

Thursday Evening Bible Study  
**Series: The Book of Isaiah**

Teaching Summary for Week 51

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.**

But who is this Servant here in Isaiah 42:1-7?

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.

**#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. 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 |

**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.

| <b>Isaiah 42:1-7</b>  | <b>Isaiah 49:1-7</b>   | <b>Isaiah 50:4-9</b>                                       | <b>Isaiah 53:13-53:12</b>   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <b>The Servant chosen to bring forth justice to the nations</b> | <b>The Servant named in the womb to restore Israel to the LORD and bring the light of salvation to the ends of the earth</b> | <b>The obedient Servant even to the point of suffering</b> | <b>The suffering Servant who dies for the sins of the people.</b> |

Let's **read these four Servant Songs** together at this time.

Notice how they build on one another to progressively reveal the identity and mission of this Servant.

Next week, we will use other Old Testament passages to show that the Servant in Isaiah 42-53 is the Jewish Messiah.

After that, we will turn to the New Testament to learn how this Messiah can only be the Lord Jesus Christ.