

God's Provision of the Coming Servant

Text: Isaiah 42

Date: 8-14-22 10:30 AM

Truth: For all that the nation of Israel had done to harm Jehovah's name, hurt His character, and rebel against His laws, God had a master plan that involved the provision of His Servant, His Son Jesus Christ. This Servant would carry out a humble ministry during His time on earth and yet fulfill the covenant promises for God's people. Jehovah guaranteed that the Messiah would lead His people out of spiritual darkness. While the nation of Israel would reject this Servant, God would extend the invitation to the Gentiles. This is the gospel! What good news!

I. Jehovah provides His Servant to carry out an unassuming ministry (Isa. 42:1-4).

It is Jesus who has been chosen to be God's servant, and this servant was the One in whom Jehovah takes pleasure.

How will the Servant accomplish His task? He will not cry nor raise His voice or be heard publically in the streets. He will be quiet, humble, and not bring attention to Himself by outlandish practices.

The Servant will be gentle with the weak, humble, and meek children of Israel; He will be quiet yet powerful. Those people of Galilee, poor and pushed away, would be the people He primarily ministered to.

He will not grow faint or be discouraged until He has established justice on the earth.

In the end when the work is over, justice will reign upon the earth. It is only then that the Gentiles will find a just government, redemption and hope (Hailey 353).

II. Jehovah is the guarantee that His Servant will be the provision for mankind (Isa. 42:5-9).

God, who now calls Himself *I the Lord*, is the very same One who called His servant.

Jehovah will make His Servant to be a covenant belonging to His people, the Jews.

He will not just be the mediator for His people but the covenant itself. This pictures the divine actions of blessing and grace. He will fulfill the covenant promises to His people and He will bring light to the Gentiles.

While Cyrus would allow the captives to physically go back to Jerusalem, the Servant will free man from his greatest problem: sin. **Application:** The Servant will have the power to spiritually open blind eyes and to release the prisoners from their chains to sin and death.

The name of Jehovah is the guarantee that His plans will be accomplished. Clearly, God is at the center of the plan both for the Jews and the Gentiles. Additionally, He will not share His glory with any other person, nation, or god. Why? God cannot give His glory to another since that would make Him less than God. Based on the truth that He keeps His word, if God were to give His glory to another, He would be a liar and go against His nature.

III. Jehovah's Provision evokes a praise song in response to the Servant's work (Isa. 42:10-17).

"These are songs such as have never been heard upon earth; songs that are fitting to celebrate the wonders of the new age when the Servant of the Lord performs His matchless work of redemption" (Young 125).

These people will experience radical change: those who were blinded will have their spiritual eyes opened.

IV. Jehovah's Provision is the answer to the people's spiritual problems (Isa. 25:18-25).

In captivity the people may wonder why they were being punished and suffering trials, so Isaiah answers their implied questions by telling them that they deserved their punishment for they were spiritually deaf and blind.

Because God's people have willfully refused to obey and listen to God, they have chosen to become blind and deaf and therefore God gave them over to their depravity (Isa. 6:10).

In the end God will be pleased on account of His own righteousness. He will magnify His law and make it glorious.

Deliverance and salvation will only be from God's hands for the people cannot deliver themselves. They are truly deaf and blind to the mission of God for them. What a sad state of affairs for a nation both chosen and so blessed by God Himself!

"Israel had only their rebellion against Jehovah, their disregard for His law, and their blindness and deafness to His mission to blame for their present state of exile" (Hailey 359). For God to make things right, to do justice, and to make His law honorable, He must punish His own people. We must learn from them!

What can we learn?

- 1) We must never come to a place in our lives that we are so deadened and calloused to sin that we will not recognize the blessed hand of God.
- 2) We must not miss the chastening hand of God in our lives.
- 3) We must not miss God's provision of His Servant. Those who have been given eternal life through His Servant can rejoice every day for this is truly the greatest Provision of all!

Why did God establish the OT sacrificial system if it failed to do what we might think it should do?

- God set the standard that blood was needed for the remission of sins. The people's sin needed to be atoned and it could only happen through the blood sacrifice.
- God demonstrated the need for substitutionary atonement for man could not atone for his/her own sins.
- God allowed the sacrifices to cover the people's sins in order that His judgment was withheld.
- God used the sacrificial system to point to a new and better way – to a Person who would completely atone once for all for man's sins.