

Isaiah 49:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name.

Analysis

The Servant's declaration 'The LORD hath called me from the womb' echoes Jeremiah 1:5 and anticipates Galatians 1:15, establishing God's sovereign election before conscious choice. The phrase 'from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name' asserts predestination - God knew and named His Servant in eternity. While Isaiah may partially fulfill this, ultimate reference is to Christ whose incarnation was eternally planned.

Historical Context

This second Servant Song (49:1-13) expands the mission from Israel (42:1-9) to include Gentiles. The call 'from the womb' distinguishes the Servant from prophets who were called during their lifetime, pointing to Christ's unique origin.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's call 'from the womb' demonstrate the eternity of God's redemptive plan?
2. What comfort does God's prenatal knowledge and naming of His servants provide for your sense of purpose?

Interlinear Text

1	שָׁמַע	אַיִם	אַל	יְבֹן	וְפָקַשׁ	לְאַמְתִּים	מִבָּחָר	וְקָרְבָּה	יְהָוָה
Listen	O isles	H413	unto me and hearken	H7181	ye people	from far	The LORD		
H8085	H339			H4578	H3816	H7350			H3068
me from the womb	hath called	from the bowels	of my mother						
H990	H7121	H4578	H517						
hath he made mention	of my name								
H2142	H8034								

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 1:5 (Parallel theme): Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

Galatians 1:15 (Parallel theme): But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,

Isaiah 44:2 (Creation): Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen.

Isaiah 49:5 (References Lord): And now, saith the LORD that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not

gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength.

Luke 1:31 (Parallel theme): And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

Luke 1:15 (References Lord): For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

1 Peter 1:20 (Parallel theme): Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

Hebrews 12:25 (Parallel theme): See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

Isaiah 44:24 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;

Isaiah 55:3 (Parallel theme): Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.