

Beulah Baptist Church
Rev. Jerry D. Black, Pastor

Sunday School Lesson
April 5th, 2020
Rev. Mark A. Seals, M.Div., Instructor/Teacher

Lesson: God's Just Servant **Text: Isaiah 42:1-9**

Aim for Change

By the end of the lesson, we will: EXPLORE the concept of Messiah, SENSE the wonder of Jesus role as servant to the nations, and IMITATE Jesus as a servant of God who executes justice.

In Focus: David Boyd was passed over for a promotion, but Mr. Carter fought for justice on his behalf. Ultimately, David got the promotion the Lord had for him as a supervisor.

Key Verse— *Isa 42:1 ¶ Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.*

People Places and Times

Isaiah (name means “Yahweh is salvation”) came to the people with messages of judgment tempered with hope. He ministered for better than 60 years during the reign of five kings of Judah: Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, and Manasseh. He plead with the people to turn back to God. Through his prayers and intervention Jerusalem was spared from Assyrian destruction.

Background

Isaiah opens with the nations being challenged by God, who reminds them of His great power , greatness, wisdom and foreknowledge (Is. 42:1). God revealed to Isaiah more than 150 years before the birth of Cyrus, that he would raise up “Cyrus The Great (king of Persia)” to conquer the nations and be a hedge of protection for Israel. God would use Cyrus to free His people from Babylonian captivity under king Nebuchadnezzar. Cyrus would then issue his edict allowing the people of God to return to the “Promised Land” and to rebuild the temple.

The text for our lesson (Is. 42:1-9) is part of what scholars consider to be one of the four servant songs in the book of Isaiah. The others are Is. 49:1-9; 50:4-11; 52:13-53:12. These passages of scripture identify the Servant whom God has chosen to be His instrument of righteousness for His people (*Isaiah, Israel, or Christ?*).

Question: What is the Servant's primary responsibility?

In Depth

1. A Judge to the Nations (Isaiah 42:1—4)

This verse begins one of four Suffering Servant Songs. Christians believe this servant to be Jesus Christ. The servant here (God's elect) was appointed by God for a specific task and purpose. Isaiah reminds us that the Messiah will not fail in his ministry assignment.

2. A Light to the Nations (vv.5-7)

The Messiah came to do two specific things...

- a. Destroy the work of the enemy (1John 3:8)
- b. Bring light to the Gentiles (Acts 26:23)

The Messiah would be the fulfillment of the covenant to the Jews through Abraham.

3. A Hope for the Nations (vv.8-9)

The glory of the Lord is this, he will get glory out of every situation that he ascribes his name to. He will not share his glory with anyone.

Liberating Lesson

The suffering servant in Jesus Christ came to minister and not to be ministered to. He has come to set at liberty those who have been imprisoned. The name of the Lord will bring salvation to those who confess him as such.

Application for Activation

Would you consider your leaders of today Servant leaders?

More Light on the Text...

Read...

➤ *Verses 42:1*

- a. Behold, my servant (one who works)
- b. Uphold (sustain or the support)
- c. God's elect (chosen one)
- d. My soul delighteth (deeply pleased with)
- e. I have put my Spirit upon him (tense is to suggest a completed action), he is now fully equipped
- f. Judgement—means justice, ordinance, or verdict

➤ *Verses 42:2-3*

- a. Isaiah said that the Messiah would be a meek, humble, kind and unassuming as he completes his mission
- b. He would not bruise the reed, nor
- c. Cause the wick, smoking flax to be blown out

➤ *Verses 42:4*

- a. The Lord would not fail in his assignment
- b. The Lord would not be discouraged no matter what happens

➤ *Verses 42:5*

- a. The Lord God is creator of everything, showing his might and power

b. He would place his Spirit in and on the Messiah to spread the message of hope and salvation to the world, including the Gentiles.

➤ *Verse: 42:6*

The covenant of the Lord would be fulfilled in the Messiah. The Messiah is identified as “covenant” and “Light”.

➤ *Verse 42:7*

To those who are blinded because of sin, the Messiah is the one to open our spiritually closed eyes, also having the ability to open the eyes of those who are physically blind.

➤ *Verse 42:8*

God is eternal and self-existent. At no point in time will he share His glory with anyone.

➤ *Verse 42:9*

The eternal God will bring all things spoken of in the past to fruition. He will also speak new things into the lives of his prophet(s) and his people.

In the coming of the Messiah, there will be joy and deliverance for all who believe on him. He will give us the ultimate example of how we are to serve with strength and humility.

Vocabulary-New Words

- *Antediluvian*: in the Bible, is defined as someone or something from the time before the Great Flood.
- *Decalogue*: The ten principal commandments, Ex 20:3-17, from the Greek words deka, ten, and logos, word.
- *Pentateuch*: The five books the books of Moses; the first five books of Hebrew scriptures that is, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.