

The Book of Isaiah

Chapter 42

Comforting Words to the People of God, Israel

Isaiah is keeping the continual thought that was started in chapter 40. This thought is the greatness of God compared to idols. God can predict the future whereas idols could not. God has already foretold, though in veil manner, the coming king Cyrus who will give the decree for the Jews to return and build Jerusalem (**Isaiah 41:25**) of which none of the idols that the heathens and Israel worshiped were capable of. The prevailing thought therefore is that all the predictions Isaiah is proclaiming are truth and will come to pass for they are from the LORD.

The Coming Messiah, the Servant of the LORD (1-4):

There is no room to doubt Christ is the Servant spoken of in these verses. In **Luke 2:32**, he is spoken of as “a light to lighten the Gentiles” (cf. **Isa 42:6**). In **Acts 26:18**, Paul speaks of him as given to the Gentiles, “to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light” (cf. **Isa 42:7**). In **Matthew 3:17**, God says of the Redeemer, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased,” - language remarkably similar to the passage before us **Isaiah 42:1**, where he says, “mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth.” **Matthew** expressly and directly applies the passage to the Lord Jesus:

“That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias 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 shall shew judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory. And in his name shall the Gentiles trust.” (Mt 12:17-21)

Christ Came to Confirm the Promises (vss. 5-7): The LORD God of all the earth has given Jesus Christ to confirm the promises made unto the fathers (God's Covenant People, Israel) and to be that light to the Gentiles¹.

Christ Came for Israel:

"Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers:" (Ro 15:8)

Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is `over all, God blessed for ever. Amen. (Ro 9:4-5)

Christ Came for the Gentiles:

And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name (vf. Psalm 18:49). And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people. And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people" (Psalm 117:1). And again, Esaias saith, "There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust (Isaiah 11:1,10)." (Ro 15:9-12)

The Glory of God in a Name (vs. 8-9): In this verse we have infallible proof of the deity of Jesus Christ. "I am the LORD" (Jehovah God) and His name and glory He will not give to another.

In John 17:5 we have Jesus Christ stating in prayer, **"And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was". (Joh 17:5 cf. [John 17:24](#); [1:18](#); [3:13](#); [10:30](#); [14:9](#)).**

(vs. 9) John 13:19, 14:29, 16:4

¹ The Gentiles were always a part of God's prophetic plan. However, Gentiles were to only receive the blessings once Israel was blessed. Prophetically it is Israel first then the Gentiles (Matthew 15:21-28). However, because Israel rejected their Messiah their glory was suspended. God therefore in "mercy" brought the gospel of the grace of God to us Gentiles, specifically in and through the Apostle Paul: **"But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake". (Ac 9:15-16)**

For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: (Ro 11:13) That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost. (Ro 15:16)

The Name of God in Jesus Christ: Mt 1:21-25; John 1:1, 14; 10:30-33, 8:57-59; I Timothy 3:16

The Return of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah (vss. 10-16): The depiction here is none other than our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lion from the tribe of Judah (**Jer. 25:30 cf. Rev. 5:5**):

The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. (Joe 3:16)

(vs. 14) The Longsuffering of God. According to man's accounting it has been a long time since the Lord has returned to avenge Israel's enemies (**2 Peter 3:8-10**). The Lord has been "holding His peace", "refraining Himself" however the time of this "refraining" and "holding still" are coming to an end; here we see that taking place. We see not only the might destruction (**vss. 14-15**) but also the deliverance (**vs. 16**).

The Blind and Deaf Nation (vss. 17-21): The nation of Israel is turned into that Blind and Deaf people as the idols they worshiped:

Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them. O Israel, trust thou in the LORD: he is their help and their shield. O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD: he is their help and their shield. (Ps 115:4-10).

The leadership of the people lead them in the way of destruction:

But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch. (Mt 15:13-14)

Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor! Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold? And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty. Ye

fools and **blind**: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift? Whoso therefore shall swear by the altar, sweareth by it, and by all things thereon. And whoso shall swear by the temple, sweareth by it, and by him that dwelleth therein. And he that shall swear by heaven, sweareth by the throne of God, and by him that sitteth thereon. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Ye **blind** guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. (Mt 23:16-24)

Israel was blind to the Truth of the Law in two ways:

1. They were blind to the **"WHOLE"** of the Law. Our Lord told the blind leaders what the whole of the Law was, **"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."** (Mt 22:36-40).

2. They were blind to the **"HEART"** of the Law. Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, **This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.** But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. (Mt 15:7-9). Remove the heart from the Word of God and you have Religion, a deadly killing machine.

The Lord will make the Law "honorable" once again. He will remove from it all the man-made elements heaped upon it by the religious leaders. This is what our Lord was doing in **Matthew chapters 5-7** at the *Sermon on the Mount*. Our Lord put forth corrective doctrines for the Remnant in contrast to the false doctrines they were receiving from the vain religious leaders and that false religious system. Our Lord will make the Law "honorable" again by "liberating" it (**James 1:25, 2:12**) from all the corruption that had been heaped upon it by the commandments and doctrines of men (**Matt. 15:9**); keeping tradition over the commandments of God (**Matt. 15:2-3,6**). Thus, our Lord by magnified the Law was making it honorable again and thereby the disciples could now be doers of the Law in TRUTH. However, all this was postponed at the rejection of the Messiah and therefore the Remnant of Israel will fulfill these passages. It will be with them that our Lord will write the Law on their heart:

But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. (Jer 31:33)

Jacob has merited the Judgments from God (22-25): Israel is content in their misery; they did not cry out "RESTORE". They did not seek repentance saying "we sinned" but rather continued to walk in their sin and would not be obedient to the Law. They would not "lay it to heart" and therefore the judgments of Israel came from the God unto them to the uttermost of which will be seen in the "wrath of God" in the coming tribulation.