

THE SECOND SERVANT SONG

Isaiah 49v1-13

The Servant's story

The first Servant song is biographical, the second is autobiographical. Here for the first time the Servant speaks. He introduces himself as a herald who claims the right to be universally heard. With clarion voice He calls to the nations, "Listen O coastlands, to Me, And take heed, you peoples from afar!" (v1) The words of Jesus Christ have universal authority and power.

But why should people listen to Him? What qualifies the Servant to speak with total authority? The answer is given in verses 1-4. The Servant outlines the story of His life. He tells us six things about Himself.

1. He was called v1

First He tells us of His call and commissioning by the Lord. This occurred in the time before He was born. In His pre-natal state He knew His identity.

2. He was named v1b

The Servant who commands us to listen to Him, now tells us that from the womb, He has been listening to God. He has heard the Lord mentioning his name - Yeshua = Saviour, the one who would save His people from their sins.

3. He was prepared v2

After describing his calling, the Servant of the Lord turns to His being prepared and equipped for office. Isaiah does not have in mind a war-making task for the Servant but the warfare of the word. (Rev 1v16, Heb 4v12)

4. He was hidden v2b

The reference is to the time of preparation in which the Servant was still out of public eye, awaiting the moment when the Lord would introduce Him to his work.

5. He was frustrated v3,4a

The Servant is despondent because although no effort has been spent nothing has been achieved. He is despised and abhorred (v7).

6. He trusted v4b

Passing from an experience of despondency to one of sure confidence, the Servant sets forth his firm assurance that God is with Him and that his work will be successful. The outcome of the Servant's toil is in God's hands.

HIS MISSION v6,7

His task is two-fold: The restoration of Israel and the salvation of the Gentiles. The N.T regards this chapter as a prophecy which had its fulfilment in Gospel days. See Luke 2v29-32, Acts 13v46-49, 2 Cor 6v2

We believe that this prophecy will also have a second, additional fulfilment just prior to the coming of the Lord. See Romans 11v11-15, 25-27.