

General Introduction. Last week you heard a great sermon from Dr. House about how God in His Providence interrupts our plans. Of course, it is no interruption to God, for He knows all things before they come to pass, for they come to pass out of His Power, His Wisdom, His Will and His Love for His people. This reading is from Isaiah and the sermon this morning is the last of Five on the Basic truths of our Salvation.

We heard of (1) the horror of darkness in which we are all enveloped because of Adam's Sin; Then, (2) The glorious light from eternity that penetrates that darkness when we were utterly without hope, the light of God's eternal election, the truth that is according to holiness, the faith of God's elect. (3) Then the price of this eternal election, the precious blood of Christ, which made us His people, His inheritance, so that we are not our own; then (4) the great power of this light that shines into our hearts like the light shone out of the darkness in the original creation, illuminating all our faculties and delivering us from the power of darkness into the Kingdom of the Dear Son of God. Finally, today we will see that this great work of salvation is an eternal one, from eternity to eternity and cannot fail, being the work of God which cannot fail.

Introduction to Isaiah 42. This is part of a great section of Isaiah about the glorious promise made to the remnant of Israel in Isaiah 40:1,2, 9, 10 a promise so stupendous that it would not be believed but for the power of the Spirit of God. The messenger of the Lord would come, preceded by His herald John the Baptist. God pledges both His enormous, infinite power, and His certain and pure integrity to perform this promise. He speaks of things that will happen many years in the future, such as the exile of Israel and their restoration in the days of Cyrus, even naming Cyrus over a hundred years before he was born. He speaks of the sufferings of the Servant of the Lord and the calling of a remnant of the Gentiles, all of which is fulfilled in the Gospels and in the book of Acts, confirmed by the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth and the writings of the apostles.

There is much that could be said, and I deal with this passage at length in the course in Introduction to Reformed Theology at New Geneva, which will be offered in January. This year I hope to get a first rate recording of this material and reduce it to book form. Pray for me that I will have the strength to do this, among other important things.

## I. The Mission: Judgment to the Gentiles. Verses 1

A. A remnant of Israel will be saved. Vs. 1, 4, 7, Isaiah 10:22 with Romans 9:27

B. This remnant would bear witness to the Gentiles, and join the elect of the Gentiles with Israel, forming the church of the Redeemed. Ephesians 2:13-22 Also Acts 2:38-40

## II. The Method: The Spirit of the Lord.

A. 42:2-4

1. Not by might not power not outward manipulation or threat.

2. Judgment is brought to truth. Men’s judgments are brought to receive the truth.  
[the elect—the non elect are ripened for judgment.]
3. God is source of the breath and the spirit of all the earth and heavens.

B. Joel 2:28-32

C. Matthew 28:18-20

D. Acts 1:7, 9

E. This witness has several layers to it:

1. Reproof of the world: of sin, of righteous, and of judgment.  
John 16:8-11: 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:  
9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;  
10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;  
11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.
2. The world will not be saved, there are no prayers of the Mediator for the salvation of the world. Those who rebel will be cut to pieces when Christ comes, according the parable of the pounds.
3. Gospel to the hearts of the elect so that everyone of them will be saved. 2Pet. 8-14.  
This is our witness and our joy.

### III. The Patience: No Failure nor Discouragement 42:4

A. The Patience of the Lord. Isaiah 30:16

1. Isaiah 9:6,7
2. Isaiah 37:32 repeating 2 Kings 19:31 [Sennacherib]

B. He must do two things: These two things are mingled throughout Scripture, including the New Testament. For Instance 2 Thess. 1:3-10 Vindicate His righteous servants and punish the ungodly.

1. Save all His people from the world, the flesh, and the devil;
2. 42:13 Overcome all His enemies in the world, the flesh, and the devil. Until His glory is purely seen and His righteousness shines forth to the whole world. Every knee shall bow and every tongues shall confess.

C. Because God is faithful and will finish His work, we are called to finish our work, because we are called to the image of Christ.

1. WE are a covenant to the people vs. 7: salvation of the elect.
2. He that endures to the end shall be saved. The power of God secures it. The mark of perfection. Finish the job.
3. He that has begun a good work in you; he will finish His work , so we will finish ours, the result of election. We are kept by the power of God.
4. The opposite of careless and secure: Q64: But does not this doctrine make men careless and profane? A64: No, for it is impossible that those who are implanted in- to Christ by true faith, should not bring forth fruits of thankfulness.[1]

Application:

1. Let us always trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and His complete work of redemption, for our righteousness has been taken completely out of our hands and placed securely in His, Father, son, and Holy Spirit, so that we will never perish and no one can take us out of our Father’s hands. Though we fall, we will never be utterly cast down for the Lord upholds us with His hand.
2. Let us lay hold on the strength that is in us through Jesus Christ, to be strengthened with might in the inner man, to complete our course with joy, as faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ no matter what the conditions under which He calls us to live our lives and use our means.