

## Our Lord's Command to All the World

*Isa 49:1-6 "Listen, O coastlands, to Me, and take heed, you peoples from afar!"*

In chapters 47 and 48 which we have passed over in this study of Christ and His church in the Book of Isaiah God has pronounced His judgment upon Babylon, even though He raised her up to chasten His people, He as a just judge points out their inhumane treatment of His people, Israel as a just cause for His judgment. In the first verse of chapter 47 we read this pronouncement of judgment from God, "Come down and sit in dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon; sit on the ground without a throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans! For you shall no more be called tender and delicate", and after speaking of the future deliverance of the captive Isaiah once again returns to the promise of the coming Christ who not only was able to deliver them from their captivity in Babylon and their bondage in Egypt who will also deliver them from the wages and enslavement of sin. Indeed Paul assures us that it was our Lord who brought them out of Egypt when he wrote these words to the church at Corinth, "Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. 1 Cor 10:1-5

Paul goes on to tell us that these things happened to Israel as our examples. Calvin says that this is a common pattern with the prophetic word concerning God's deliverance in his commentary of Isaiah here saying, "Besides, it is customary with the prophets, when they discourse concerning the restoration of the Church, to bring Christ into view, not only because he would be the minister of the Church, but because on him was founded the adoption of the people." Once again the subject matter here in the prophetic word of Isaiah is Christ and His Church. First we shall see the Lord's Servant of Jehovah's command to the nations and we shall see the extent of His Kingdom. Secondly we shall see that He is the Elect Servant from all eternity. He is the Sword, the Word become flesh. And then we shall see that He is the Servant, the Israel, in whom God will be glorified.

A. The Servant's command to the nations - *"Listen, O coastlands, to Me, and take heed, you peoples from afar!"*

1. The Servant speaks with absolute authority, commanding the world to listen.
2. The Hebrew word translated "coastlands" is the word for islands and include both the islands of the sea and the continents of the earth upon far distant shores.
  - a. Once again Isaiah makes it clear that this coming Redeemer will be the Savior of Jew and Gentile alike
  - b. His message will go world-wide - *you peoples from afar*
  - c. Nations and peoples unknown to them, but known to God
  - d. His kingdom will cover the earth, it will include all the nations of the world
  - e. This is that body of people spoken of in Revelation chapter 7

*Rev 7:9-10 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*

3. The command itself instructs us to – *listen and to take heed*, to respond with obedience and service
  - a. It is the same command the Father gave the disciples of our Lord from the heavens on the mount of Transfiguration

*Luke 9:35 And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"*

- b. in a sense it is a command instructing us to set aside our opinions, feelings and attitude and acknowledge His Word alone as truth
4. It is a command given to all men to submit to His authority - *take heed, you peoples from afar!*
  - a. This Deliverer is infinitely greater than Cyrus, who was also called a Servant of the Lord.
    - (1) His deliverance is greater in that it is a deliverance from the penalty of sin
    - (2) His kingdom is greater in that it is worldwide and eternal
  - b. The Servant who speaks here with compelling authority is the Messiah, The Christ the Son of the Living God (Matt.16:16)
5. From the command that He gives we learn that His Kingdom shall extend over the whole world
  - a. That His Kingdom will cover the earth is the promise of the Father to the Son

*Ps 2:8 Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.*

- b. Although His Kingdom will extend worldwide and will be in the world, it will not be a worldly kingdom.
- c. We know this because Jesus Himself stated before Pilate

*John 18:36 "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."*

- d. So it is a kingdom completely different from all the other kingdoms of this world
- e. How do we know that it will be a kingdom differing from all the other kingdoms?
  - (1) Jesus prayed that we, the church, might be in the world but not of the world
  - (2) Paul tells us our citizenship is a heavenly citizenship - *"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior."* Phil 3:20
  - (3) Note here, we are waiting for its final fulfillment at the second coming of our Lord
  - (4) Furthermore we are told that this Kingdom is a spiritual kingdom – Jesus said: *"The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."* Luke 17:20-21
- f. The fact that it is a spiritual kingdom does not minimize the authority and power of the Messiah over all men including the kings of the earth are commanded to hear and submit

*Ps 2:10-11 Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.*

- g. For there is coming a day when it shall be declared with great authority *"The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"* Rev 11:15
- h. When we are made to understand that this kingdom is not of this world it does not mean that the kingdom is not real.
- i. We can be assured that there is coming a glorious kingdom eternal in the heavens

*Rev 21:1-4 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.*

- j. We have this assurance because at that final and great judgment day when all men shall appear before God we can expect to hear these words from our King

*Matt 25:34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*

What then is the message of the church?

Your nationality, culture or religious background matters not, you are commanded to take heed to the words of this kingly Servant of God

Whether you be a free man or a slave matters not, social concerns are not that important, eternity alone is important  
The glory of God alone is important, you are commanded to take heed to the words of this kingly Servant of God

Individuals and nations alike should submit to the authority of this eternal King

*Ps 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.*

The message of the church is clear:

*Ps 2:10-12 Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.*