you have to do with your eternal reward (cf. Daniel 12:2-4; Matthew 25:31-41; 1 Corinthians 3:10-17; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:11ff)?

Transformation exercise:

In Isaiah 49:4, Jesus Christ models a life lived awaiting His ‘just due’ in the face of toil, rejection, and apparent failure. Consider the rewards for godly and ungodly behavior as revealed in Proverbs 24-30 this week. Look around you and determine if the statements in Proverbs are true. How much more weighty will the rewards be for our behavior at the Judgment Seat of Christ? Selah!