

July 22nd, 2018
“Behold My Servant”
 Isaiah 42

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

July 15 Proverbs 7-9	July 19 Proverbs 19-21
July 16 Proverbs 10-12	July 20 Proverbs 22-23
July 17 Proverbs 13-15	July 21 Proverbs 24-26
July 18 Proverbs 16-18	July 22 Proverbs 27-29

Lesson Introduction: Last week we considered in **chapter 41** how the Lord is the God of our salvation. We saw that He is the one who brings it about, sustains it, and brings us great joy through it. This week, Isaiah turns to prophesying about the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ. John Calvin, in his **Commentary on Isaiah**, speaks to the sudden nature of the prophesy about Jesus in the midst of prophesy about the Lord’s power and might to bring about salvation: “The Prophet appears to break off abruptly to speak of Christ, but we ought to remember what we mentioned formerly in expounding another passage, (Isaiah 7:14,) that the prophets, when they promise anything hard to be believed, are wont immediately afterwards to mention Christ; for in Him are ratified all the promises which would otherwise have been doubtful and uncertain. “In Christ,” says Paul, “is Yes and Amen” (**2 Corinthians 1:20**.) For what fellowship can we have with God, unless the Mediator come between us? We undoubtedly are too far alienated from His majesty, and therefore could not be partakers either of salvation or of any other blessing, but through the kindness of Christ.” In our lesson this week, we will see that it is only through Christ that the promises of our salvation are fulfilled. We will consider from our passage how **Christ came in humility (V. 1-3), Christ came for the nations (V. 1, 4, 6-7), and Christ came by the will of the Father (V. 1, 5-9).**

Key Memory Verses: Isaiah 42:6-7

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:

- Christ is the ultimate servant (V. V. 1-2).
- Christ came to seek and save what was lost (V. 3, 6-7).
- Christ is God’s plan for the salvation of the nations (V. 1, 4, 6-7).

Isaiah 41:8-16

**1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
 my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
 I have put my Spirit upon him;
 he will bring forth justice to the nations.**

**2 He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
 or make it heard in the street;**

**3 a bruised reed he will not break,
 and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
 he will faithfully bring forth justice.**

**4 He will not grow faint or be discouraged
 till he has established justice in the earth;
 and the coastlands wait for his law.**

**5 Thus says God, the Lord,
 who created the heavens and stretched them out,
 who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
 who gives breath to the people on it
 and spirit to those who walk in it:**

**6 “I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;
 I will take you by the hand and keep you;
 I will give you as a covenant for the people,
 a light for the nations,**

**7 to open the eyes that are blind,
 to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
 from the prison those who sit in darkness.**

**8 I am the Lord; that is my name;
 my glory I give to no other,
 nor my praise to carved idols.**

**9 Behold, the former things have come to pass,
 and new things I now declare;
 before they spring forth
 I tell you of them.”**

Discussion Section 1: Christ came in humility (V. 1-2)

-In what ways do we see the humility of Christ in these verses?

-In what ways do we see the humility of Christ as we read the Gospels?

-How was Christ a servant in His earthly ministry?

-What does **V. 3** mean? What types of people did Jesus often seek out?

-How should the humility of Christ influence our day to day lives?

Note: *It is truly astounding that the One who created all things, upholds all things, and the One for which all things exist (Colossians 1:15-17), is here described first by God as, "My servant." If any human ever had the right to be served, and praised, and treated as royalty, it would have been Jesus during His earthly ministry. Yet, as we see in Philippians 2:5-8, He continually denied Himself (even His very oneness with God) and served to the point of shameful death. Our passage today shows us that Christ's way of making Himself known as the Son of God was not through bold proclamations about Himself, or the continual verbal touting of His greatness (indeed He continually told those whom He had healed not to make it known (Matthew 8:4, 9:30, 12:16, Mark 5:43, Luke 8:56)), but rather, by being a humble servant, often to the neediest of people. He ate with tax collectors and sinners (Mark 2:13-17), touched lepers (Matthew 8:3), spoke to, and advocated for women who society deemed harlots (John 4:1-42, John 8:1-11), and on and on we could go. He never trampled the bruised reeds, or put out the faintly burning wicks, but rather, He sought them out, just as He has done for all who are in Him, including us. His example of humility should humble us immensely, and we should continually strive to model such humility to the world around us, pointing them ultimately to the One who "opens the eyes that are blind, and brings prisoners out of the dungeon" (V. 7).*

Discussion Section 2: Christ came for the nations (V. 1, 4, 6-7)

-Who are God's covenant people?

-What does it mean that Christ "**will bring forth justice to all the nations**"?

Note: *As we have studied the book of Isaiah, we have been examining the prophecies made for God's people (Israel and Judah). One thing to continually keep in mind is the fact that the prophecies about Christ in Isaiah are not simply meant to give hope to Israel, but to all nations (including the Gentiles in Princeton, Texas). The Lord is creating a people from every nation, tribe, and tongue (Revelation 7:9, Acts 1:8), and our justification is found not in our heritage or social class, but rather, in*

belonging to Christ (Galatians 3:28-29). Therefore, in Christ, we are part of God's covenant people, and indeed are children of Abraham. The Lord sent His son to break down the dividing wall of hostility, and to make us into building blocks for His kingdom, of which Christ Himself is the cornerstone (Ephesians 2:11-22, 1 Peter 2:4-10).

-How might knowledge of God's plan to redeem people from all nations through Christ change the way you interact with people of other races and creeds?

Discussion Section 3: Christ came by the will of the Father (V. 1, 5-9)

-How did God "**uphold**" Christ during His earthly ministry?

-What do verses 5-9 tell us about God's power, and His plan?

-In what way do we see the Godhead working in harmony to bring about salvation for the nations in this passage?

Note: *It is vital that we remember that God's plan to reveal Himself through His son Jesus was not a reluctant one, but rather one which the Lord brought about with "delight," by the power of His Spirit (V. 1), that His glory might be revealed to all the nations (V. 8-9). This plan that was a formed by the wisdom of God before the foundation of the world (1 Peter 1:19-21, Ephesians 3:9-11), was fulfilled in Christ, who walked in complete righteousness, and in the power of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:16, Luke 4:1-18, 10:21). We see in our passage today that the all-powerful God of the universe, who stretched out the heavens, and gives breath to all of us, planned to set the captives free through Christ, and poured out His Spirit, so that the ministry of Christ on earth was the fulfillment of the plan of the eternal Godhead. We can walk in confidence knowing that God's plans are sure, because all His promises are "Yes and Amen" in Christ! (2 Corinthians 1:20).*