

**Sunday, December 16, 2018**

**The Servant**

**Isaiah 42:1-9**

## **I. Introduction**

- A. Week 1: Isaiah's consecration & calling
- B. Week 2:
  - 1. Assyria's imminent invasion
  - 2. Promise of God's help ("Immanuel")
  - 3. Call to trust in God, rejecting self-reliance and human wisdom
- C. Chs 1-39
  - 1. Backdrop = Assyrian invasion
  - 2. Contrasts
    - a) Holy God vs. unholy rulers (pagan and Israelite)
    - b) Diplomacy with pagan conquerors vs. repentance (counter-intuitive)
    - c) Righteous remnant vs. the wicked
    - d) Old Jerusalem (and its ways) vs. New Jerusalem
    - e) Former Things vs. New Things

## **II. Supreme Contrast: Unrighteous Kings vs. The Suffering Servant**

- A. Set-up
  - 1. Babylon exile in the rear-view mirror (recuperating...)
  - 2. Jews: No category for a king who loves them

B. God introduces a new kind of Israelite leader

**C. Text: Isaiah 42:1-9**

1. Vs. 1
  - a) God delights in this servant
  - b) Spirit-anointed
  - c) Mission: To bring justice to the nations (deliverance from imperialism)
2. Vs. 2 – A gentle posture (juxtaposed with that of a conquering emperor or a selfish king)
3. Vs. 3
  - a) He will deliver, not exploit the vulnerable
  - b) “Justice”: In regards to the vulnerable; his eyes will not pass over a hurting person
4. Vs. 4 – He is totally committed to bringing forth justice
5. Vs. 5 – [God’s Authority = Basis for the next several verses]
6. Vs. 6
  - a) “You” = The Servant
  - b) “The servant *is* the covenant”<sup>1</sup>
  - c) God desires to enter into covenant with all people groups!
7. Vs. 7
  - a) God’s intent is deliverance

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<sup>1</sup> Motyer, J. Alec. Isaiah. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. 294. (Emphasis mine.)

- b) Implicit: The God of Israel alone holds the keys of deliverance
- 8. Vs. 8 – God’s exclusive claim on salvation
- 9. Vs. 9
  - a) Former things = Unrighteous conquerers
  - b) New things = vs 1-4

### **III. Closing**

- A. A word on the passing of Luke Watkins
- B. Note the Suffering Servant’s entrance into our world...