

# **Isaiah**

## **Part Seven**

### **The God Who Comforts and Chooses (chapters 40-48)**

# Where We Are

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  - **Fallen from immense optimism to hopelessness**
  - **Difficult to have hope again**

# Where We Are

- **Judah in Babylon**
  - Fallen from immense optimism to hopelessness
  - Difficult to have hope again
- **Chapter 40**
  - Does God want to deliver His people? YES!
  - Can God deliver His people? YES!
  - Can we be delivered? YES!

# Where We Are

- **Chapters 41-48**
  - Explains what he's just said in chapter 40
  - God is still in control of history
  - God has chosen Israel as His servant
  - He has chosen a man to defeat Babylon and send the Israel back home – even though that man is not yet born!

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  - The idols are not
- Quit being stubborn and listen!

# God is LORD – 41:1 – 42:9

- **41:1-7 #1: The Nations cannot Refute God as Lord**
  - **41:1 Let them challenge God**
  - **41:2-4 Who raised up the one from the East?**
  - **41:5-7 The nations respond**
    - **They can't challenge God**
    - **They can only try to build a bigger and better idol**
    - **That attempt is a failure**

# God is LORD – 41:1 – 42:9

- **41:8-20 #2: Don't fear; I chose you as servant**
  - **41:8-10**      **Jacob is the chosen servant**
    - **An incredible thing to say to a vineyard of sour grapes**
    - **Abraham was my friend; I'll keep my promise to him**
    - **Don't be discouraged; I have not abandoned you**

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- Abraham was my friend; I'll keep my promise to him
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- **41:11-16**      **How God will help Jacob**

- Your enemies will become nothing at all
- The worm will metamorphose into a threshing sledge
- Mountains and hills are no obstacle

# God is LORD – 41:1 – 42:9

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  - **41:17-20 Springs in the desert**
    - **Thirsty ones will find water**
    - **People will see and understand what God has done**

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## – THE RETURN FROM BABYLON

- It was not a simple historical event
- It was a clear demonstration of God's power in the world!

# God is LORD – 41:1 – 42:9

- **41:21-24**      **#3: Challenge to the Idols**
  - *Do something! Do anything!*
  - Tell us what will happen in the future – 41:22
  - Tell us what history really means – 41:22
  - Intervene in the world – *if* you can – 41:23
    - Do good
    - Do evil
    - Do anything to prove you have any power at all!

# God is LORD – 41:1 – 42:9

- **41:25-29 #4: God has Stirred up a Deliverer**
  - **Can God pass the challenge He gave to the idols?**
  - **YES!**
    - **He is telling them what the future will bring!**
    - **He is showing them He is acting in the world!**
    - **He is showing them what history is about!**

# God is LORD – 41:1 – 42:9

- 42:1-9 #5: Servant – brings Light to the Nations
  - A contrast
    - God to Israel – I choose you – see 41:8
    - God to idols – whoever chooses you is detestable – see 41:24

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- A contrast

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- Why God chose them

- Not because He had to
- But because *He delights in them!*

# God is LORD – 41:1 – 42:9

- 42:1-9 #5: Servant – brings Light to the Nations
  - Whom does God uphold?
  - Whom does God choose?
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## A Servant!

# God is LORD – 41:1 – 42:9

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  - The Servant’s Objective
    - The Servant is to bring Justice (verses 1, 3, 4)
    - Justice and righteousness continue to show up

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- Justice to the Nations

- Justice is the will of God being done on earth as it is in heaven
- God's servant wants to bring knowledge of God to every nation on earth

# The Servant Who Brings Hope and Justice

- **Matthew 12:15-21**
  - What Jesus did – healed the sick and warned them to tell no one who He was
  - What Matthew said this meant
    - He was not crying out in the streets, breaking a bruised reed, snuffing out a smoldering wick
    - He was leading justice to victory and giving the nations a name in which they could hope

# The Servant Who Brings Hope and Justice

- **This servant has a mission**
  - To help people see what it's like to live under the reign of God!
- **This servant has a method**
  - It's gentleness and concern that will draw in the bruised reed, not push him or her away
- **What does this tell us about our mission and method?**

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- **He will stay strong and focused on the mission**

# God is LORD – 41:1 – 42:9

- **Functions of the Servant – 42:5-9**
  - **Before you say the task is insurmountable, look who calls you to it**
    - **The one who created and stretched out the heavens**
    - **The one who gives breath to every person on earth**
    - **Should you be discouraged therefore by being captive in the most powerful nation on earth?**

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  - **Be a light for the Gentiles!**
  - **Open blind eyes!**
  - **Free captives from prison!**
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  - Free captives from prison!
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  - Be a covenant for the people!

By the way, how are we doing at that?

# Only God is Lord and He has Chosen Israel – 41:1 – 42:9

- **42:1-9 #5: Servant – brings Light to the Nations**

## Servant Songs in Isaiah

This is the first of four servant songs in Isaiah.

- They have cadence or rhythm in Hebrew.
- They are meant to be memorialized and reflected upon.
- They talk about someone called the servant.

# Recognizing Poetry

**Example: NIV**

**Poetry** is printed in stanzas  
with lines indented



**42** “Here is my servant,<sup>l</sup> whom I uphold,  
my chosen one<sup>m</sup> in whom I delight;<sup>n</sup>  
I will put my Spirit<sup>o</sup> on him,  
and he will bring justice<sup>p</sup> to the nations.<sup>q</sup>  
<sup>2</sup> He will not shout or cry out,<sup>r</sup>  
or raise his voice in the streets.  
<sup>3</sup> A bruised reed<sup>s</sup> he will not break,<sup>t</sup>  
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.<sup>u</sup>  
In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;<sup>v</sup>  
<sup>4</sup> he will not falter or be discouraged  
till he establishes justice<sup>w</sup> on earth.  
In his teaching<sup>x</sup> the islands<sup>y</sup> will put their hope.”<sup>z</sup>

# Recognizing Poetry

## Example: NIV

**Poetry** is printed in stanzas  
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**Narrative** is printed in  
paragraphs

**36** In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah's<sup>t</sup> reign, Sennacherib<sup>u</sup> king of Assyria attacked all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them.<sup>v</sup> <sup>2</sup> Then the king of Assyria sent his field commander with a large army from Lachish<sup>w</sup> to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. When the commander stopped at the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Launderer's Field,<sup>x</sup> <sup>3</sup> Eliakim<sup>y</sup> son of Hilkiah the palace administrator,<sup>z</sup> Shebna<sup>a</sup> the secretary,<sup>b</sup> and Joah<sup>c</sup> son of Asaph the recorder<sup>d</sup> went out to him.

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- The eunuch was reading a Servant Song from Isaiah and asked Philip
  - “Tell me please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” – Acts 8:34

# Servant Songs in Isaiah

- **Who is this servant in Isaiah?**
  - **Changes as we go through Isaiah...**



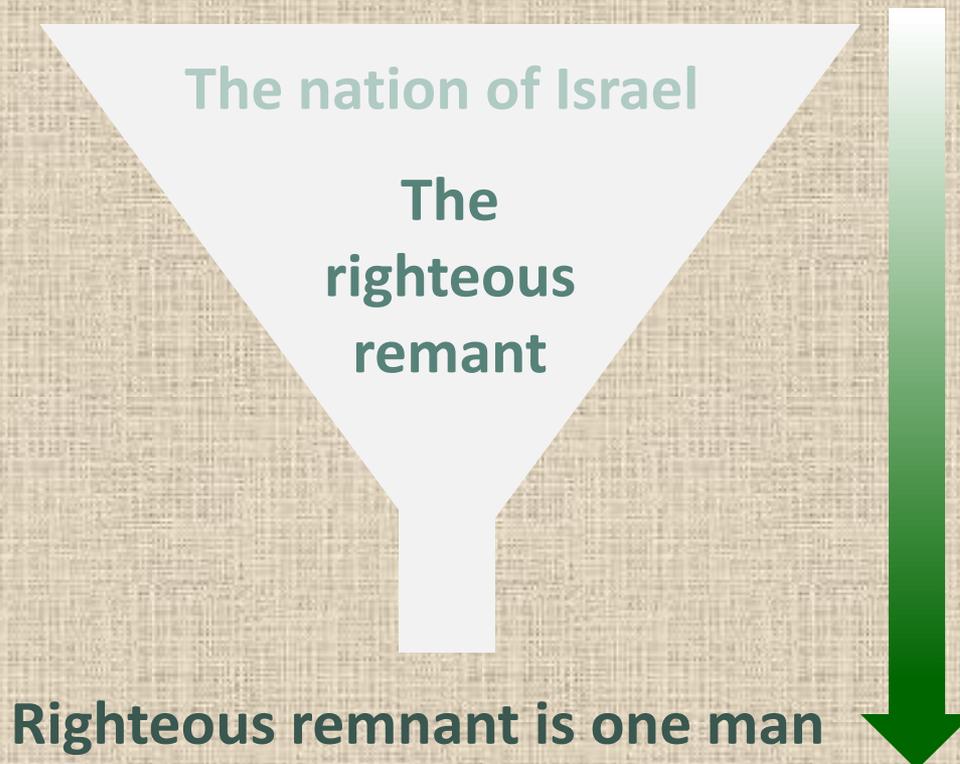
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# Servant Songs in Isaiah

- **Four Servant Songs**

- **42:1-9**

- **49:1-13**

- **50:4-11**

- **52:13-53:12**

**Note: In some cases writers differ on exactly how many verses are included in the Servant Songs**

# Assignment

**Read Isaiah 42 - 48**