

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Week 50

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
49:1-7

50:4-6

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

Let's compare and contrast these passages:

The Servant in Isaiah 42:1-7 with Israel the servant

SIMILARITIES

1. Both are chosen and upheld by God:
 - a. Isaiah 42:1-4
 - b. Isaiah 41:8-10; 44:1; and 45:4
2. The LORD has put His Spirit upon the Servant (singular) in 42:1. The LORD will pour out His Spirit on the offspring (plural) of Jacob His servant in 44:3.

DIFFERENCES

1. The servant Israel is blind and fearful (Isa 42:18-22; 44:2). The Servant in Isaiah 42:1-7 will not be disheartened or crushed, and will open blind eyes.

2. The Servant in Isaiah 42:1-7 will bring justice to the ends of the earth. The nation of Israel never accomplished this.
3. The Servant in Isaiah 42:1-7 will be a light to the nations and a covenant to the people of Israel. He will raise up the tribes of Jacob and restore the preserved ones of Israel. (see also Isaiah 49:6). Israel cannot do these things to and for herself!
4. The LORD's soul delights in the servant in Isaiah 42:1-7. Israel sinned against the LORD, and HE poured out his wrath on them in Isaiah 42:24-26.
5. The servant in Isaiah 42:1-7 will bring forth justice and the law to the nations. The servant Israel in 42:24 did not obey the law.

Isa 42:1-7 is the first of four “**Servant Songs**” in Isaiah 42 – 53.

Next week we will examine these Servant Songs:

Isaiah 42:1-7	Isaiah 49:1-7	Isaiah 50:4-9	Isaiah 53:13-53:12
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We will see how they progressively reveal the identity and mission of this Servant, and how only the Jewish Messiah can fulfill them. After that, we will turn to the New Testament to learn how this Messiah can only be the Lord Jesus Christ.