

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Week 48

Chapter 41

Outline of chapter 41

Verses 1-7	The LORD challenges the nations: Who controls history? Hint: Not your idols!
Verses 8-16	“Do not fear O Israel; I will help you”
Verses 17-20	Miracles in the desert: the Lord will provide water and shade for the needy.
Verses 21-29	The LORD’s case against the “gods”, their idols, and their worshippers.

Let’s read all of chapter 41 together.

THE LORD versus the Idols

Compare with 40:18-20

Passage	Gentile king	The LORD	The idols
Verses 1-7	Sennacherib	What He HAS accomplished See also Isai 37:26-29	Impotence in the face of the attack See also Isa 21:9-10; 31:7; 36:18-20; 37:11-13, 18-19
Verses 21-29	Cyrus	He predicts what He WILL accomplish	SILENCE Does nothing

The LORD:

Past	Present	Future
Accomplishments Fulfilled prophecy	Works	Predictions Will be fulfilled

Verses 21-29

The LORD is now speaking directly to the “gods”. But of course they cannot hear, so He actually is speaking to those who chose these idolatrous “gods” to be their gods.

An EXAMINATION for the “gods”:

Tell us the predictions you made that have been fulfilled

Predict the future

Accomplish anything, good or bad

{great big SILENCE } after verse 23

The VERDICT

Verse 24: the LORD provides the ruling:

You are NOTHING....

Your work is NOTHING

Your followers an abomination

Verse 25: Now I, the LORD, will make MY prediction! , which He will carry out 150 years later.

See also 2Chr 36:11-23; Ezra 1:1-4; Isa 44:38-45:7, 13 ‘ Jer 25:12; 50:1-3

Verses 26-29: there is NO one like the LORD!

Chapter 42

Outline of chapter 42

Verses 1-9	The righteous Servant: the Messiah – the Lord Jesus Christ
Verses 10-13	Hey Gentiles - Sing a new song to the LORD!
Verses 14-17	The LORD promises to make a way for His wayward people, and destroy the pagan idolaters.
Verses 18-25	The blind servant - Israel

Let's read all of chapter 42 together.

Here again in chapter 42, it is the LORD who speaks throughout.

In Isaiah 41:8-16, that servant is identified as Israel.

But who is this Servant here in Isaiah 42:1-9?

There are several reasons why it cannot be Israel, and must be a remarkable, unique individual. And that individual, as we shall see, can be none other than our Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

Let's step through this together.

#1: There are several New Testament passages that use Isaiah 42:1-7.

Verses 1-4 are quoted in Matthew 12:15-21 and Romans 15:12

Verse 6 is quoted in Luke 2:25-32

Each of these New Testament passages clearly refers to our Lord Jesus Christ.

#2: Contrasts between the servant of 42:1-7 and Israel the Lord's servant elsewhere in Isaiah:

There are several passages in Isaiah where the servant mentioned is the nation of Israel, including

41:8-13

43:1-10

44: 1-8, 21

But there are also passages in Isaiah where the Servant cannot be Israel, and in fact speak an individual which is shown to be the Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ:

42:1-9

All of chapter 49

50:4-6

52:13 - 53:12 (see Acts 8:28-35 on this passage)

Next week we will compare and contrast these passages.