

Isaiah 49:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves. They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places.

Analysis

The commission to 'say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves' describes the gospel's liberating power. Prisoners cannot free themselves; the Servant's authoritative word releases them. The promise 'they shall feed in the ways' depicts abundant provision - not mere survival but thriving. This anticipates Jesus' proclamation of 'liberty to the captives' (Luke 4:18) and 'I am the door' imagery (John 10:9).

Historical Context

Immediate fulfillment came through Cyrus's decree freeing exiles, but ultimate fulfillment is spiritual release from sin's bondage. Jesus' ministry consistently freed those imprisoned by demonic, physical, and spiritual oppression.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. From what prisons (sin, fear, addiction, shame) has Christ's word freed you?

2. How can you participate in Christ's mission of releasing others from spiritual imprisonment?

Interlinear Text

לֵאמֹר	לְאֲסוּרִים	צֵא	לֵאשׁוּר	
That thou mayest say	to the prisoners	Go forth		H834
H559	H631	H3318		
בְּחֹשֶׁךְ	עַל הַגִּלְגָּל	דְּרָכֶיךָ יְהוָה	יִרְעוּ	
to them that are in darkness	Shew	in the ways	yourselves They shall feed	
H2822	H1540	H5921 H1870	H7462	
וּבְכָל	שָׂפְּרֵי יְהוָה	מִרְעֵיתָם:		
H3605	shall be in all high places	and their pastures		
	H8205	H4830		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 42:7 (Darkness): To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

Isaiah 42:16 (Darkness): And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.

Isaiah 61:1 (Parallel theme): The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

Isaiah 41:18 (Parallel theme): I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

Isaiah 9:2 (Darkness): The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

Luke 4:18 (Parallel theme): The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

1 Peter 2:9 (Darkness): But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

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