

Messianic Prophecies in Isaiah
Lesson 2 – The Servant Songs (Isa 42:1-9)
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Introduction: Have you seen this man?

- A. This morning we are to conduct a search for one the God of heaven has described.
 - 1. Many past generations have asked this question. (**Acts 8:32-34**)
 - 2. This passage was one of four passages found in Isaiah know as “the servant songs.” We will look at the first one today. (**Isa 42:1-7**)
 - 3. When God tells us to “behold” we need to stop and look carefully.
 - 4. Who could have ever imagined that 1000 years later that Pilate would display a bloody prisoner that would be this very servant! (**Jn 19:5, 13-14**)
- B. What do you think of when you hear one described as a servant?
 - 1. In the Roman mind you think of weakness and shame. Possibly an unwilling slave from a conquest.
 - 2. In the Jewish mind a servant was not a desired position. Sitting on the right and left hand of the king was considered far better. (**Mt 20:20-21, 24-28**)
 - 3. Are we any different in out thinking? Be honest!

I. God upholds this servant (Isa 42:1)

- A. If God uphold you then you have infinite power on your side.
 - a. You never want to oppose the hand of the Lord. (**Isa 19:16-17; 25:10-12**)
 - b. The truly wise man sees how frail and weak he really is.
- B. God’s power is only for a certain path. (**Psa 17:5**)
 - a. Those that pursue integrity God will uphold. (**Psa 41:12-13**)
 - b. How is it possible for rebellious man to walk in the path determined by God?
- C. Jesus became totally dependant upon the Father. (**Ps 22:10-11**)
 - 1. Here is the level of His commitment. (**Jn 5:19**)
 - 2. That dependency was severely tested. (**1 Pt 2:23**)
 - a. Have you ever struck back at another because of their evil?
 - b. Do you trust God this much? Only His servant would do this.
 - 3. If you want to have God uphold you then you must commit yourself to His Path. The greatest test of this is in the garden. (**Mt 26:39**)

II. God delights in this servant (Isa 42:1)

- A. This delight was no accident. He sought the pleasure of His Master. (**Jn 8:29**)
- B. A revealing statement is made about Jesus and His work in a prophecy made hundreds of years before His birth. (**Isa 53:10**)
 - 1. The phrase "pleasure of the Lord" is the same thing as saying "the will of God."
 - 2. As a servant of God this should be the prime motivation of my life! (**Gal 1:10**)
- C. This term is used to express the power of earthly kings.
 - 1. A letter was sent to the Persian king Darius. (**Ezra 5:17**)
 - 2. The authority of Joseph was expressed this way. (**Psa 105:21-22**)
 - 3. In a dictatorship you are under the absolute mercy of the king's "pleasure."
- D. God wants each of us to know that we are absolutely dependent upon "His pleasure."
 - 1. We must know this about our God! (**Isa 46:9-11**)

2. God named the king Cyrus before his birth as the one who will order the Jew's return from captivity. (**Isa 44:28**)
3. God's judgment of Babylon is also described in these terms. (**Isa 48:14**)
4. The only issue in my life is where I find myself in the "Pleasure of the Lord."

III. This servant shall reach out to the Gentiles

- A. There was an old man that God allowed to see that servant. (**Lk 2:25-32**)
 1. Imagining one to bring together both Jew and Gentile seemed impossible.
 2. Over and over this theme is repeated by the prophets. (**Isa 49:6**)
- B. The Gentiles were in fact a powerless and helpless people before God.
 1. The Jews had a greater advantage and blessing.
 2. The Servant of God would be known for helping those who were despised and helpless. (**Isa 61:1-2, 9**)
 3. Imagine being in this audience when the Servant of God read this very passage! (**Lk 4:16-21**)
 4. What was the response of the audience?

IV. This servant would be gentle to the weak (Isa 42:2-3)

- A. Contrast Jesus with the leaders of His day. (**Mt 12:15-22**)
 1. To trust Jesus means that you open your heart and let Him in.
 2. He can take the weakest and most fragile individual and sustain him.
- B. Jesus was always successful to those who stay with Him. (**Jn 10:14, 27-30**)
 1. We tend to avoid the weak and praise the strong.
 2. Where do you find Jesus the great Physician? (**Mt 9:12-13**)
 3. What is needed to restore the weak? (Consider the woman at the well!)

V. This servant will bring forth Justice (Isa 42:3-4)

- A. This servant would have justice taken away from Him in the courts of men. (**Acts 2:22-23; 8:33**)
 1. His justice was taken away – but in His hands justice will never fail.
 2. The need of justice is emphasized in God's word. (**Ex 23:2; Deut 16:19; Psa 37:28**)
- B. God's law is based upon principles that are true and if applied will result in justice. (**Psa 103:6; Amos 5:15, 24**)
- C. The sacrifice of this servant will satisfy the justice of God. (**Rom 3:26**)
 1. Many will be released from the prison house (**Isa 42:7**)
 2. This justice will be found in a great law that will be spread.

VI. This servant will be our covenant. (Isa 42:6)

- A. Consider the awesome privileges of a covenant with God.
 1. A certain relationship with God (**Ps 105:8-9**)
 2. God's mercy (**Deut 7:9**)
 3. We can know the "secret of the Lord." (**Ps 25:10, 14**)
- B. What are we doing with our covenant?
 1. Those who despise the covenant will suffer wrath. (**Heb 10:29-31**)
 2. Through the blood of the covenant that Jesus is able to lead us. (**Heb 13:20-21**)

Conclusion: Have you found this servant? You do not need to tell us. We will see it!

