

## EXPOSITION OF ISAIAH

Message #58

Isaiah 42:1-7

Part of our responsibility as a Church is to declare the whole counsel of God to this world. It is our job to defend the truth of God's Word. It is our responsibility as people of God to know God's truth and to communicate and demonstrate His truth. God wants us painting an accurate high and holy picture of how great He is. He wants us defending His sovereignty and majesty. He wants us standing against idolatrous religions that blind people. The problem is so few know God's truth and are so fuzzy in their thinking, that to most, one religion is as good as the next.

Isaiah faced the same problem in his day. God wanted that same thing back in Isaiah's day. He wanted Israel to know Him and His Word and to defend and proclaim it to the world.

The sad fact is, Israel didn't get the job done; and frankly, when we look at what is happening in most churches, they aren't really getting the job done either.

**In Isaiah 41 God identified Israel as being His servant (41:8), but as we come to the opening verse of chapter 42, there is another spectacular Servant who will come who is Israel's Messiah (42:1).** The first servant didn't get the job done for the glory of God, but the second Servant will.

The first 17 verses of this chapter are the first of what some call Isaiah's "Servant Songs." **The Servant that is referred to in these verses is none other than Jesus Christ who is Israel's Messiah on whom God uniquely places His Spirit.**

**GOD WANTS HIS PEOPLE COMFORTED BY KNOWING THAT EVEN THOUGH ISRAEL WAS SUPPOSED TO BE GOD'S SERVANT, WHO FAILED TO BRING TRUE KNOWLEDGE AND WORSHIP OF GOD TO THIS WORLD, GOD WILL SEND HIS MESSIAH/SAVIOR/SERVANT INTO THIS WORLD WHO WILL ACCOMPLISH EVERYTHING GOD HAS PLANNED FOR ISRAEL AND THE WORLD.**

God's nation Israel was supposed to be making a powerful statement for God to this entire world. But she didn't get the job done and still hasn't to this day. So God says, I want you to know that "I'll do the job Myself. I'll send My Servant to the world and He will accomplish everything I want accomplished." John Calvin said in this chapter Isaiah breaks off abruptly to speak of Christ (Vol. 8, p. 283).

Dr. C. I. Scofield said that in this section there is a twofold representation of the coming Servant:

- 1) He is represented as weak, despised, rejected, slain and also,
- 2) He is represented as a mighty conqueror, taking vengeance on the nations and restoring Israel.

The first representation refers to His first coming and is already fulfilled, and the second representation refers to His second coming and is unfulfilled (The Scofield Study Bible, NASV, p. 974).

In these opening seven verses there are four different prophetic revelations that God gives us:

**PROPHETIC REVELATION #1** – The description of the Servant’s unique relationship to God. **42:1**

**We specifically know that this is a prophetic description of Jesus Christ, because Jesus Christ Himself applied this text to Himself as a partial fulfillment of this portion of Isaiah (Matthew 12:17-21).** There are five honorable descriptions of Jesus Christ presented in verse 1:

**Honorable Description #1** - He is uniquely God’s Servant . **42:1a**

The Apostle Paul said Christ took the form of a servant even though He was equal with God the Father (Philippians 1:6-7). There are several different words translated “servant” in Hebrew. This particular word “servant” (*ebed*) is one that is featured often in Isaiah 40-55 and **it is always used in the singular until after Isaiah 53. After Isaiah 53, this word is used in the plural** (William D. Mounce, *Mounce’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, p. 632). As Calvin said, this servant was called to do an “incomparable work which has nothing in common with other works” (*Ibid.* p. 284).

We may conclude from this that a very special and significant Servant of God would come to this world, who would be wounded for our transgressions and would ultimately make it possible for many to become “servants” of God.

**Honorable Description #2** - He is uniquely upheld by God. **42:1b**

The word “uphold” in **verse 1** is different than the word “hold” in **verse 6**. This particular Hebrew word means to hold fast to something in the sense of a mutual holding tight to something and a mutual support (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Grammar*, p. 867). The picture here is that God the Father is tightly holding on to God the Son and God the Son is tightly holding on to God the Father. Not for one second did either let go of the other. When Jesus Christ said, “I and the Father are one,” that was literally the case (John 10:30).

**Honorable Description #3** - He is uniquely God’s chosen One. **42:1c**

I love what Edward Young said about this; this election is a very special election and it points to One who stands in a “peculiar relationship to God” (*The Book of Isaiah*, Vol. 3, p. 109). Israel is God’s elect nation, N.T. believers are God’s elect individuals, but Jesus Christ is the only God Person chosen as Savior and Messiah.

**Honorable Description #4** - He uniquely brings delight to God’s soul. **42:1d**

This chosen One who will come to take over the world is so uniquely bonded to God that God always delights in Him. When He was here on earth, God looked at every man and woman and saw there is none righteous, no not one. But when He looked at Jesus Christ, it lit up His soul. There was One on earth in whom He could delight.

**Honorable Description #5** - He will uniquely have God's Spirit put upon Him. **42:1e**

To accomplish the entire program of God, this Servant/Son/Savior/Messiah would have a special connection with the Spirit of God. In fact, when Jesus Christ was introduced to Israel, there was a supernatural and very unique thing that happened visibly and audibly pertaining to the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:16-17).

**PROPHETIC REVELATION #2** – The description of what God's servant will accomplish .  
**42:1f**

There are six major accomplishments that God's servant will manifest:

**Accomplishment #1** - He will bring justice to the nations. **42:1f, 3c**

The word "justice" is forensic and refers to a judge making proper judgments based on God's Law (*Hebrew Lexicon*, pp. 519-520). In **verse 3** we learn these judgments will be carried out "faithfully" which means they will be based on truth, they will be firm, and they will be final . (*Ibid.* pp. 62-63).

This Servant would bring the justice of God to all the nations. He is the justice of God, He will proclaim the justice of God, and He will establish the justice of God. Jesus Christ is going to be the legal Judge and Jury of all the nations of the world. Both Justification and Condemnation stem from Him. He is Savior and He is Condemner.

**Accomplishment #2** - He will not cry out loudly or publicly . **42:2**

**In verses 2-4 there are seven negative verbs: three in verse 2; two in verse 3; and two in verse 4. These verbs were given by God to describe what Jesus Christ would and would not do.** Israel's leaders have no excuse for not recognizing Jesus Christ because Isaiah clearly taught what He would and would not do.

**In verse 2, 1)** He would not cry out; **2)** He would not raise His voice; and **3)** He would not make His voice heard in the street. God's Servant came an entirely different way than the world's political leaders. He had no pomp or circumstance to His first coming. Think of how opposite this is to our world. When some major political leader goes anywhere, they travel in a fleet of limousines and in a caravan that announce their presence to the whole world. Even actors and actresses love the limelight of red carpet treatment. Here was God in the world and what a contrast.

Jesus Christ would not initially come as some boisterous world conqueror the first time, which is what Israel wanted, instead He came quietly and unobtrusively. He did not try to make a public spectacle of himself. He did not seek notoriety or prominence. He was not here to make a big name for Himself, even though this was the greatest Person to ever walk on the face of this earth. He was here to save sinners.

The way He would change lives by His first coming would not be by loud, boisterous crying, but by quiet, personal transformation. Isaiah is predicting that the first time God's Servant would come to this world, He would not come with loud fanfare or any pomp or circumstance, but the second time He comes it will be just the opposite.

**Accomplishment #3** - He will minister to those who are bruised . **42:3a**

He did not come the first time to break bruised people but to save them. He would delight in taking a bruised and bent reeds and making them strong. Most people in this world like and applaud winners; Jesus came to save sinful bruised losers.

**Accomplishment #4** - He will minister to those who are dimmed . **42:3b**

He did not come the first time to extinguish sinners or to stamp them out; He came to save them. He will delight in taking people who are tired and weary of life and give them a new life worth living. He did not come to judge sin the first time; He came to save sinners. The next time He comes He will judge and stamp them all out.

**Accomplishment #5** - He will not be disheartened . **42:4a**

In **verse 4**, two more negatives are used to describe the work of Jesus Christ. This idea of being disheartened refers to the magnitude of everything He must do. The point of this is to show that nothing would adversely affect Him

**Accomplishment #6** - He will not be crushed . **42:4b**

Both of these verbs in **verse 4** reveal that the assignment would be lonely and difficult and dangerous. But nothing would be able to stop Him.

He will successfully carry out the entire program of God and He will bring God's justice and God's Word to this world. Nothing will crush Him and nothing will stop Him.

**PROPHETIC REVELATION #3** – The description of the Sovereignty of God. **42:5**

In this verse God calls all to think about His sovereignty. **The reason He does this in this context is to establish that He is a Sovereign God fully capable of sending His Messiah into this world to take it over.** How could one Person come to this earth and ultimately bring the justice of God to the entire world? The answer is because He is part of the sovereign plan of the Sovereign God and God can do whatever He wants. Notice carefully how God describes Himself by four amazing descriptions of His sovereignty:

**(Description #1)** - He created the heavens and stretched them out. **42:5a**

Look in the sky and it is clear the heavens are stretched from one horizon to another.

**(Description #2)** - He spread out the earth and everything in it. **42:5b**

The earth belongs to God and He can do with it whatever He wants.

**(Description #3)** - He gives breath to the people who live on this earth. **42:5c**

This majestic God is also a personal God; we actually breathe because God lets us.

**(Description #4)** - He gives the spirit to those who walk on this earth. **42:5d**

The immaterial part of each one of us has been given by God. You abort a baby and you murder a person that was ordained to be here by Almighty God.

**PROPHETIC REVELATION #4** – The description of the connections of God’s Servant to this world. **42:6-7**

**Verse 6** begins with God using His name that connects Him by His covenant name with Israel, “I AM JEHOVAH.”

Now this Almighty Sovereign God describes His connection to His Servant/Son/Savior:

**World Connection #1** - The connection of God’s Servant to God . **42:6a-b**

There are two ways the Servant is connected to God while on this earth:

**(Connective Way #1)** - He has been called in total righteousness . **42:6a**

His calling is an amazing assignment. He must come to this world and bring God’s righteousness to this world. He must come to this world conforming to every righteous standard of God according to His Word and will. This is a steep assignment and only One can fill it.

**(Connective Way #2)** - He would be held up by God. **42:6b**

The point is that Jesus Christ would have a very tender relationship with His Father in which God the Father would sustain God the Son. He would hold his hand all the way through the assignment, which would include Him going to the cross.

**World Connection #2** - The connection of God’s Servant to Israel . **42:6c**

He would be a covenant to the nation Israel. This Person is the only one who can bring Israel into a covenant relationship with God. This specifically has to do with Israel, the covenant nation of God. Israel is the only nation in a covenant relationship with God. No Gentile nation has this, only individual Gentiles.

**World Connection #3** - The connection of God's Servant to the nations. **42:6d**

Jesus Christ would be a light to the Gentile nations. Carefully notice that Jesus Christ is not a covenant to the nations but a light to the nations. He will lighten the way of a true relationship with God in a very dark world.

Dr. C. I. Scofield said that the prophets connect Jesus Christ to the Gentiles in three ways:

- 1) As the light He brings salvation to the Gentiles, a distinct feature of the Church Age;
- 2) As the Root of Jesse He will eventually reign over the Gentiles in His Kingdom;
- 3) In this present age, believing Gentiles and Jews constitute the Church which is His body  
(*Ibid.*, p. 975).

This Divine Servant would have an amazing ministry to Israel and an amazing ministry to the Gentiles.

**World Connection #4** - The connection of God's Servant to all sinners. **42:7**

There are two ways Jesus Christ would relate to all sinners both of Israel and the nations:

**(Stated Way #1)** - He would open the eyes of the blind. **42:7a**

There were two ways Christ did this: First, He did it literally and physically for Israel in that He made blind people see. As J. Vernon McGee said, "Christ performed these miracles as credentials of His Kingship when He was here the first time" (*Thru The Bible*, Vol. 3, p. 290). Second, He did this spiritually for both Jews and Gentiles in that He opened the spiritual eyes of people who had been blinded by sin and gave them salvation (Acts 26:17-18).

Don't miss the implication of this - all people are blind when it comes to God and only Jesus Christ can make you see.

**(Stated Way #2)** - He would set prisoners free from the prison of darkness. **42:7b**

God views this world as a dark prison filled with a bunch of prisoners who have been given the death penalty because of sin. There is only one Person who can get you out of this prison and it is Jesus Christ. He alone is authorized by God to set you free.

The entire program of God is found in one Person, Jesus Christ. He is the One who will deliver Israel. He is the One who will save sinners. He is the One who will one day take over the world.

God wants people comforted by knowing that Jesus Christ can save any sinner and He will save Israel.