

## EXPOSITION OF ISAIAH

Message #59

Isaiah 42:8-17

**What many of God's own people do not realize is that there is no doctrine more stabilizing to grasp in this unstable world than the doctrine of the Sovereignty of God.** The sovereignty of God assures us that no matter what is happening, God is still on His throne and is still working out all things after the counsel of His own will.

What is so tragic is that there have been times in history when those who weren't God's people recognized this fact better than those who were. For example, Nebuchadnezzar, who literally went crazy by the sovereign hand of God, said this: "But He (God) does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth" (Daniel 4:35).

**Now we are in a section in Isaiah in which God wants His people comforted (Is. 40:1ff).** Last time we saw that there is a Divine Servant who is predicted to come into this world who would ultimately fulfill God's covenantal program with Israel and would also be a light to the Gentile nations. **In this text, God wants people to realize that His Servant will sovereignly conquer the world to the extent that the entire world will worship the true God.** This Servant, who is coming to this world, is the sovereign glorious God who will bring about everything God has promised.

There is no doctrine that can comfort God's people like the doctrine of God's sovereignty. When you actually believe that everything that happens to you and in your life comes directly from a Sovereign God who is working out all things for your good, it is the most comforting truth you can ever embrace.

There is a Divine Servant who is predicted to come who will literally bring God's sovereign glory and power to this earth. All will sense it, know it, and see it. That is precisely what Isaiah communicates right here. What Isaiah says is this:

**GOD WANTS HIS PEOPLE COMFORTED KNOWING THAT HE IS THE ONLY ALMIGHTY SOVEREIGN GOD, AND WHEN HIS SERVANT/SON FINALLY COMES TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD, HE WILL BE WORSHIPPED AS THE ONLY, ALMIGHTY, SOVEREIGN GOD.**

**You and I live in a world that tries to deny that God created everything, so it stands to reason that this same world would deny that God regulates everything.** However, it is imperative that God's own people understand this because this strengthens our faith because we know God is directing and moving and His will ultimately will be accomplished.

Now there are three great sovereign realities revealed in these verses:

**SOVEREIGN REALITY #1 – God is to be recognized as the only sovereign God. 42:8-9**

There are **four amazing facts** about God and about Jesus Christ that are given in this text:

**Fact #1** - God is Jehovah . **42:8a**

God says in this verse My name is Jehovah. In Hebrew the pronoun “I” is emphatic and the name that He uses for Himself is Jehovah. **This is the sacred covenant name that God gives to Himself specifically in regard to Israel** . He is the sovereign “I am.”

Prior to Exodus 3:14, God was known to His people by the name Elohim (God) and El Shaddai (God Almighty). But God gave Himself a special name in regard to Israel in Exodus 3:14. It is so sacred of a name that the Jewish people refused to pronounce it and they even changed the name in Hebrew to “adonai” so they didn’t have to write it.

This name identifies God as the supreme, self-existing God who is all powerful and eternal who sovereignly chooses His people and chooses to do what He wants with His people and all people of the world. This name reveals Him to be Israel’s God (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, pp. 338-339). By using this name, this becomes a very sacred and solemn proclamation.

**Fact #2** - God will not give His glory to another . **42:8b**

There are several remarkable implications to this statement.

**First**, God has a majestic glory that is only His and He will not share or give that Divine glory to any other being. God is High, Heavenly and Holy. No other created thing has or will ever have His majesty and His glory.

**Second**, God demands that His Son, Jesus Christ, be honored at the same level as He is. Jesus said that the Father had turned all judgment over to Him “in order that all may honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father” (John 5:23). By virtue of the fact that He shares His glory with His Son proves His Son is God.

**Third**, Israel is the nation who is to ultimately reflect the glory of God and no other nation will ever demonstrate the glory of God like she will. John Calvin said the Lord will never deceive, nor will He ever swerve from His promises (*Isaiah*, Vol. 8, p. 296). God will not share His special glory with any other nation.

**Fourth**, we who know Jesus Christ are to reflect God’s glory (John 17:22). Our lives and our speech should make a statement for the Glory of God. God will not ever allow a non-believer to reflect a glory that He only gives to His people.

**Fact #3** - God will not give His praise to idols . **42:8c**

This world is tolerant of false religions but God is not. God will not give His glory nor give His praise to any religious system that is false. He is not pleased or praised by religion not true to His Word. Worship and praise are only to be given to the God of the Bible. It is exclusive. You cannot worship and praise God your way; it must be His Biblical way or else God will not ever accept it.

**Fact #4** - God controls past and future prophecy. 42:9d

God wants all to know that the former things which have happened have come to pass by Him and the new things that will happen also will come from Him. The adjective “new” refers to new things that are different, and new, and superior to the previous state. This word was used of taking a sword and sharpening it and polishing it so it was razor sharp and had a beautiful shine (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 263).

The implication of the words “new things” mean that God will do new things and He has new things to do in future time which men know nothing about. He will turn this evil, wicked, God-mocking world into one that will worship and praise Him.

**SOVEREIGN REALITY #2** – God will one day receive new worship. **42:10-13**

These verses certainly lend themselves to dispensationalism which teaches that there are different new things that God does in His world at different times. The old songs were songs sung about God’s power and goodness in old dispensations, but new songs will be sung about the new things He will do in future time.

New things are coming and God’s people can know it and can sing about it. We need to observe that this is a “new” song which means these things have not been done yet, but we can still sing about them. **The new song is about God coming in the Person of Jesus Christ to totally wipe out all political leaders and powers in the world and take it over.**

Truth is this new song cannot be completely sung as long as Satan is active and he’s filling the world with his sin and misery. But there is coming a day when this entire world will worship God in the way it should and in the way He deserves.

Several months ago, children in school started singing a new song about our President. Based on this passage and Revelation, here is a political rap song that should be taught to children in schools all over the world; for God will topple all political leaders of the world:

“God is coming to knock you down and you will all be seen as a bunch of clowns.”

“You dared to take Him out of your schools so He will crush and burn you as a group of fools.”

“You mocked His people; you mocked His Son, so before He destroys you He’ll have His fun.”

“You’ll hide in caves, which is where you belong, and when it is all over you will all be gone.”

There are three amazing praise realities that may be brought out in this text:

**Praise Reality #1** - Praise will be offered to God from every place on earth. **42:10a**

Notice carefully it is not “any praise” that is classified by God as worship, it is “His . . . praise” that is classified by God as worship. His praise is praise offered His way. It is based on His truth. As we have said, “**True theology produces true hymnology that produces true doxology.**”

There is coming a day when true praise, His praise, will be sung all over the world.

The phrase “from the end of the earth” means from one end of the earth to another. What this tells us is that one day God will control the entire world and the entire world will praise Him for it.

That Servant who is coming will conquer the world. Many parts of the world are given over to depraved idolatry and they refuse to offer praise to the true God of creation. But one day the whole world will offer this praise to God.

**Praise Reality #2** - Praise will be offered to God by all people all over the world. **42:10b-12**

People by the sea, on the islands, in the cities, all around the Middle East, and on tops of mountains, and on every coast will all offer praise to the true God and declare His glory.

Think of it, there is coming a time, for the first time in the world, when every inch of it will be filled with people who love God and His Word. This will be an ecumenical world empire that can only be established by God.

I find it intriguing that in **verse 11**, Isaiah names “Kedar” and “Sela” which are both Arab territories. Kedar was the second son of Ishmael (Genesis 25:13) and came to be a term used for Arab nomadic tribes. Sela was an Arab city (Judges 1:36). **God specifically singles out the Arab world, both city Arabs and wilderness Arabs, and He says there is coming a day when the Arabs will be worshipping the true God and Jesus Christ and celebrating the fact that He is reigning and has given Israel her land.** They will be worshipping God when that Dome of the Rock idol is gone and the true Temple is standing in Israel to the glory of God.

**Praise Reality #3** - Praise will be offered because God is a warrior who will come and stamp out all His enemies. **42:13**

Most people don't like this side to God. They want a God who is gracious and kind and tolerant; they do not want a God who is a warrior. Most people don't want a God of wrath; but one day all people in the world will praise Him because He is a God of wrath.

He will come as a warrior and He will prevail against every single enemy. He will have a zeal and a passion to wipe out all evil.

**SOVEREIGN REALITY #3** – God will sovereignly take over the world. **42:14-17**

There is a prophetic moment coming in which as Revelation says, “The kingdoms of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ and He will reign forever and ever” (Revelation 11:15).

There are some amazing prophetic things we learn about God and what He will do which clearly coincide with the book of Revelation:

**Fact #1** - God will take over the world after a lengthy time. **42:14**

It is true that God has been silent for a very long time. He has allowed God-mockers and Christ-rejecters and Israel-haters to exist for a very long time. What people don't know is that God has restrained Himself and when He finally decides to move and take over the world, it will mean terrible things to this world. Dr. Warren Wiersbe said, "God is longsuffering toward sinners; but when He begins to work, He wastes no time" (*Be Comforted*, p. 117).

Israel has been waiting a long time for God to give her the land He promised. We have been waiting a long time for the Rapture. There is coming a moment when both things will happen.

**Fact #2** - God will level the mountains and the hills (**42:15a**; Revelation 6:15-17; 16:20).

When God pours out His wrath on this earth, the physical earth is going to be affected. It is predicted that God will send a great earthquake to this world the likes of which this world has never seen (Revelation 16:18). This earthquake will devastate all islands and mountains (Revelation 16:20).

**Fact #3** - God will burn up vegetation (**42:15b**; Revelation 8:7).

**Fact #4** - God will dry up the water (**42:15c**; Revelation 8:8; 16:3-4).

**Fact #5** - God will care for His elect. **42:16**

God's people have been oppressed for a long, long time. But we may be certain God has not forgotten His promises to Israel and He will lead His covenant people back to their land and they will be ashamed of what they have done (**42:16**) and what they have worshipped (**42:17**). Right now Israel is blind. God is going to take His poor nation and lead her to Himself and into her land.

**Fact #6**- God will bring to complete shame all those who did not trust in Him. **42:17**

The word "shame" means that all who did not trust in God will be ashamed in the sense that they will realize that everything they trusted in failed to meet their hope and expectation. Their minds will be totally troubled and disturbed over what they believed and they will be before God totally and completely ashamed of their false religion (Gesenius, p. 109).

J. Vernon McGee said that all the "idolaters ... are warned that judgment is coming" (*Isaiah, Thru The Bible*, Vol. 3, p. 290). The judgment will leave them totally ashamed and condemned.

Let the idolaters strut around the world in all of their arrogance and let them laugh at God. Almighty God is coming and He will take them all out. One by one, they will be brought to complete shame.

If you trust in anything to save you from your sins other than Jesus Christ, God's Savior/Servant, I promise you that one day you will stand before Almighty God and be totally ashamed and condemned.