

A Trek Through Isaiah 52: 42:10-25

Bruce Pike

July 2, 2017

For this week:

- Response of the nations 42:10-17
- Israel's captivity and liberation (part 1) 42:18-25

Context

- In the book of the Servant (38 - 55): How will God's people be redeemed from captivity?

Structure

Universal Consolation (40:1 - 42:17)	
Consolation for the LORD's people 40:1 - 41:20	Hope for the Gentiles 41:21 - 42:17

- Hope for the Gentiles 41:21 - 42:17
 - Gentiles summoned before the court 41:21-29
 - Court convened. 41:21
 - The challenge. 41:22-23
 - The false gods exposed 41:24
 - The true God in action and prediction 41:25-27
 - The Servant: the great solution 42:1-9
 - The Servant presented 42:1-4
 - The Servant commissioned 42:5-9
 - Response to the LORD's solution 42:10-17
 - The world sings 42:10-13
 - The LORD speaks 42:14-17

Response to the LORD's solution 42:10-17

- The world **sings** 42:10-13

10 Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the end of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants. 11 Let the desert and its cities lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar inhabits; let the habitants of Sela sing for joy, let them shout from the top of the mountains. 12 Let them give glory to the LORD, and declare his praise in the coastlands. 13 The LORD goes out like a mighty man, like a man of war he stirs up his zeal; he cries out, he shouts aloud, he shows himself mighty against his foes.

- V10-11 Call to sing
 - To the LORD. Rather than to idols.
 - A new song. About the new things.
 - His praise. Content appropriate to the new things.
 - from the end of the earth
 - from one end of the earth to the other.
 - Kedar. In the northern Arabian desert.
 - Sela. Capital of Edom.
 - From the tops of the mountains. So that all may hear.
- V12 Subject of the song
 - As v8
 - give glory to the Lord,
 - declare his praise
- V13 Cause of celebration
 - Picture of warfare.
 - The LORD goes out. Goes out to battle.
 - like a mighty man. Here is the seed of the woman come to bruise the head of the serpent.
 - he shows himself mighty against his foes. The outcome is victory.

- A **new birth** 42:14-17

14 For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. 15 I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. 16 And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. 17 They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods."

- Abrupt change from war theme
- V14 I will give birth to a new thing
 - For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself
 - From Gen 3 to the present.
 - Not due to indifference, but done at the proper time As Gal 4:4 ...when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son...
 - now I will cry out like a woman in labor
 - Picture of a woman giving birth.
 - I will cry out like a woman in labor.
 - Shriek. Calvin: "it is only by such figures of speech that God's ardent love towards us can be expressed."
 - I will gasp and pant.
 - Long pregnant, now about to give birth.
- V15-16 Transformation
 - I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation.
 - The old order completely transformed.
 - I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know
 - The darkness becomes light
 - The rough places become level
 - These are the things I do.
 - Done by God not by man.
 - I do not forsake them
 - He is faithful
 - Here the LORD is undertaking the task previously given to the Servant: to bring the Gentile world from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God.
- V17 Defeated foes
 - They. Foes of v13.
 - turned back. Total destruction.
 - utterly put to shame. As they realize the folly of sin.
 - Carved idols...metal images.
 - Man-made gods: works instead of faith.

The LORD's plan for His people 42:18 - 44:23

The blind Gentiles need someone to lead them to the light. But God's servant of 41:8 (the nation Israel) is as blind as they! Another Servant is needed to carry out God's plan of redemption for the world.

Twin themes

Israel's captivity and liberation 42:18 - 43:21	Israel's sin and redemption 43:22 - 44:23
Diagnosis: in captivity 42:18-25	Diagnosis: in sin 43:22-24
Remedy: unchanging divine care 43:1-7	Remedy: redemption and the Spirit 43:25 - 44:5
The LORD, Savior and only God 43:8-13	The LORD, Redeemer and only God, contrasted with idols 44:6-20
Redemption from Babylon 43:14-21	Redemption from sin 44:21-23

Israel's captivity and liberation 42:18 - 43:21

The first theme: God's delivery of His people from bondage in Babylon.

Diagnosis: in captivity 42:18-25

Here is the present nation Israel: blind, in prison, plundered, under punishment for sin, without understanding.

- The blind **servant** 42:18-20

18 Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! 19 Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD? 20 He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear.

- V18 Call to the nations
 - You deaf...you blind.
 - Plural. Referring to the nations.
 - Looking back to v7, 16: the blind Gentile world.
 - Look.
 - For the promised solution
- V19-20 The incapable servant nation
 - Who is blind but my servant
 - Singular. Referring to the nation Israel. This is the servant of 41:8. Rules out the nation as the Servant and points to another.
 - When the Gentiles look, they see a servant as blind as they.
 - servant...my messenger ...my dedicated one...servant of the Lord
 - Titles of honor
 - As God's servant, Israel was given His word, expected to take it to the world.
 - He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear.
 - Contrasts the intended with the actual.
 - Indicates how great is Israel's need. They cannot fix the problem; the LORD must act.

- The LORD's **intention** 42:21

21 The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

- The Lord was pleased. According to His will.
- for his righteousness' sake.
 - In accordance with His righteous nature.
 - To achieve His righteous purpose
- To magnify his law and make it glorious
 - His intention for His law: a revelation worthy of Himself

- The servant's **condition** 42:22

22 But this is a people plundered and looted; they are all of them trapped in holes and hidden in prisons; they have become plunder with none to rescue, spoil with none to say, "Restore!"

- Contrast with God's intention in v21. As God's Servant, Israel did not win the world to God's law but was overcome by it.
- With none to rescue. They are helpless; God must act.

- The LORD's **judgment** on His people. 42:23-25

23 Who among you will give ear to this, will attend and listen for the time to come? 24 Who gave up Jacob to the looter, and Israel to the plunderers? Was it not the LORD, against whom we have sinned, in whose ways they would not walk, and whose law they would not obey? 25 So he poured on him the heat of his anger and the might of battle; it set him on fire all around, but he did not understand; it burned him up, but he did not take it to heart.

- V23 Call to hear
 - Who among you will give ear to this,
 - Speaking to the nation.
 - A hard truth
 - Will anyone listen?
- V24-25 Confession
 - Who gave up Jacob...was it not the LORD.
 - The LORD. Not the Babylonian gods.
 - against whom we have sinned
 - Isaiah identifies himself with the sinful nation
 - in whose ways they would not walk, and whose law they would not obey.
 - The sin is identified
 - They had revealed truth but they refused to obey it
 - gave up Jacob to the looter, and Israel to the plunderers
 - They did not exalt God's law therefore their protection was removed.
 - As the song of the vineyard in Is 5:1-7

1 My beloved had a vineyard ...he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

5 And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.
 - it set him on fire all around, but he did not understand;
 - Being chastised, Israel did not comprehend
 - Being separated from God, they did not look to God.
 - As Is 1:4-5 4 Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly! They have forsaken the LORD, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged. 5 Why will you still be struck down? Why will you continue to rebel?

Discussion

We will break into three groups for discussion. The questions are

- 1. Sing to the LORD a new song (42:10-17)**
 - a. A new work**
 - b. A new song**
- 2. Who is blind but my servant (42:18-21)**
 - a. The servant of the LORD.**
 - b. Ears that do not hear; eyes that do not see**
 - c. Magnifying the law**
- 3. A people plundered (42:22-25)**
 - a. God's people in captivity**
 - b. Was it not the LORD?**
 - c. On fire, but not understanding**

Remember to worship the Lord: (1) See (2) Know (3) Respond

For next week: Israel's captivity and liberation (part 2) 43:1-21

Scripture quotations are from The ESV Bible® (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publications. Used by permission, all rights reserved.