

“BEHOLD! MY SERVANT WHOM I UPHOLD”

Isaiah 42

Introduction

- 1) The *Servant* section is an important part of the book of Isaiah (chs. 42-53)
 - a) “Servant” language was introduced earlier in 41:8-9
- 2) The designation of God’s “Servant” in this section of Isaiah can apply to:
 - a) *The physical nation of Israel* (the twelve tribes of Israel)
 - b) *The faithful remnant* (those who returned from captivity)
 - c) *The Messiah* (the anointed One who is to come)
- 3) Only by examining the context can we determine which one is meant
 - a) There is a relationship shared by all three – the *Messiah* came out of the *faithful remnant* which came out of the *physical nation of Israel*
- 4) Four “Servant Songs” are woven into this section (42:1-7; 49:1-6; 50:4-9; 52:13-53:12), all of which are ultimately fulfilled in the Messiah

I) The Servant of the Lord (42:1-9)

- A) First of the four “Servant Songs” (vv. 1-7)
- B) Verses 1-4 quoted and applied to Jesus in Matt. 12:15-21
 - 1) God presents His “Servant” and “Elect One” – upholds and delights in Him! (v. 1)
 - 2) Put divine Spirit upon Him and bring justice to the Gentiles (v. 2; cf. 61:1)
 - 3) Humble and gentle in character; not boisterous or aggressive (v. 3)
 - 4) Establish justice in the earth (v. 4)
- C) God the Creator (v. 5) further says
 - 1) Lord will be with Servant and give Him as a “light to the Gentiles” (v. 6; see also 49:6)
 - 2) Bring out those who are prisoners in darkness [of sin] (v. 7)
 - 3) Lord declares new things to come by His name, Yahweh – bond, assurance (vv. 8-9)

II) Praise to the Lord for His Help and Deliverance (42:10-17)

- A) Lord declares new things – sing and praise Him with a new song! (vv. 10-12)
- B) Lord will go forth with might like a man of war – prevail against His enemies (v. 13)
 - 1) God has been still and restrained a long time, but no more (v. 14)
 - 2) Will destroy error and lead the blind away from idols into the light (vv. 15-17)
 - a) To be led to the light, one must be willing to follow the Lord and His word (Psa. 119:105, 130; Jn. 1:9; 8:12; Eph. 5:8; 1 Pet. 2:9)

III) Israel, God’s Servant, was Blind and Punished (42:18-25)

- A) Who is the one who was blind and deaf? The physical nation of Israel (vv. 18-20)
 - 1) A problem among God’s people (Isa. 6:9-10; 56:10; Matt. 13:13; 15:14; Rom. 11:7-10)
- B) God’s righteousness and law great and wonderful, but Israel, His servant, became robbed and plundered – Babylonian invasion and captivity (vv. 21-22)
 - 1) God is the one who sent them into captivity because they sinned, would not walk in His ways, and were disobedient to His law (vv. 23-24)
- C) Israel did not acknowledge that it had sinned – did not take God’s warnings to heart and repent (v. 25)

Conclusion

“Who among you will give ear to this? Who will listen and hear for the time to come?” (v. 23)
Great question!! Too many among God’s people are not listening, not learning, not preparing – how sad and tragic it will be in the end. We need to sit up, listen up, and live up to God’s will! May we hear these words and examples written aforetime for our learning and hope (Rom. 15:4).