

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Week 49

Chapter 41

THE LORD versus the Idols

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.

In chapter 42, "I" is God, the Lord. He is speaking directly in verses 1-9 and 14-20. Isaiah speaks in verses 10-13 and 21-25.

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

As we saw, the servant in Isaiah 41:8-16, was identified as the nation of Israel. But there are several reasons why this servant in Isaiah 42:1-7 cannot be Israel. He must be a remarkable, unique individual. And that individual, as we shall see, can be none other than the Messiah – our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let's step through this together.

#1: There are several New Testament passages that are based on 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(s) elsewhere in Isaiah:

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

41:8-14	43:1-10	45:4
42:18-22	44: 1-8, 21	48:20

Other passages refer to "servants" plural, and are clearly referring to the people (remnant) of Israel.

54:17	65:8-15
63:17	66:14

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

42:1-9	50:4-6	52:13 - 53:12 (see Acts 8:28-35 on this passage)
49:1-7		

Next week we will compare and contrast these passages.