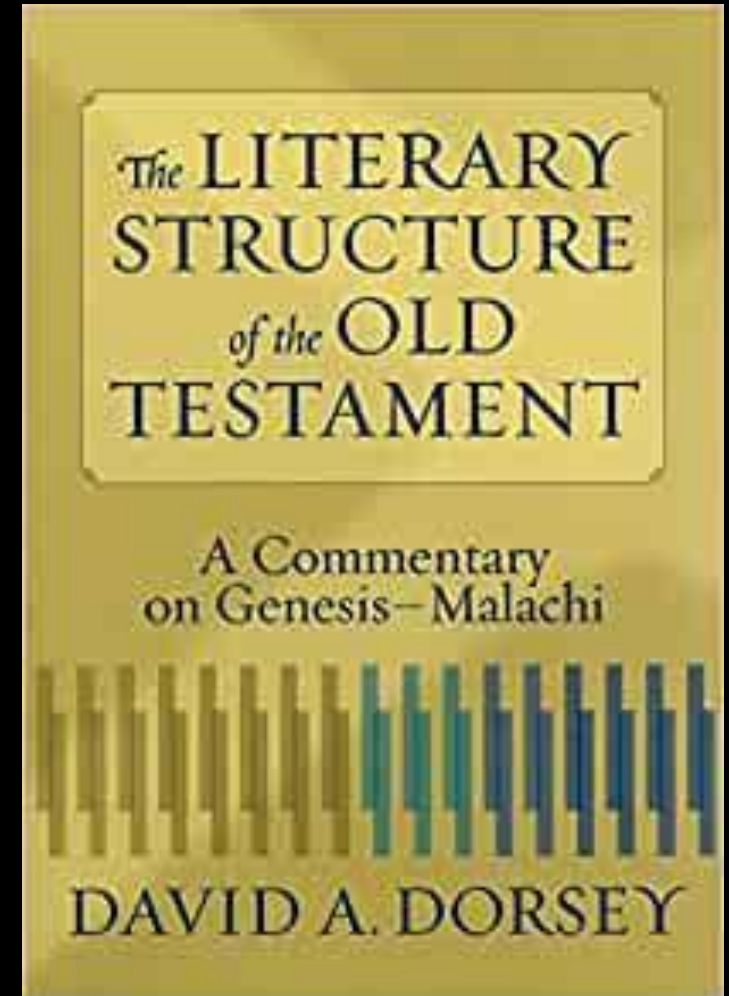


# YHWH's Servant

A Literary Analysis of Isaiah

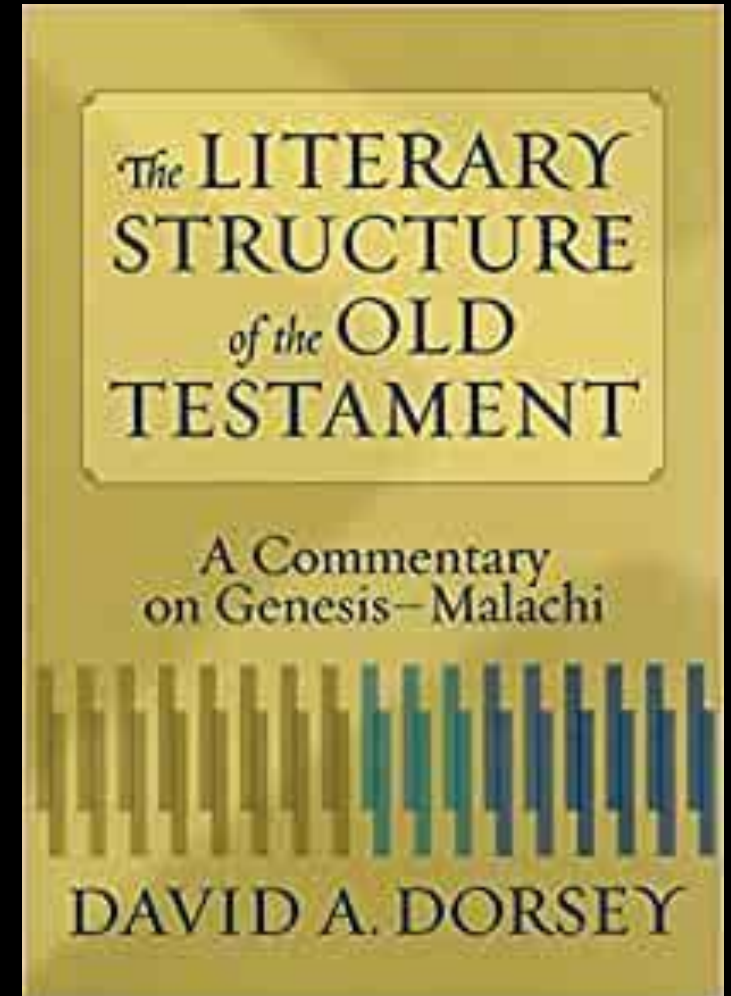
# YHWH's Servant

- If we want to understand and correctly interpret the book of Isaiah in its proper context, we need to understand much of its literary structure.
- *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament A Commentary on Genesis - Malachi* is the main source for the literary structure of Isaiah in this presentation.



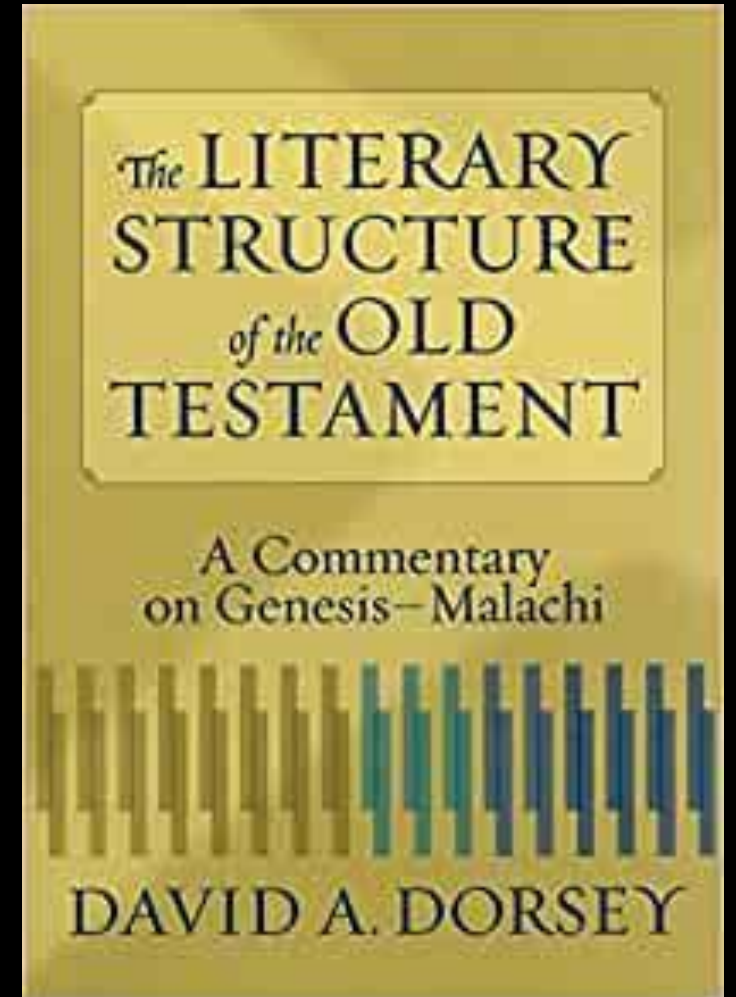
# YHWH's Servant

- I have made a few modifications to the chiasms from this book, as I have seen fit, for this presentation.
- However, most of the summary structures are intact.



# YHWH's Servant

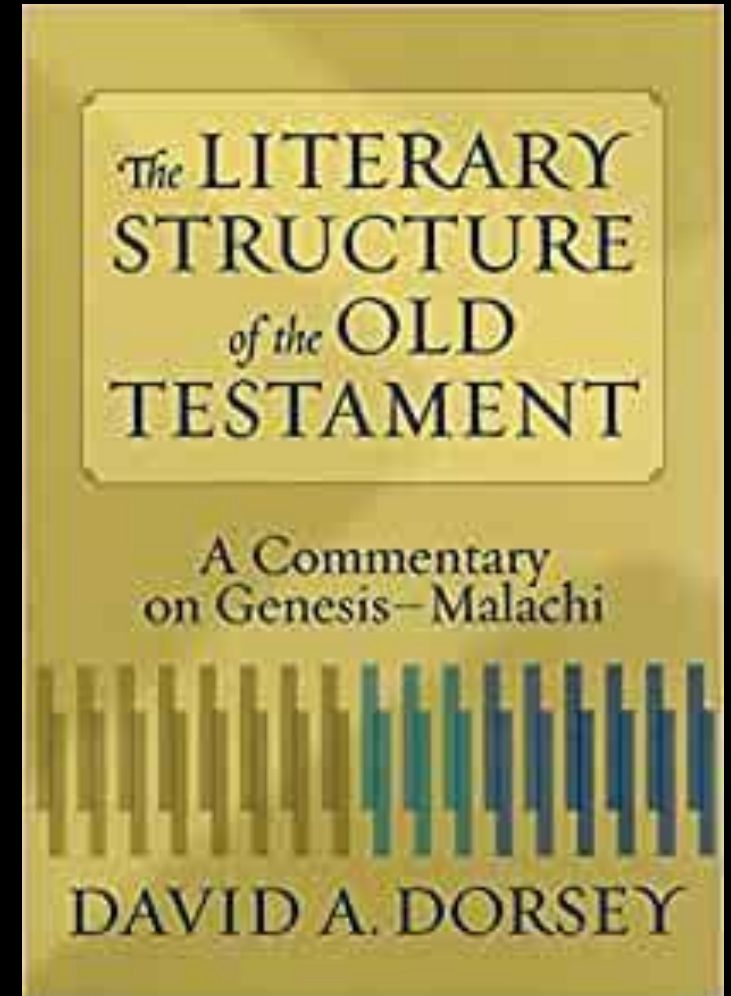
- Isaiah is really a chiasm composed of multiple layers of chiasms and numerous parallels or couplets that can cause the average reader to get lost in a fog.
- There are at least 3 and sometimes 4 levels of chiasms in Isaiah, which contribute to this fog.



# YHVH's Servant

In this presentation, we will:

- 1 Look at the overall structure of Isaiah;
- 2 Look the secondary and some tertiary chiasms in Isaiah;
- 3 Focus our attention on the portions related to YHVH's servants to properly identify the servants of YHVH in Isaiah.



# 1

## YHVVH's Servant

- The following chiasm contains a broad overview of the entire book of Isaiah.
- It is the primary chiasm for Isaiah.

# 1

# YHWH's Servant

| The Book of Isaiah |  |
|--------------------|--|
| A1                 | Message of condemnation, pleading, and future restoration (1:1-12:6).                        |
| B1                 | <b>Oracles to nations: Humiliation of proud king of Babylon (13:1-27:13).</b>                |
| C1                 | Collection of woes: Don't trust in earthly powers (28:1-35:10).                              |
| D                  | <b>Historical narratives: YHWH's supremacy over earthly &amp; divine powers (36:1-39:8).</b> |
| C2                 | YHWH's supremacy over idols: Don't trust in idols (40:1-48:22).                              |
| B2                 | <b>Servant messages: Exaltation of the Humble Servant (49:1-54:17).</b>                      |
| A2                 | Message of condemnation, pleading, and future restoration (55:1-66:24).                      |

Within each section are a variety of themes shared by the corresponding section of the chiasm. This is true of all chiasms.

1

# YHWH's Servant

- The points of focus in a chiasm are often in the central portion; however, it is not unusual to find them in the inclusios (bookends) of the chiasm.



# YHVH's Servant

- Broadly speaking, the book of Isaiah is about three things:
  - The humiliation of the proud king of Babylon;
  - The exaltation of the YHVH's Servant;
  - YHVH's supremacy over all earthly and divine powers.

1

# YHVVH's Servant

- This presentation will not be focusing on the king of Babylon or his antitypes.
- That discussion may be for another time.

1

# YHVVH's Servant

- Our goal is to properly identify YHVVH's servants in Isaiah since that has become a topic being used to lead people away from the Messiah.
- I believe this is part of the Great Apostasy.

# 1

## YHWH's Servant

- Let's continue by looking at the secondary chiasms found in the book of Isaiah.
- We will begin with a chiasm that corresponds to part A of the chiasm we just saw for the whole book of Isaiah -- *Message of condemnation, pleading, and future restoration (1:1-12:6)*.
- This chiasm is called *Introductory Messages (Isaiah 1-12)*.

# YHVH's Servant

| Introductory Messages (Isaiah 1-12) |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| A1                                  | Introduction: Israel's disobedience & resultant devastation.                            |
| <b>B1</b>                           | <b>Visions of future restoration of Jerusalem under rule of YHVH &amp; His Messiah.</b> |
| C1                                  | Coming destruction (Song of Vineyard) by a nation from far off.                         |
| <b>D</b>                            | <b>Call of Isaiah (6:1-13).</b>   |
| C2                                  | Coming destruction, not by neighboring nations but by (far off) Assyria.                |
| <b>B2</b>                           | <b>Visions of future restoration of Israel under the Messiah's righteous reign.</b>     |
| A2                                  | Conclusion: Israel's future restoration & obedience in a reversal of chapter 1.         |

The arrangement of the text, which may seem odd to us, maintains the chiasm's literary structure; it's not necessarily for the purpose of chronology or what we'd consider more important. Therefore, Isaiah's call does not come first.

# YHWH's Servant

- Part C' of the chiasm *Introductory Messages (Isaiah 1-12)* contains three signs.
- The first is Isaiah's son, Shear-Jashub, to indicate a remnant shall return – Isaiah 7:3.
- Isaiah's other two sons are a sign of the Syria-Samaria/Ephraim failure:
  - Immanuel (God with us) – Isaiah 7:14-16.
  - Maher-shalal-hash-baz (Hasten to seize the prey) – Isaiah 8:1-4.
  - Please note, it is possible that these two sons may be one and the same since one prophesies the birth, and the other announces the birth.



# YHWH's Servant

- The next chiasm drills down further on two names of Isaiah's children.
- It's called *Impending Invasion (Isaiah 7:1-8:18)*.

# YHVH's Servant

| Impending Invasion (Isaiah 7:1-8:18) |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| A1                                   | Introduction: Syria and Samaria against Judah, and Judah's fear (7:1-2).                     |
| <b>B1</b>                            | <b>Prediction of failure of invasion that presently threatens (7:3-9).</b>                   |
| C1                                   | Prophecy of child <b>Immanuel</b> : sign of Syria-Samaria/Ephraim failure (7:10-16).         |
| <b>D</b>                             | <b>Coming of greater invasion from Assyria (7:17-25).</b>                                    |
| C2                                   | Birth of child <b>Maher-shalal-hash-baz</b> : sign of Syria-Samaria/Ephraim failure (8:1-4). |
| <b>B2</b>                            | <b>Prediction of success of future invasion from Assyria (8:5-10).</b>                       |
| A2                                   | Conclusion: Don't fear what these people fear; instead, fear YHVH of Hosts (8:11-18).        |



# YHVVH's Servant

- Even though the Syrian-Samaritan/Ephraimite invasion will fail, the future invasion of Assyria is coming and will succeed in sweeping away the Syrian-Samaritan/Ephraimite problem (Isaiah 8:4).
- While this process is going on, YHVVH of Hosts will be a sanctuary for those who trust in Him and a rock of offense to those who don't (Isaiah 8:13-15).

## 2

# YHWH's Servant

- As we read these verses in context, we can see that midrash was used to apply these verses to Yeshua in 1 Peter 2:4-8 –
- *“Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, <sup>5</sup> you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

# YHVH's Servant

- 1 Peter 2:4-8 (Continued) –
- *"Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame."* (Isaiah 28:16)
- <sup>7</sup> *Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,"* (Psalms 118:22) <sup>8</sup> *and "A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense."* (Isaiah 8:14) *They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed."*

# YHVH's Servant

- The Immanuel prophecy, Isaiah 7:14-16, when applied to Yeshua, is also a use of midrash; it's an application of the original text.
- Because time is not only linear but cyclical, the gospel writers have taken these quotes out of their original context and applied them as prophetic fulfillments to Yeshua.
- We often see other variations of midrashic technique in the Apostolic writings. Another one is Galatians 4:22-31, which we will look at later.

# YHVH's Servant

- For the Immanuel prophecy, the virgin/young woman gives birth to a son and calls him Immanuel, which means “God with us.”
- These verses are taken from Isaiah and applied directly to Yeshua in a time when Rome already has power over Israel – a time when many in Israel are not living according to the terms of the covenant, which is also true of Isaiah's day.

# YHVH's Servant

- Bear in mind that there is a greater threat than ancient Rome that is coming far in the future – the Beast of Revelation. This beast is much like the Assyrian in Isaiah.
- Despite this threat, God's people are to fear and trust in YHVH of Hosts just as they were to do so in Isaiah's day.
- We are not to trust the Beast of Revelation or be associated with the Harlot – Mystery Babylon the Great – who associates with and who will be destroyed by the Beast.

## 2

# YHWH's Servant

- There is another prophecy of a child found in Isaiah 9:6.
- This child is NOT a son of Isaiah, son of Amoz.
- It falls within another chiasm on the following slide called *Present Failure and Future Restoration of Judah (Isaiah 8:21-11:19)*.

| Present Failure and Future Restoration of Judah (Isaiah 8:21-11:19) |   |
|---|---|
| A1  | <b>Prophecy of a Davidic king – Unto us a Son is given (8:20-9:7)</b>         |
| B1  | <b>Denunciation of pride of threatening invader, Samaria/Ephraim (9:8-12)</b> |
| C1  | Condemnation of Israel's leaders (9:13-16)                                    |
| D   | <b>Coming destruction of Israel (9:17-21)</b>                                 |
| C2  | Condemnation of Israel's leaders (10:1-4)                                     |
| B2  | <b>Denunciation of pride of future invader, Assyria (10:5-34)</b>             |
| A2  | <b>Prophecy of a Rod from the stem of Jesse – a Branch (11:1-9)</b>           |

As you can see, the prophecy of the Davidic king parallels the Rod from the stem of Jesse.



# YHVH's Servant

- **Isaiah 9:6** –
- *“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

## 2

# YHWH's Servant

- As I've pointed out, its chiastic parallel is the prophecy of the Rod from the stem of Jesse.
- Not only did David descend from Jesse, but, here, another person was prophesied to come from Jesse through the Davidic line.

# YHVH's Servant

- **Isaiah 11:1-5 –**
- *“There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.*
- *<sup>2</sup> The Spirit of YHVH shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of YHVH.*
- *<sup>3</sup> His delight is in the fear of YHVH, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;*

# YHWH's Servant

- **Isaiah 11:1-5 (Continued) –**

- *<sup>4</sup> But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.*
- *<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.”*

(See Revelation 19:11-16)

This is the prophecy of the Anointed One  
– The Messiah.

# YHVVH's Servant

- Based on our original chiasm, *The Book of Isaiah*, the chiastic complement for this Child from the root of Jesse should be found within Isaiah 55-66.
- More specifically, this chiastic complement is found in Isaiah 61:1-4.

# YHVH's Servant

- **Isaiah 61:1 –**
- *"The Spirit of the Adonai GOD is upon Me, Because YHVH has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;*
- *<sup>2</sup> To proclaim the acceptable year of YHVH, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,*

# YHVH's Servant

- **Isaiah 61:1 (Continued) –**
- <sup>3</sup> *To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of YHVH, that He may be glorified."*

# YHVH's Servant

- So, you can see that the Spirit of YHVH is on a single individual, and when Yeshua read from Isaiah in Luke 4:18-19, He said:
- *"The Spirit of YHVH is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;*
- *<sup>19</sup> To proclaim the acceptable year of YHVH."*

By reading this verse and claiming it had been fulfilled in their hearing, Yeshua was claiming that He was the Messiah.



## 2

# YHWH's Servant

- The next 6 slides present the basic structure of the second level of chiasms for the rest of the book of Isaiah.

# YHVH's Servant

| Oracles Against the Nations (Isaiah 13-27) |  |
|--|--|
| A1   | Fall of Babylon & Judah's restoration (13:1-14:32).  |
| <b>B1</b>                                  | <b>Oracle about Judah's neighbor Moab (15:1-16:14).</b>  |
| C1   | Oracle mostly concerning Egypt & Ethiopia (Ethiopian remnant will worship YHVH in Zion.) (17:1-20:6) |
| <b>D</b>                                   | <b>Fall of Babylon, Edom, and Arabia (21:1-17).</b>  |
| C2   | Oracle concerning Jerusalem & the ruler Shebna being replace by Eliakim (22:1-25).                   |
| <b>B2</b>                                  | <b>Oracle concerning Judah's neighbor Tyre (23:1-18).</b>  |
| A2   | Fall of "the lofty city" (Babylon) and Judah's restoration (24:1-27:13).                             |



# YHVH's Servant

- The remnant that came out of exile in ancient Babylon is the one that reclaimed Jerusalem.
- The remnant that will come out of Mystery Babylon the Great is one that will be trusting in Yeshua and keeping the commandments of God. They will enter the time of rest of the 7<sup>th</sup> millennium.

# YHVH's Servant

| Woes (Isaiah 28-35) |   |
|---------------------|---|
| A1                  | YHVH's coming overthrow of Judah's enemy to the north, Samaria/Ephraim (28:1-29).   |
| <b>B1</b>           | <b>Coming Assyrian siege of Jerusalem &amp; promise of YHVH's rescue (29:1-24).</b>   |
| C1                  | Warning to Judah: Do not rely on Egypt! (30:1-14)   |
| <b>D</b>            | <b>Trust in YHVH (30:15-33).</b>  |
| C2                  | Warning to Judah: Do not rely on Egypt! (31:1-9)  |
| <b>B2</b>           | <b>Coming Assyrian siege of Jerusalem &amp; promise of YHVH's rescue, restoration, and rule over the city (32:1-33:24).</b> |
| A2                  | YHVH's coming overthrow of Judah's enemy to the south, Edom (34:1-35:10).   |

# YHVH's Servant

| Historical Narratives (Isaiah 36-39) |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| A1                                   | Arrival of hostile Assyrian emissary – an obvious threat (36:1-22).   |
| <b>B1</b>                            | <b>Hezekiah's distress &amp; appeal to YHVH for help (37:1-7).</b>  |
| C1                                   | Sennacherib's blasphemous message to Hezekiah (37:8-13).  |
| <b>D</b>                             | <b>Hezekiah's prayer to YHVH – save us! (37:21-38)</b>  |
| C2                                   | YHVH's response to Sennacherib's blasphemous message & Hezekiah's prayer. YHVH delivers Hezekiah/Jerusalem, and Sennacherib is assassinated (37:21-38). |
| <b>B2</b>                            | <b>Hezekiah's sickness &amp; his appeal to YHVH for help (38:1-22).</b>   |
| A2                                   | Arrival of friendly Babylonian emissaries – an invisible threat (39:1-8).   |

# YHVH's Servant

## YHVH's Supremacy Over Idols (Isaiah 40-48)

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| A1        | Good news for Jerusalem! (40:1-31)   |
| <b>B1</b> | <b>YHVH is superior to all the idols; He is raising up one from the east (41:1-20).</b>  |
| C1        | YHVH's challenge to idols: Can they tell the future as He can? (41:21-42:17)   |
| <b>D</b>  | <b>Call to sinful Israel to respond to YHVH &amp; His punishment; promise of Israel's restoration (46:3-5).</b>                    |
| C2        | YHVH's challenge to all idols: Can they tell the future as He can? (43:8-45:19)  |
| <b>B2</b> | <b>YHVH is superior to all idols; He is calling a bird of prey from the east – a man from a far country – Cyrus (45:20-46:13).</b> |
| A2        | Bad news for Babylon! (47:1-48:22)   |

# YHVH's Servant

| The Suffering Servant (Isaiah 49-54) |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| A1                                   | Restoration of Mother Jerusalem (Zion) & her children through the servant (49:1-26). |
| <b>B1</b>                            | <b>The Suffering Servant (50:1-11).</b>  |
| C1                                   | Almighty YHVH will rescue his people (51:1-16).                                      |
| <b>D</b>                             | <b>Mother Jerusalem, bereaved of her children, will be restored (52:1-12).</b>       |
| C2                                   | Almighty YHVH will rescue his people (52:1-12).                                      |
| <b>B2</b>                            | <b>The Suffering Servant &amp; the forgiveness of Israel's sins (52:13-53:12).</b>   |
| A2                                   | Restoration of Mother Jerusalem (Israel) & her children (54:1-17).                   |

In this chiasm, the Suffering Servant has a role to play in the process of YHVH rescuing His people, so they can be restored.

# YHVH's Servant

| Final Invitation to Return to YHVH (Isaiah 55-66) |   |
|---|---|
| A1  | Invitation to wicked & promise of future restoration (55:1-56:12).  |
| <b>B1</b>   | <b>Condemnation of God's wicked people, with a note of hope (57:1-21).</b>                                    |
| C1  | Call to restoration of true righteousness (58:1-59:21).   |
| <b>D</b>  | <b>Glorious future restoration of Israel (60:1-22).</b>   |
| C2  | Future restoration of true righteousness (61:1-62:9).   |
| B2  | <b>Condemnation &amp; coming judgment of God's wicked people, with a prayer of forgiveness (62:10-64:12).</b> |
| A2  | Invitation to wicked & promise of future restoration (65:1-66:24).  |



# YHVVH's Servant

- We will spend much of our time looking at some of the contents of these two chiasms:
  - *YHVVH's Supremacy Over Idols (Isaiah 40-48)*
  - *The Suffering Servant (Isaiah 49-54)*

# YHVVH's Servant

- But first, we need to understand that there are several servants of YHVVH in the book of Isaiah.
- We will see where these fall in the text while looking at their context within their appropriate chiasms.

# YHWH's Servant

| Oracles Against the Nations (Isaiah 13-27) |  |
|--|--|
| A1   | Fall of Babylon & Judah's restoration.   |
| <b>B1</b>                                  | <b>Oracle about Judah's neighbor Moab.</b>   |
| C1   | Oracle mostly concerning Egypt & Ethiopia<br><i>Isaiah 20:3-5 – My servant Isaiah...</i>             |
| <b>D</b>                                   | <b>Fall of Babylon, Edom, and Arabia.</b>  |
| C2   | Oracle concerning Jerusalem & Egyptian (?) Shebna.<br><i>Isaiah 22:20-21 – My servant Eliakim...</i> |
| <b>B2</b>                                  | <b>Oracle concerning Judah's neighbor Tyre.</b>  |
| A2   | Fall of "the lofty city" (Babylon) and Judah's restoration.  |

# YHVH's Servant

| Historical Narratives (Isaiah 36-39) |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| A1                                   | Arrival of hostile Assyrian emissary.  |
| <b>B1</b>                            | <b>Hezekiah's distress &amp; appeal to YHVH for help.</b>  |
| C1                                   | Sennacherib's blasphemous message to Hezekiah  |
| <b>D</b>                             | <b>Hezekiah's prayer to YHVH – save us!</b><br><i>Isaiah 37:35 -- 'For I will defend this city (from the Assyrians), to save it For My own sake and for <b>My servant David's</b> sake.'</i> |
| C2                                   | YHVH's response to Sennacherib's blasphemous message & Hezekiah's prayer. YHVH delivers Hezekiah/Jerusalem, and Sennacherib is assassinated.   |
| <b>B2</b>                            | <b>Hezekiah's sickness &amp; his appeal to YHVH for help.</b>  |
| A2                                   | Arrival of friendly Babylonian emissaries (irony!)   |

# YHVVH's Servant

- Up through Isaiah 37, YHVVH's servants that have been mentioned have been Isaiah, Eliakim, and David.
- As we move forward, we will have to use some reasoning skills to see who YHVVH's servant is.

# YHVVH's Servant

- The following chiasm, *YHVVH's Supremacy Over Idols (Isaiah 40-48)*, which contain verses regarding YHVVH's servant, will be shown in several slides due to the number of verses being looked at.

# YHVH's Servant

## YHVH's Supremacy Over Idols (Isaiah 40-48)

A1 Good news for Jerusalem!

B1 YHVH is superior to all the idols; He is raising up one from the east.

*Isaiah 41:8-9 -- "But you, **Israel**, are **My servant, Jacob** whom I have chosen, The descendants of Abraham My friend.*

***9 You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, And called from its farthest regions,**  
And said to you, 'You are **My servant**, I have chosen you and have not cast you away:*

The context of these verses make it clear that YHVH's servant is referring to the nation of Israel.

# YHWH's Servant

- The verses we just looked at are part of another chiasm that I call *The Servant, A Light to the Nations (Isaiah 41:27-42:25)*.



# YHVH's Servant

## The Servant, A Light to the Nations (Isaiah 41:27-42:25)

|   |                      |                        |  |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|--|
| A | Isaiah 41:27-29      | Isaiah 42:21-25        | One who preaches;<br>YHVH will exalt the law       |
| B | <b>Isaiah 42:1-4</b> | <b>Isaiah 42:18-20</b> | <b>My Servant versus My blind servant</b>          |
| C | Isaiah 42:5-9        | Isaiah 42:14-17        | YHVH's Servant opens the eyes of the blind servant |
| D | Isaiah 42:10-13      |                        | A new song of praise to YHVH                       |

# YHWH's Servant

- This chiasm, *The Servant, A Light to the Nations (Isaiah 41:27-42:25)*, contains two servants – a Righteous Servant and a blind servant (Jacob).

# YHVVH's Servant

- Within *The Servant, a Light to the Nations (Isaiah 41:27-42:25)*, part A1 – Isaiah 41:27-29 corresponds to part A2 – Isaiah 42:21-25.
- Within this section, YHVVH intends to give to Jerusalem one who would preach bring good tidings. It seems that YHVVH, who stated He would do so, would use this Servant to exalt the law and make it honorable.

# YHVH's Servant

This person is likely the child from the line of David who became the Spirit-filled Man (Messiah) mentioned in Isaiah 11:1-5 and Isaiah 61:1-4.

## YHVH's Supremacy Over Idols (Isaiah 40-48)

**B1** *Isaiah 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.*

This Messiah will establish justice in the earth.

# YHWH's Servant

- The verses that follow Isaiah 42:1 are clearly about:
  - How this single person does not cry out like previous prophets.
  - How this single person treats the meek and the poor.
  - His law.
  - Someone who will not faint or be weary.
  - Opening the eyes of the house of Israel -- not his own eyes.
  - Giving someone as a covenant for the people of Israel and a light for the Gentiles.

# YHVH's Servant

- The Great Isaiah Scroll of the Dead Sea Scroll (1QIsa<sup>a</sup>), like the Masoretic Text, does not identify “My Servant” in Isaiah 42:1.
- On the other hand, the Targum Jonathan Ben Uziel – the Targum Isaiah – identifies “My Servant” as the Messiah.

# YHWH's Servant

- It is unclear why the Masoretic Text would not identify YHWH's Servant and why the LXX would have specified Jacob as "My Servant" or Israel as "My Elect One" in Isaiah 42:1.
- It could be because YHWH's Servant supplants (the meaning of "Jacob") the role of the nation of Israel due to their unrighteousness.
- Based on what we've already seen, this person who is YHWH's Servant and in whom YHWH delights must be a single descendant of Jacob from the line of David.

# YHVVH's Servant

- As Isaiah 42 progresses, God's attention turns from His anointed Servant – the Messiah – and in verse 16, He begins talking about the blind who are also His servants.



# YHWH's Servant

## YHWH's Supremacy Over Idols (Isaiah 40-48)

**B1** *Isaiah 42:18-19 – "Hear, **you deaf**; And look, **you blind**, that you may see. 19 Who is **blind** but **My servant**, Or deaf as My messenger whom I send? Who is **blind** as he who is perfect, And **blind** as **YHWH's servant**?"*

This blind servant corresponds to the blind and deaf of Israel mentioned in Isaiah 29:15-24. The blind and deaf are those who erred in spirit; however, they will eventually see and hear, and come to understanding and learn doctrine.

# YHVVH's Servant

- Clearly, these blind servants (collectively a singular servant) are part of the house of Israel.
- And what happened to these servants?

# YHVH's Servant

## YHVH's Supremacy Over Idols (Isaiah 40-48)

C1 YHVH's challenge to idols: Can they tell the future as He can? (41:21-42:17)

***Isaiah 42:24-25** – Who gave **Jacob** for plunder, and **Israel** to the robbers? Was it not YHVH, He against whom we have sinned? **For they would not walk in His ways, Nor were they obedient to His law.** 25 Therefore He has poured on him the fury of His anger And the strength of battle; It has set him on fire all around, Yet he did not know; And it burned him, Yet he did not take it to heart.*

# YHVH's Servant

## YHVH's Supremacy Over Idols (Isaiah 40-48)

- D** Call to sinful Israel to respond to YHVH & His punishment; promise of Israel's restoration (42:18-43:7).

*Isaiah 43:1-4 – But now, thus says YHVH, who created you, **O Jacob**, And He who formed you, **O Israel**: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. <sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.*

# YHVH's Servant

## YHVH's Supremacy Over Idols (Isaiah 40-48)

D *Isaiah 43:1-4 (Continued) – <sup>3</sup> For I am YHVH your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in your place.*

*<sup>4</sup> Since you were precious in My sight, You have been honored, And I have loved you; Therefore I will give men for you, And people for your life.*

# YHWH's Servant

- Can it be any clearer in the Scriptures that God has and again intends to give people as a ransom for the lives of Israel?
- It is, therefore, not a major stretch that God would give the life of His Son, Yeshua, in order to redeem those who choose to be in covenant with Him.

# YHVH's Servant

## YHVH's Supremacy Over Idols (Isaiah 40-48)

C2 YHVH's challenge to all idols: Can they tell the future as He can? (43:8-45:19)

***Isaiah 43:10** – "You are My witnesses," says YHVH, "And **My servant whom I have chosen**, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me.*

# YHVH's Servant

- The phraseology of Isaiah 43:10 lends itself to different possible interpretations.
- “You” is the nation of Israel who was a witness of what God did in Egypt after the Passover by way of the information being passed down to each generation.
- “My servant” can refer to either the nation of Israel to create a couplet, or it can refer to the Messiah.



# YHVH's Servant

- The phrase, *“That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He,”* can refer back to *“My Servant,”* so that YHVH is His own Servant. After all, the sentence ends there in the Hebrew followed by *“Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me.”*
- However, some tend to interpret it in a manner similar to the Targum Isaiah Ben Uziel – *“And understand that I am He who was from the beginning ; yea, ages after ages are mine, and beside me there is no god.”*

# YHVH's Servant

## YHVH's Supremacy Over Idols (Isaiah 40-48)

- C2 *Isaiah 44:1-3* – "Yet hear now, **O Jacob My servant**, And **Israel** whom I have chosen. <sup>2</sup> Thus says YHVH who made you And formed you from the womb, who will help you:  
 'Fear not, **O Jacob My servant**; And you, **Jeshurun**, whom I have chosen.  
<sup>3</sup> For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, And floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring..."

Verses 1 and 2 form a parallel couplet where Israel is comparable to Jeshurun (Upright One). If Jeshurun is the nation of Israel and not the Messiah, this would be after their redemption and removal of blindness<sup>66</sup>

# YHVVH's Servant

## YHVVH's Supremacy Over Idols (Isaiah 40-48)

C2 *Isaiah 44:21* – "Remember these, **O Jacob, And Israel**, for you are **My servant**; I have formed you, you are **My servant**; **O Israel**, you will not be forgotten by Me!

*Isaiah 44:26a* – ... YHVVH... Who confirms the word of **His servant**, And performs the counsel of His messengers...

The Targum Ben Uziel translates Isaiah 44:26a as His servants (plural instead of singular). However, the Septuagint translates it in the singular like the Masoretic Text and Dead Sea Scroll (1QIsa<sup>a</sup>) do.

# YHVVH's Servant

- These verses in Isaiah 44 seem to refer to YHVVH's servant as the nation of Israel.

# YHVH's Servant

## YHVH's Supremacy Over Idols (Isaiah 40-48)

C2 *Isaiah 45:4 – For **Jacob My servant's** sake, And **Israel** My elect, I have even called you (Cyrus) by your name; I have named you, though you have not known Me.*

Here Jacob My servant is clearly the nation of Israel.

However, Cyrus will also be unknowingly serving YHVH by doing His will in regard to Jacob/Israel.

# YHWH's Servant

## YHWH's Supremacy Over Idols (Isaiah 40-48)

|    |  |
|----|--|
| B2 | YHWH is superior to all idols; He is calling a bird of prey from the east – a man from a far country -- Cyrus (45:20-46:13). |
| A2 | Bad news for Babylon! (47:1-48:22)   |

These portions of the chiasm close the current secondary chiasm, *YHWH's Supremacy Over Idols (Isaiah 40-48)*.

# YHWH's Servant

- So, at this stage, we have seen YHWH's servants identified as:
  - Jacob/Israel in most parts of Isaiah 41-45
  - The Messiah (Isaiah 42:1-7, and debated in Isaiah 43:10)
  - Cyrus (implied)
- Each have been supported by valid descriptions in the text.

# YHVVH's Servant

- We will begin to look at the following chiasm, *The Suffering Servant (Isaiah 49-54)*, with verses regarding YHVVH's servant.
- There are several smaller chiasms embedded in this one.
- We will start with *The Servant's Mission (Isaiah 49:1-6)*.



# YHVVH's Servant

| The Servant's Mission (Isaiah 49:1-6) |               |               |   |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---|
| A                                     | Isaiah 49:1-3 | Isaiah 49:5-6 | Called from the womb                        |
| B                                     | Isaiah 49:4   |               | Labored in vain;<br>My reward is with YHVVH |

# YHVH's Servant

## The Servant's Mission (Isaiah 49:1-6)

- A ***Isaiah 49:1-6** – “Listen, O coastlands, to **Me**, And take heed, you peoples from afar! **YHVH** has called **Me** from the womb; From the matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name.*
- <sup>2</sup> 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.”*
- <sup>3</sup> "And He said to me, ‘**You are My servant, O Israel**, In whom I will be glorified.’*

# YHVH's Servant

## The Servant's Mission (Isaiah 49:1-6)

A' *Isaiah 49:1-6 –<sup>4</sup> 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 YHVH**, And my work with my God.'*

Here, YHVH's servant – the Messiah – feels like all of His efforts to bring Jacob back to YHVH were for nothing.

But YHVH has more in mind for Him – to be a light to the Gentiles as well – YHVH's salvation to the ends of the earth.

# YHVH's Servant

## The Servant's Mission (Isaiah 49:1-6)

B *Isaiah 49:1-6 (Continued)* – <sup>5</sup> "And now YHVH 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 YHVH, And My God shall be My strength),** <sup>6</sup> 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** (נְצִירֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, netzirey yisrael \*); I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation (yeshua-ti) to the ends of the earth.'"

\*Netzirey yisrael (נְצִירֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל) is a term related to netzer (נֶצֶר) meaning branch, as well as Nazareth (נִצְרַת) or Nazarene (נִצְרִי, notzri).

# YHVVH's Servant

- Even though the servant is identified as Israel in Isaiah 49:3, this servant can't be the nation of Israel or Isaiah because this servant brings back Jacob to God and restores the preserved ones of Israel (Netzirey yisrael).
- Not only is He the Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel, He also has the privilege of being a light to the Gentiles and YHVVH's salvation to the ends of the earth.
- So, why is He called Israel?

3

# YHVVH's Servant

- It is likely related to the meaning of the name Israel.
- Israel means “God prevails” or “He will rule as God.”

# YHVVH's Servant

- This **Suffering Servant** is a representative of Israel who brings Jacob back to YHVVH – one who will “Israel” (reign as God) on the earth.
- He will raise up the tribes of Jacob, restore the preserved ones of Israel, be a light to the Gentiles, and be YHVVH's salvation to the ends of the earth.
- Isaiah 49:8 indicates that **YHVVH's Servant** will be preserved (likely via death and resurrection) and given as a covenant to the people.

# YHWH's Servant

- If we accept the Masoretic Text, Septuagint, and the Great Isaiah Dead Sea Scroll, as well as the Apostolic Scriptures as they have come down to us, it seems that the most likely identity of the Servant would be Yeshua of Nazareth.
- He is the Messiah.



# YHWH's Servant

- Let's look at another chiasm within the chiasm *The Suffering Servant* (Isaiah 49-54).

# YHVVH's Servant

## The Servant is Humiliated and Justified (Isaiah 50:4-11)

|   |               |                 |   |
|---|---------------|-----------------|---|
| A | Isaiah 50:4-5 | Isaiah 50:10-11 | Opened My ear; I was not rebellious.<br>Who obeys the voice of His servant? |
| B | Isaiah 50:6-7 | Isaiah 50:9     | Adonai God will help Me   |
| C | Isaiah 50:8   |                 | He is near who justifies Me   |

# YHVH's Servant

## The Servant is Humiliated and Justified (Isaiah 50:9-11)

- A** *Isaiah 50:4 -- "The Adonai GOD has given Me The tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak."*
- A'** *Isaiah 50:10– "Who among you fears YHVH? Who obeys the voice of **His Servant**? Who walks in darkness And has no light? Let him trust in the name of YHVH And rely upon his God.*

This Servant is the same one from Isaiah 49 who was referred to as "Israel" in Isaiah 49:3. The people of Israel should listen and obey the voice of this Servant because Adonai God has opened His ear and has given Him the tongue of the learned, so that He knows how to speak.

# YHWH's Servant

- Now let's review the central portions of our chiasm *The Suffering Servant (Isaiah 49-54)* – parts (C1, D, C2) – then we will look at the portion that corresponds to what we have just looked at.

| The Suffering Servant (Isaiah 49-54) |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| A1                                   | Restoration of Mother Jerusalem (Zion) & her children through the servant (49:1-26). |
| B1                                   | The Suffering Servant (50:1-11).   |
| C1                                   | Almighty YHVH will rescue his people (51:1-16).                                      |
| D                                    | <b>Mother Jerusalem, bereaved of her children, will be restored (52:1-12).</b>       |
| C2                                   | Almighty YHVH will rescue his people (52:1-12).                                      |
| B2                                   | The Suffering Servant & the forgiveness of Israel's sins (52:13-53:12).              |
| A2                                   | Restoration of Mother Jerusalem (Israel) & her children (54:1-17).                   |

This chiasm is showing us that the Suffering Servant, who speaks, has a role to play in the process of YHVH rescuing His people, so they can be restored. <sup>85</sup>

# YHWH's Servant

## The Suffering Servant (Isaiah 49-54)

B2 The Suffering Servant & the forgiveness of Israel's sins (52:13-53:12).

*Isaiah 52:13-15 -- Behold, **My Servant** shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. <sup>14</sup> Just as many were astonished at you, **So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men;** <sup>15</sup> So shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; For what had not been told them they shall see, And what they had not heard they shall consider.*

# YHVH's Servant

## The Suffering Servant (Isaiah 49-54)

- B2 ***Isaiah 53:3-6** – 3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.*
- 4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.*
- 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And YHVH has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

YHVH's Servant is a Man of sorrows, not a nation of sorrows.

# YHVH's Servant

## The Suffering Servant (Isaiah 49-54)

B' ***Isaiah 53:7-10** – He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, **So He opened not His mouth.** 8 He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? **For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.** 9 And they made His grave with the wicked — But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth. 10 Yet it pleased YHVH to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, **He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of YHVH shall prosper in His hand.***



# YHVH's Servant

## The Suffering Servant (Isaiah 49-54)

- B2 **Isaiah 53:11-12** – <sup>11</sup> *He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge **My righteous Servant** shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.*
- <sup>12</sup> *Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, **Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.***

The Messiah would not have done the things mentioned in these verses if He had not had the knowledge that this is what He was called to do. Don't forget – all of this was the plan stated in Isaiah 43:1-4 .

# YHVVH's Servant

- The things that the Suffering Servant did for the nation of Israel and for those who choose to join themselves to Israel is what makes it possible for the restoration of Israel.

3

# YHVVH's Servant

- However, much of Israel has rejected Yeshua as Messiah.

# YHWH's Servant

- Despite this, the Jewish rabbis knew that Isaiah 53 was about the Messiah, although that is not what is always taught by them today.
- Consider the following three quotes from *The Messiah of the Targums, Talmud and Rabbinical Writers*.

# YHVVH's Servant

- *That by the Messiah bearing them they would be delivered from the wrath which rested upon them, and be enabled to endure it, as it is said, "and by associating with Him WE ARE HEALED."*

Yepheth ben Ali.

# YHVVH's Servant

- *“But he was wounded,” etc... Meaning that since the Messiah bears our iniquities which produce the effect of His being bruised, it follows that whosoever will not admit that Messiah thus suffers for our iniquities, must endure and suffer for them himself.*

R. Elijah de Vidas.

# YHVH's Servant

- *Says R. Huna in the name of R. Aha: "The chastisements are divided into three parts, one for David and the patriarchs, one for the generation of our present exile, and one for the King Messiah, as it is written, "He was wounded for our iniquities," etc... According to the opinion of the Rabbis, the verse speaks of the Messiah.*

R. Sh'lomoh Astruc.

# YHVVH's Servant

- At this point, we should be cautious of whose teachings we listen to because people are being led astray from the truth of who the Messiah is by listening to Jewish rabbis who speak what is false.
- This is why we must test everything that we hear by rightly dividing the Scriptures.
- I feel that is often best done through literary and thematic analysis.



# YHVVH's Servant

- Now that we've looked at the Suffering Servant in Isaiah 53, the beginning of Isaiah 54 is pretty much on track and appropriately closes the chiastic structure of *The Suffering Servant (Isaiah 49-54)*.

# YHVH's Servant

## The Suffering Servant (Isaiah 49-54)

A2 Restoration of Mother Jerusalem (Zion) & her children through the servant (54:1-17).

**Isaiah 54:1** -- *"Sing, O **barren**, You who have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, You who have not labored with child! For more are the children of the desolate Than the children of **the married woman**," says YHVH.*

**Isaiah 54:3** -- *For you shall expand to the right and to the left, And your descendants will inherit the nations, And make the desolate cities inhabited.*

# YHVH's Servant

## The Suffering Servant (Isaiah 49-54)

A2 ***Isaiah 54:5** -- For your Maker is your husband, YHVH of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called **the God of the whole earth.***

***Isaiah 54:7** -- For a mere moment I have forsaken you, But with great mercies I will gather you.*

# YHVH's Servant

## The Suffering Servant (Isaiah 49-54)

A2 **Isaiah 54:10** -- *For the mountains shall depart And the hills be removed, But My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed," Says YHVH, who has mercy on you.*

**Isaiah 54:17** -- *No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of YHVH, And their righteousness is from Me," Says YHVH.*

# YHWH's Servant

- Paul has given us a midrash on this passage, which relates to two women from the past – Sarah and Hagar.
- Originally, Sarah was the wife or freewoman who was desolate, and Hagar was the concubine or bondwoman who bore a son.

# YHWH's Servant

## Two Women (Galatians 4:22-5:1)

P 4:22 For it is written that **Abraham had two sons**: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. <sup>24a</sup> **which things are symbolic.**  
**For these are the two covenants:**

# YHVH's Servant

## Two Women (Galatians 4:22-5:1)

A1

4:24a the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to **bondage**, which is Hagar--

<sup>25</sup> for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in **bondage** with her children--

4:26 but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.

<sup>27</sup> For it is written: "**Rejoice, O barren, *You* who do not bear! Break forth and shout, *You* who are not in labor! For the desolate (Sarah) has many more children Than she who has a husband.**"

<sup>28</sup> Now we, brethren, as Isaac *was*, are children of promise.

# YHWH's Servant

- Through a lifestyle of living according to the flesh, God's people – Jerusalem – had become like Hagar, a bondwoman.
- God did not intend for her to live according to the flesh, which brings forth death, but according to the Spirit, which brings forth life.
- In other words, God's people were intended to be free.



3

# YHVVH's Servant

- Because of what the Suffering Servant did, that can finally take place.

# YHVH's Servant

## Two Women (Galatians 4:22-5:1)

B2

**4:29** But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him *who was born* according to the Spirit, even so *it is now*.

<sup>30</sup> Nevertheless what does the Scripture say?

**"Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman."**

**4:31** So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

**5:1** Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

# YHVH's Servant

- The same choice that Moses put before the people in **Deuteronomy 30:19-20** is the same message of Isaiah and Paul:
- *"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; <sup>20</sup> that you may love YHVH your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which YHVH swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."*

# YHVH's Servant

- As we have seen, YHVH had several servants in the book of Isaiah:
  - Isaiah
  - Eliakim
  - David
  - Jacob/Israel
  - Cyrus (implied)
  - The Messiah

# YHVVH's Servant

- We too are called and chosen to be servants of YHVVH --
- As such, we are to walk in the Spirit by obeying the terms of the covenant instead of walking in the desires of the flesh by disobeying the terms of the covenant.

# YHVVH's Servant

- As Isaiah draws to a close, the chiasm, *Final Invitation to Return to YHVVH (Isaiah 55-66)*, gives us a peek at the future.

# YHVH's Servant

| Final Invitation to Return to YHVH (Isaiah 55-66) |   |
|---|---|
| A1  | Invitation to wicked & promise of future restoration (55:1-56:12).  |
| <b>B1</b>   | <b>Condemnation of God's wicked people, with a note of hope (57:1-21).</b>                                    |
| C1  | Call to restoration of true righteousness (58:1-59:21).   |
| <b>D</b>  | <b>Glorious future restoration of Israel (60:1-22).</b>   |
| C2  | Future restoration of true righteousness (61:1-62:9).   |
| <b>B2</b>   | <b>Condemnation &amp; coming judgment of God's wicked people, with a prayer of forgiveness (62:10-64:12).</b> |
| A2  | Invitation to wicked & promise of future restoration (65:1-66:24).  |

3

# YHVVH's Servant

- Take time to read through Isaiah 55-66 to see the details.



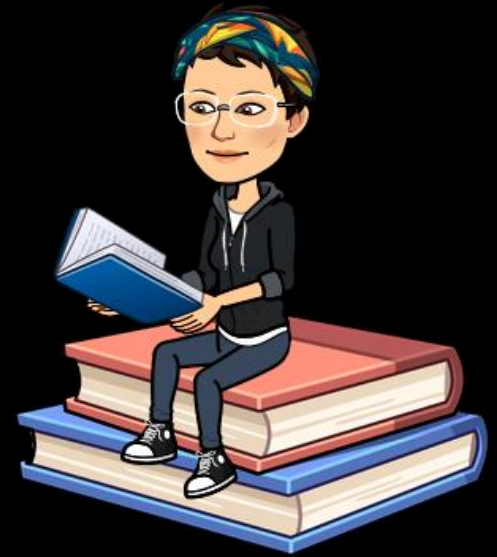
# YHVH's Servant

- **REFERENCES:**

- *Targum Jonathan Ben Uziel: The Chaldee Paraphrase on The Prophet Isaiah.*

<https://juchre.org/targums/isaiah/benisa.htm#08> Please be aware that Isaiah 53 is radically opposite when compared with the MT and LXX.

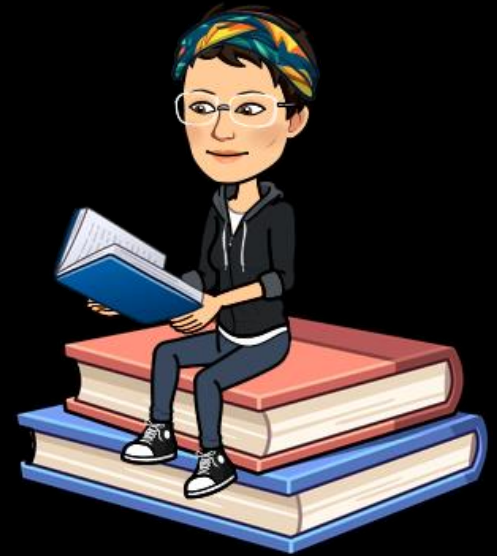
- *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament A Commentary on Genesis – Malachi* by David A. Dorsey , p. 217-235. Copyright 1999. Published by Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, Michigan.



# YHVH's Servant

- **REFERENCES:**

- *The Messiah of the Targums, Talmuds and Rabbinical Writers.* Copyright 1912 by Joseph M. Tydings, M. D. Louisville, KY.
- *The Translation of the Great Isaiah Scroll.* Copyright 2001 by Fred P Miller. <https://www.ao.net/~fmoeller/qa-tran.htm>
  - Directory page: <https://www.ao.net/~fmoeller/qumdir.htm>
  - Isaiah's Use of the word "Branch" or Nazarene <https://www.ao.net/~fmoeller/nazer2.htm#48:6>
  - Isaiah commentary: <http://www.moellerhaus.com/isaiahdi.htm>



# YHWH's Servant

