

Behold My Servant

Isa 42:1-4 "Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax, He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth. He will not fail nor be discouraged, till He has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands shall wait for His law."

Our last message from Isaiah Chapter 41 was where God had put forth a challenge to the pagan gods of wood and stone. Here the subject matter changes abruptly as He presents to mankind His Servant, His Elect One who will one day become the God of the Gentile world. Even though God had, through many glorious miracles, revealed Himself from time to time to the Gentile world as at the Tower of Babel where He had shown His power and great glory. Or as at Sodom and Gomorrah where He had shown His power of displeasure at man's rebellion. In Egypt He had shown His mighty power at the Red Sea. At Jericho He had shown His power as He brought down the city to ruins. And in creation He has declared His glory to all men, yet mankind continues to suppress revelation as Paul tells us in Romans 1:18-21 where he speaks of those ". . . who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

But here, Isaiah tells us of One who is coming who will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. In this passage, we will learn of the nature of the Servant and the character of His Kingdom that will, in time, cover the whole earth. This morning let us consider the "nature of this Servant of God".

A. Behold My Servant

1. Who is this Servant?

- a. This is one of those places in Scripture where there is no question as to whom the passage is speaking as He is revealed to us in Matthew 12:17-21 where we read:

That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, "Behold My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, and He will declare justice to the Gentiles. He will not quarrel nor cry out, nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench, till He sends forth justice to victory; and in His name Gentiles will trust."

- b. It is quite evident that Isaiah is writing about our Lord Jesus Christ

2. The word "behold" calls us to take special note of this Servant of God, this chosen One

- a. Nebuchadnezzar has been called a "servant of God", chosen to do God's bidding
- b. Cyrus was called a "servant of God", also chosen to do God's bidding
- c. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are called "servants of God" God's chosen
- d. The people of Israel are called "servants of God" the elect of God

3. But here we are called to take special note of this "Servant", this Chosen One of God for good reason.

- a. He is above all other servants of God, whom God has chosen to either serve Him, or be His special people.
- b. Here we have a far greater deliverer than Cyrus
- c. But here is a "Deliverer" who will not only bring salvation to the children of Abraham, but in this One **all the nations of the earth** will be blessed - *He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles*

4. This brings to mind the words of John when he saw Jesus coming to be baptized - *Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world* - Jn. 1:29

5. Observe for this is that promised "Seed of Woman" who will bring the deathblow to Satan - *"For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil."* 1 John 3:8

6. Before I go on I want to take a closer look at the word "servant"

- a. It is a word that speaks of one who is obedient
- b. Christ tells us that He came to do the will of His Father

John 4:34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

John 6:38-40 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

John 17:4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

7. Jesus willingly took upon Himself the "form" of a servant
 - a. He subjected Himself to the Father's will
 - b. He humbled Himself
 - c. Yet do not think that this in any manner detracted from His deity

Phil 2:6-7 Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant,

- d. It was by a voluntary act that Jesus became obedient to the Father that He might be of service to us
 - a. See Him now washing the feet of His disciples
 - b. Do you now see Him suffering the wrath of God in your place Christian
 - c. God loved us, God sent Him into the world to redeem His elect from their lost estate
 - d. Jesus loved us, humbled Himself - even to the point of the death of the cross that He might redeem us from our lost estate

B. My Elect One in whom My soul delights

1. My Elect, He who before the foundation of the world was chosen to redeem God's elect

1 Peter 1:20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.

- a. Here we see the eternal purpose of God to save us from His wrath
- b. Here we see God eternal love for us as His chosen people

*Eph 1:4-6 Just as He **chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that **we should be holy and without blame before Him in love***

2. Here the word translated "delights" can also describe the "acceptance" of a sacrifice
 - a. Delights, God is well pleased with the sacrifice our Lord made upon the cross
 - b. God is well pleased with, and accepts Jesus as a propitiation, a covering for our sin, a full payment of the debt we owe, of the penalty we deserved

1 John 2:1-2 And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

- c. And because God delights in the Son He accepts the imputed righteousness of Christ and that covering He provided for our sin and this alone makes us acceptable in the Beloved, the One in whom God delights

Eph 1:4-6 Jesus Christ . . . by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

CONCLUSION: He has indeed brought forth justice to the Gentiles, to us here this morning

There is a lesson we must learn from this - Let us then love one another

1 John 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Jesus did not simply come as a mere example, for He came fulfilling all the promises of the Old Testament. At the same time - let us follow His example and love one another

*Rom 15:3-6 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. **Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus**, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

But once again please understand the message of the whole of Scripture must be summed up in these words, God so loved the world, God so loved us sinful men that He gave His Son in whom He delighted, whom He dearly loved

*1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that **He loved us and sent His Son** to be the propitiation for our sins.*

The Son, the Second Person of the Godhead, willingly subject Himself to become the Servant of His Father, because He loved us

Eph 5:25-28 Just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Because of this, on that great day of judgment, our Lord will present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.