

Isaiah 42 - Jesus Christ, the Servant of the Lord

III. Prophecies of comfort (Is 40:1—66:24)

(1) Promises of Israel's deliverance from Babylonian captivity because of God's attributes (Is 40:1—48:22)

(C) Deliverance based upon God's ministry plans for the new servant (42:1-25)

(a) New servant's ministry to the Gentiles (42:1-17)

(b) New servant was necessary due to the failure of the previous servant's failure (42:18-25)

The Servant Songs of the Messiah (Is 42:1-9; 49:1-7; 50:4-9; 52:13—53:12)

These four passages present as complete a picture of the Messiah as you'll find anywhere in Scripture, Old Testament or New.

Isaiah 42

(C) Deliverance based upon God's ministry plans for the new servant (42:1-25)

(a) New servant's ministry to the Gentiles (42:1-17)

1 "Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one *in whom* My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.

1 "Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one *in whom* My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.

1 "Here is my servant, whom I support, my chosen one, in whom I delight. I've placed my Spirit upon him; and he'll deliver his justice throughout the world.

1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

- Gentiles in the Kingdom will be subject to King Jesus, but they will also receive justice from Him

— Passages related to Gentiles in the Kingdom include: Is 11:10; 14:1-2; 49:5-7; 56:1-8; 66:18-24

- A Servant:

— Utterly obedient (John 4:34; Heb 3:2)

— Upheld by the Father (John 5:26)

— Mine elect (1 Peter 2:6)

— Spirit upon Him (Luke 2:40; 3:22; 4:18-21)

- This verse speaks of future Gentile salvation (Cf. Is 49:5-6; Amos 9:10-11)

2 "He will **not cry out nor raise *His voice***, Nor make His voice heard in the street.

2 "He will not cry out or raise *His voice*, Nor make His voice heard in the street.

2 He won't shout, or raise his voice, or make it heard in the street.

2 He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street.

- "...not cry out nor raise *His voice*" - Cf. Matt 8:4; 9:30; 12:19; 14:13; John 5:13; 6:15; 7:3-4; 8:59; 10:40

3 "**A bent reed He will not break off** And a **dimly burning wick** He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice.

3 "A bruised reed He will not break And a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice.

3 A crushed reed he will not break, and a fading candle he won't snuff out. He'll bring forth justice for the truth.

3 A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth.

- "A bent reed He will not break off" - means that the Servant will not crush the oppressed, but instead would come to their aid

- "...dimly burning wick" - describes people who have lost hope

-- Rather than squashing what was left of their hope, He will deal with them in such a way that they regain hope

4 "He will not be disheartened or crushed Until He has established justice on the earth; And the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law."

4 "He will not be disheartened or crushed Until He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law."

4 And he won't grow faint or be crushed until he establishes justice on the mainland, and the coastlands take ownership of his Law."

4 He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.

- Jesus referenced Is 42:1-4 in Matt 12:17-21: This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah.

Jehovah's Commission to the Servant

5 This is what God the LORD says, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it And spirit to those who walk in it:

5 Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it And spirit to those who walk in it,

5 This is what God says— the God who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and its produce, who gives breath to the people on it and life to those who walk in it:

5 Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:

6 "I am the LORD, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, And I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations,

6 "I am the LORD, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, And I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations,

6 "I've called you in righteousness. I'll take hold of your hand. I'll preserve you and appoint you as a covenant to the people, as a light for the nations,

6 I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;

7 To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the dungeon And those who dwell in darkness from the prison.

7 To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the dungeon And those who dwell in darkness from the prison.

7 to open blind eyes and to bring out those who are bound from their cells, and those sitting in darkness from prison.

7 To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

The Light of the Gentiles

- As the Light, He brings salvation to the Gentiles (Luke 2:32; Acts 13:47-48)
- As the "Root of Jesse" He is to reign over the Gentiles in His Kingdom (Is 11:10; Rom 15:12)
- Believing Gentiles, together with believing Jews, constitute "the Church which is His body" (Eph 1:23)

8 "I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to idols.

8 "I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images.

8 I, the LORD, am the one, and I won't give my name and glory to another, nor my praise to idols.

8 I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

- This verse is a strong argument for God's jealousy for His own glory

- God certainly, graciously shares a lot of things with us, but His glory is not one of them

- If my salvation is based partly on what I do, does God get all the glory?

- If you teach the gospel 99% accurately, but include one tiny, small work, you've just created a merit system, salvation by works, and that steals glory from God and puts at least some of His glory onto us.

- This is why the Gospel is always challenged by something, because as human beings, we want to do something to earn a favor from God. We think that way because of pride. If I can insert myself in some way, I get part of the glory.

9 "Behold, the former things have come to pass, Now I declare new things; Before they sprout I proclaim *them* to you."

9 "Behold, the former things have come to pass, Now I declare new things; Before they spring forth I proclaim *them* to you."

9 See, the former things have taken place, and I'm announcing the new things— before they spring into being I'm telling you about them."

9 Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.

Praise in Song to God

10 Sing to the LORD a new song, *Sing* His praise from the end of the earth! You who go down to the sea, and all that is in it; You islands, and those who live on them.

10 Sing to the LORD a new song, *Sing* His praise from the end of the earth! You who go down to the sea, and all that is in it. You islands, and those who dwell on them.

10 Sing to the LORD a new song, and his praise from the ends of the earth, you who sail down the sea and by everything in it, you coastlands and their inhabitants.

10 Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth, ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein; the isles, and the inhabitants thereof.

11 Let the wilderness and its cities raise *their voices*, The settlements which Kedar inhabits. Let the inhabitants of Sela sing aloud, Let them shout for joy from the tops of the mountains.

11 Let the wilderness and its cities lift up *their voices*, The settlements where Kedar inhabits. Let the inhabitants of Sela sing aloud, Let them shout for joy from the tops of the mountains.

11 Let the desert cry out, its towns and the villages where Kedar lives; and let those who live in Sela sing for joy. Let them shout aloud from the mountaintops.

11 Let the wilderness and the cities thereof lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar doth inhabit: let the inhabitants of the rock sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains.

12 Let them give glory to the LORD And declare His praise in the coastlands.

12 Let them give glory to the LORD And declare His praise in the coastlands.

12 Let them give glory to the LORD, and declare his praise in the islands.

12 Let them give glory unto the LORD, and declare his praise in the islands.

13 The LORD will go out like a warrior, He will stir *His* zeal like a man of war. He will shout, indeed, He will raise a war cry. He will prevail against His enemies.

13 The LORD will go forth like a warrior, He will arouse *His* zeal like a man of war. He will utter a shout, yes, He will raise a war cry. He will prevail against His enemies.

13 The LORD marches out like a warrior; he stirs up his rage like a man of war; he makes his anger heard; he shouts aloud; he declares his mastery over his enemies:

13 The LORD shall go forth as a mighty man, he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war: he shall cry, yea, roar; he shall prevail against his enemies.

The New Prophecy

14 "I have kept silent for a long time, I have kept still and restrained Myself. Now like a woman in labor I will groan, I will both gasp and pant.

14 "I have kept silent for a long time, I have kept still and restrained Myself. Now like a woman in labor I will groan, I will both gasp and pant.

14 "I have certainly stayed silent for a long time; I've kept still and held myself back. Now, like a woman giving birth, I'll cry out. All of a sudden I'll gasp and pant.

14 I have long time holden my peace; I have been still, and refrained myself: now will I cry like a travailing woman; I will destroy and devour at once.

15 "I will lay waste the mountains and hills And wither all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into coastlands And dry up the ponds.

15 "I will lay waste the mountains and hills And wither all their vegetation; I will make the rivers into coastlands And dry up the ponds.

15 I'll devastate the mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I'll turn rivers into islands, and dry up the ponds.

15 I will make waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their herbs; and I will make the rivers islands, and I will dry up the pools.

16 "I will lead those who are blind by a way they have not known, In paths they have not known I will guide them. I will turn darkness into light before them And uneven land into plains. These are the things I will do, And I will not leave them undone."

16 "I will lead the blind by a way they do not know, In paths they do not know I will guide them. I will make darkness into light before them And rugged places into plains. These are the things I will do, And I will not leave them undone."

16 I'll help the blind walk, even on a road they do not know; I'll guide them in directions they do not know. I'll turn the dark places into light in front of them, and the rough places into level ground. These are the things I will do, and I won't abandon them.

16 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.

17 They will be turned back *and* be utterly put to shame, Who trust in idols, Who say to cast metal images, "You are our gods."

17 They will be turned back *and* be utterly put to shame, Who trust in idols, Who say to molten images, "You are our gods."

17 Those who trust in carved idols will turn back and be completely disappointed, along with those who say to metal images, 'You are our gods.'"

17 They shall be turned back, they shall be greatly ashamed, that trust in graven images, that say to the molten images, Ye are our gods.

(b) New servant was necessary due to the failure of the previous servant's failure (42:18-25)

18 Hear, you who are deaf! And look, you who are blind, so that you may see.

18 Hear, you deaf! And look, you blind, that you may see.

18 "Listen, you deaf people, and look up, you blind people, so you may see!

18 Hear, ye deaf; and look, ye blind, that ye may see.

19 Who is blind but My servant, Or so deaf as My messenger whom I send? Who is so blind as one who is at peace *with Me*, Or so blind as the servant of the LORD?

19 Who is blind but My servant, Or so deaf as My messenger whom I send? Who is so blind as he that is at peace *with Me*, Or so blind as the servant of the LORD?

19 Who is blind except my servant, or deaf like my messenger I am sending? Who is blind like the one committed to me, or blind like the LORD's servant?

19 Who is blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger that I sent? who is blind as he that is perfect, and blind as the LORD'S servant?

20 You have seen many things, but you do not retain *them*; *Your* ears are open, but no one hears.

20 You have seen many things, but you do not observe *them*; *Your* ears are open, but none hears.

20 You've seen many things, but you pay no attention. His ears are open, but he doesn't listen.

20 Seeing many things, but thou observest not; opening the ears, but he heareth not.

- Jesus refers to this prophecy in relation to the Jewish leadership in Matt 13:14 (Cf. Is 6:9-10; John 12:37-38)

21 The LORD was pleased for His righteousness' sake To make the Law great and glorious.

21 The LORD was pleased for His righteousness' sake To make the law great and glorious.

21 The LORD was pleased, for the sake of his vindication, that he should magnify his Law and make it glorious.

21 The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable.

22 But this is a people plundered and pillaged; All of them are trapped in caves, Or are hidden away in prisons; They have become plunder, with no one to save *them*, And spoils with no one to say, "Give *them* back!"

22 But this is a people plundered and despoiled; All of them are trapped in caves, Or are hidden away in prisons; They have become a prey with none to deliver *them*, And a spoil, with none to say, "Give *them* back!"

22 But this is a people who have been robbed and plundered, all of them trapped in pits or hidden away in prisons. They have become prey, with no one to rescue them; they have been made loot, with no one to say, 'Send them back!'

22 But this is a people robbed and spoiled; they are all of them snared in holes, and they are hid in prison houses: they are for a prey, and none delivereth; for a spoil, and none saith, Restore.

The Judgment of Israel

23 Who among you will listen to this? *Who* will pay attention and listen in the time to come?

23 Who among you will give ear to this? Who will give heed and listen hereafter?

23 "Who among you will listen, and pay attention, and listen for the time to come?"

23 Who among you will give ear to this? who will hearken and hear for the time to come?

24 Who gave Jacob up for spoils, and Israel to plunderers? Was it not the LORD, against whom we have sinned, And in whose ways they were not willing to walk, And whose Law they did not obey?

24 Who gave Jacob up for spoil, and Israel to plunderers? Was it not the LORD, against whom we have sinned, And in whose ways they were not willing to walk, And whose law they did not obey?

24 "Who handed Jacob over to looters, and Israel to robbers? Was it not the LORD, against whom we have sinned? After all, they weren't willing to walk in his ways, and they wouldn't obey his instruction,

24 Who gave Jacob for a spoil, and Israel to the robbers? did not the LORD, he against whom **we** have sinned? for they would not walk in his ways, neither were they obedient unto his law.

- "...we" - identity of the prophet with his people (Dan 9; Ezra 9)

25 So He poured out on him the heat of His anger And the fierceness of battle; And it set him aflame all around, Yet he did not recognize *it*; And it burned him, but he paid no attention.

25 So He poured out on him the heat of His anger And the fierceness of battle; And it set him aflame all around, Yet he did not recognize *it*; And it burned him, but he paid no attention.

25 so he drenched him with the heat that is his anger, the violence of war. It enveloped him in flames, but still he had no insight. It burned him up, but he didn't take it to heart."

25 Therefore he hath poured upon him the fury of his anger, and the strength of battle: and it hath set him on fire round about, yet he knew not; and it burned him, yet he laid it not to heart.