

## The Person and Work of the Servant

*Isa 49:1-3 "Listen, O coastlands, to Me, and take heed, you peoples from afar! The Lord has called Me from the womb; from the womb of My mother He has made mention of My name. 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." "And He said to me, 'You are My servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'*

As we consider this passage this morning it will become quite clear that this is speaking of Christ and His Church. Indeed we find here a beautiful picture of our Lord and His ministry not only to the Jews but to all the world. We shall learn this morning that the Elect Servant, Jesus Christ was called from the womb to be the Savior of mankind; we shall learn what it means when we read that His mouth was made like a sharp sword; and we shall learn what it means that He was a well polished arrow.

A. Called from the womb, that is at His birth He was appointed of God and His office was declared from the time of His birth

1. When it is said *"The Lord has called Me from the womb; from the matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name"* this is speaking first to His Person and then to His work His calling, His office
2. As to His person, Jesus the Son of God was born at the time appointed from all eternity

*Gal 4:4-5 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.*

3. His purpose and work would be made known at the time of His conception

- a. The angel announced to Mary prior to the conception that this one who would be born of her *"will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."* Luke 1:32-33

(1) Note not just a name but titles that speak of both His Person and His Calling

(2) He will be called "the Son of the Highest" – The Son of God

(3) He will sit upon the throne of His father David

(4) He will be called the Son of David

(5) He will reign over the house of Jacob forever – that is Zion the church of the Living God

(6) And His kingdom will be an eternal kingdom

- b. The Work He will accomplish was establish by name when the angel instructed Joseph to call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins

4. That is Christ does not take this office upon Himself without the appointment of the Father as the Apostle says in Hebrews 5:4,5 - *"For no man takes this honor upon himself, but He who is called by God, as Aaron was. So also Christ glorified not himself to be made a high priest, but he who spoke to him, You are my Son; this day have I begotten thee."*

5. Here once again we are made to realize that the Messiah will humble Himself and become obedient in all things to the Father
6. Thus our Lord was not only appointed to the work of the Messiah from his birth, but that he actually had a name given him by God before he was born,

- a. A name which expressed the fact that he would save people,

*Matt 1:21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."*

- b. A reason why the distant pagan lands should hearken to his voice

- c. That this message of salvation would be to all men was made manifest by Paul when the Jews rejected the Christ at Antioch

Acts 13:47 For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'

B. The Servant's mouth shall be like a sharp sword

*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.*

1. The Servant's double task: Israel and the world
  - a. Jesus is that One who has been called to this purpose – from the womb
  - b. Jesus is that One whose mouth the Lord had prepared
2. What then is meant here by the servant's mouth being like a "sharp sword"?
  - a. The mouth here, by an obvious figure, stands for speech, for communication
  - b. Again we read in Heb 4:12 "*For the word of God is living and powerful, and **sharper than any two-edged sword**, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*"
  - c. Like a sword, His teaching, His doctrine will be pungent, penetrating, powerful
  - d. By His teaching, by the Gospel being proclaimed, men will be convicted of sin and converted by grace
  - e. We know this to be speaking of the Christ and His relationship with the Church for we read in Rev. 1:16 that "*He had in His right hand seven stars,*" and that "*out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword.*"
  - f. He is called the Word made flesh (cf. Jn. 1:1, 14)
  - g. He is the One from the bosom of the Father to reveal the Father to us whereby He calls the whole world to hear

C. He is a polished shaft rubbed free from any roughness or unevenness

1. That is, it is free from any roughness or unevenness therefore nothing can deflect it or impair its accuracy
  - a. Herein is the assurance of God's redeemed

*Heb 6:17-19 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast.*

- b. If God has purposed it He will bring it to pass
2. The Hebrew word here can also mean to be selected or chosen
  - a. Jesus is indeed the Elect of God chosen to redeem the elect throughout the nations

Isa 42:1 "Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.

- b. Chosen by the Father for a specific time to be born a Savior and a King

Eph 1:7-10 According to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth — in Him.

Conclusion:

Jesus Christ was called from the womb to be our Savior and Redeemer

It was the Gospel of Christ that has made us aware of our rebellion, the Word of God convicting us of our sin and giving us faith in the work of Christ as our only means of redemption

And that as that well polished arrow He has indeed perfected forever them that are sanctified in Him, our salvation is complete in Christ.

To sum it up we understand then that He was chosen by God to redeem us, sent His Spirit to convict us and convert us, and being a covenant-keeping God fully assures us of our eternal salvation

Therefore we can say with full assurance, *I know whom I have believed and I am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.* 2 Tim 1:12