



High-Level Outline

- I. Sovereign Judgment of All (1-39)
- II. God's Salvation of Zion (40-66)
 - A. Superiority of Jehovah over Idols (40-48)
 - 1. Announcing the Coming of the Lord (40:1-11)
 - 2. The Incomparable God (40:12-41:29)
 - 3. The Chosen Servant of Delight (42:1-17)
 - 4. The Deaf, Blind Servant Redeemed (42:18-44:5)
 - 5. Impotence of Idols versus Power of Jehovah (44:6-28)
 - 6. Cyrus, Shepherd of God's People (45:1-13)
 - 7. Turning of Gentiles from Idols to Jehovah (45:14-25)
 - 8. God's Triumph over Babylon (46:1-47:15)
 - B. "Things That Make for Peace" (49-57)
 - C. Establishment of Zion (58-66)



"In Whom My Soul Delights"

10) When compared to other "servants", what unique characteristics would God's chosen servant exhibit, and what special accomplishments would he achieve (42:1-7)?

"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." Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it: (42:1-5)

"In Whom My Soul Delights"

10) When compared to other "servants", what unique characteristics would God's chosen servant exhibit, and what special accomplishments would he achieve (42:1-7)?

"I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles, To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house." (42:6-7)

- The Lord would "delight" in Him not just a tool (10:5-15).

 Bear the Lord's spirit, exhibit extreme patience, not waiver.
- Exonerate truth, and provide a covenant with law for all even Gentiles bring direction and truth (2:1-4; Jn. 1:17).

"Not to Carved Images"

11) Why would God identify Himself in this context as the God of creation and life (42:5)? How does this section fit within the larger case against idolatry (42:8-9)?

Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it: "I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, ... I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images. Behold, the former things have come to pass, And new things I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them. (42:5-6a, 8-9)

Establishes authority, credibility for new prophecy's fulfillment. (Already know, but have "willfully forgotten".)

adv pointed to fulfillment of earlier prophecies (37:26).

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Providing new prophecies for later generations (1 Pet. 1:12; 2 Pet. 3:2-3).

lous God for His name's sake – all our sakes (Deu. 32:27)

"Not One Lacks Her Mate"

- 12) List at least 1 fulfillment of each attribute or accomplishment of the chosen servant. Please note each attribute or accomplishment that failed. Lessons?
- "In whom My soul delights" (Mt. 3:17; 17:5; 2 Pet. 1:16-21)
- Meekness, quietness, patience with *Pharisees*? (Mat. 12:1-21)
- "justice to the Gentiles" (Acts 10; Mark 7:24-37)
- "not fail nor be discouraged" (Mat. 26:36-56)
- · "covenant ... law" (Mat. 26:26-29; Acts 2; Psa. 110)
- "light to the Gentiles" (Luke 2:32; Acts 13:47; 26:23)
- "open blind eyes" (John 9:1-7, 32-41)
 - Failures? ... None! ... Simultaneously testifies to deity of God, inspiration of Isaiah, and identity of Jesus.

"Sang as It Were a New Song"

13) What was the new element of the "new song" that distinguished it from songs previously sung (42:10-12)?

Sing to the LORD a new song, And His praise from the ends of the earth, You who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, You coastlands and you inhabitants of them! Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice, The villages that Kedar inhabits. Let the inhabitants of Sela sing, Let them shout from the top of the mountains. Let them give glory to the LORD, And declare His praise in the coastlands. (42:10-12)

- "Coastlands", "Islands" often associated with farthest reaches of the pagan Gentiles (11:11; 23:1-8; 14:15-16; 41:5; 49:1; 59:18-19; 66:19; Jer. 2:10; 25:22-23; Gen. 10:5).
- Believers to be found in most remote, godless corners of the world!

14) The Lord was described as acting suddenly, dramatically (42:13-17). How would knowing that fact comfort and encourage the faithful while warning the idolatrous?

The LORD shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies. "I have held My peace a long time, I have been still and restrained Myself. Now I will cry like a woman in labor, I will pant and gasp at once. I will lay waste the mountains and hills, And dry up all their vegetation; I will make the rivers coastlands, And I will dry up the pools." (42:13-15)

Saving the Blind?

14) The Lord was described as acting suddenly, dramatically (42:13-17). How would knowing that fact comfort and encourage the faithful while warning the idolatrous?

I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, And crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, And not forsake them. They shall be turned back, They shall be greatly ashamed, Who trust in carved images, Who say to the molded images, You are our gods." (42:16-17)

Must trust, ignore "current events". No leading indicators.

Strangely, salvation of the blind is preceded by destruction.

But, the "blind" are associated with idol worshippers?

Previously, overlooked in Gentiles (Acts 17:30; Rm. 3:25).



"Who is blind but My Servant?"

15) Who was the deaf, blind servant (42:18-24)? To what were they deaf and blind?

"Hear, you deaf; And look, you blind, that you may see. Who is blind but My servant, Or deaf as My messenger whom I send? Who is blind as he who is perfect, And blind as the LORD'S servant? Seeing many things, but you do not observe; Opening the ears, but he does not hear." The LORD is well pleased for His righteousness' sake; He will exalt the law and make it honorable. But this is a people robbed and plundered; All of them are snared in holes, And they are hidden in prison houses; They are for prey, and no one delivers; For plunder, and no one says, "Restore!" (42:18-22)

"Who is blind but My Servant?"

15) Who was the deaf, blind servant (42:18-24)? To what were they deaf and blind?

Who among you will give ear to this? Who will listen and hear for the time to come? Who gave <u>Jacob</u> for plunder, and <u>Israel</u> to the robbers? Was it not the LORD, He against whom we have sinned? For they would not walk in His ways, Nor were they obedient to His law. (42:18-24)

- Nation of Israel was the Lord's blind, deaf servant, messenger.
- Should have been a beacon to exalt God's glory, mercy, power, wisdom & truth (Jos. 2:9-13; 2 Chr. 32:21-23).
- Instead, they were blind to truths manifested before them.
 Situation evoked sympathy. Isaiah sinned but would obey.

"Not Repent, Give Him Glory"

16) Why were they deaf and blind, and what were the consequences (42:23-25)?

Who among you will give ear to this? Who will listen and hear for the time to come? Who gave Jacob for plunder, and Israel to the robbers? Was it not the LORD, He against whom we have sinned? For they would not walk in His ways, Nor were they obedient to His law.

Therefore He has poured on him the fury of His anger And the strength of battle; It has set him on fire all around, Yet he did not know; And it burned him, Yet he did not take it to heart. (42:23-25)

Their punishment was a result of their stubborn disobedience.

God would afflict Rome similarly (Rev. 16:8-11).

Previously, God promised to bring them back (42:13-17) ...

"Vessels of Wrath"

17) Despite their failure, what would the Lord still accomplish through them (42:21, 23)?

The LORD is well pleased for His <u>righteousness</u>' sake; He will exalt the law and make it honorable. ... Who among you will give ear to this? Who will listen and hear for the time to come? (42:21, 23)

- God could still use them to proclaim His message and the glory of His law, even in their disobedience by punishing them according to the law as promised (**Deu. 28:36-49; 1 Kings 9:6-9**).
 - Even in the NT, many Jews still felt entitled and misunderstood their role, which was like Pharaoh's (Rom. 9).
 - Sadly, it did not have to be so. Could have glorified Him voluntarily: "Who will listen and hear for time to come?"

"I Have Redeemed You"

18) Assuming that 43:1-28 continues to address physical national Israel, how could they have simultaneously been the recipients of God's fury and redemption – burned and not burned at the same time (42:24-43:7)?

Who gave Jacob for plunder, and Israel to the robbers? Was it not the LORD, He against whom we have sinned? For they would not walk in His ways, Nor were they obedient to His law. Therefore He has poured on him the fury of His anger And the strength of battle; It has set him on fire all around, Yet he did not know; And it burned him, Yet he did not take it to heart." (42:24-25)

Initially, Isaiah includes himself in the guilty.

Then, he transitions to a larger, rebellious group.

Minally, the national identity is used – referring to nation.

"I Have Redeemed You"

But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in your place. Since you were precious in My sight, You have been honored, And I have loved you; Therefore I will give men for you, And people for your life." (43:1-5)

God changed Jacob's name and nation to Israel (Gn. 32:28).

Like Israel, we must also walk worthy of our honor (Ep. 4:1).

"I Have Redeemed You"

Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring **your descendants from the east**, And gather **you from the west**; I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' And to the south,

'Do not keep them back!' Bring My sons from afar, And My
daughters from the ends of the earth – **Everyone who is called by My name**, Whom I have **created for My glory**; I **have formed him**, **yes**, I have made him." (43:6-7)

- Nationally, Israel would survive the desolation and be brought back to their homeland, after captivity.
 - No other nation was shown such favor.
 - This should have provided hope, confidence balanced by obligation, duty, and reciprocated love.

Jehovah's Witnesses?

19) In the ongoing case against idolatry – upheld by the nations ("coastlands") and portions of Israel – how did the nation of Israel serve as a "witness" to God's exclusive divinity (43:8-13)? How would the deafness and blindness of Israel have enhanced His case?

Bring out the blind people who have eyes, And the deaf who have ears. Let all the nations be gathered together, And let the people be assembled. Who among them can declare this, And show us former things? Let them bring out their witnesses, that they may be justified; Or let them hear and say, "It is truth." "You are My witnesses," says the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall <u>there be after Me.</u>"(43:8-10)

Jehovah's Witnesses?

I, even I, am the LORD, And besides Me there is no savior. I have declared and saved, I have proclaimed, And there was no foreign god among you; Therefore you are My witnesses," Says the LORD, "that I am God. Indeed before the day was, I am He; And there is no one who can deliver out of My hand; I work, and who will reverse it?" (43:11-13)

- No room for Jehovah among pantheon of gods monotheism.
- The "coastlands" remain without a witness to their gods.
- Ability to use Israel despite rebellion accentuates His power.
- His "witnesses" contextually refers to "blind, deaf" national OT Israel that completely rejected God through idolatry!
- Presuming one has authority, power to undo what God does is direct attack against His authority, sovereignty (Mat. 19:6).