

God & The Servant

March 3, 2013

The Greatest Assignment

Isaiah 42:1-13

700 years before the birth and life and death of Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 42:1 ESV

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.

A new series. **"GOD & The Servant"** A sequel to **"God and the Greats"** → 2 series; 2 things in common:

i) **Both are from Isaiah.** (Obviously: but that's no small deal! Both from a man who saw God! 740 B.C.)

ii) **Both display the greatness of God: OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO US AS A CHURCH AND FOR MANY OF US AS INDIVIDUALS** because **KNOWING experientially** THE GREATNESS OF GOD changes everything!

"GOD & The Servant" One thing we must believe: **"the Servant" is Jesus.**

God's MOST PERSONAL EXPRESSION OF HIS GREATNESS!

Already prophesied by Isaiah:

Isaiah 7,8 *the son born to the virgin*

Isaiah 9 *the child born to us, the son given to us*

Isaiah 11 *"a shoot from the stump of Jesse... a branch from his roots
...the root of Jesse"*

But now **in much more detail,**

a series of four "songs" or poems →

"THE SERVANT SONGS"

Isaiah 42 + 49 + 50 + 52-53

But first, a **Q.** **Does this actually interest you? The prophet Isaiah's clearest prophesy about Jesus? Really!**

John 12:21 ESV So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." The same **Question** put another way: **Is that what you would say if you met an apostle?**

FIVE GREAT THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE SERVANT

Let's open our hearts and minds to the Word of God, that this morning we might see the greatness of Christ.

Because to truly grasp THE GREATNESS OF GOD, we need to see for ourselves THE GREATNESS OF THIS SERVANT.

Isaiah 42:1 ESV

BEGINNING AGAIN, GOD INTRODUCES HIS **SERVANT**

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.

And so we start by seeing that...

1. This servant is **of great importance to God.** [NOT perhaps what people would expect of a servant.] (A slave!)

FIVE INDICATIONS OF HIS IMPORTANCE TO GOD: 1. "**my** servant" + 2. "whom **I** uphold" + 3. "my **chosen**"

+ 4. "**in whom my soul delights**" WORDS ECHOED 700 YEARS LATER e.g. **Matthew 3:16-17** ESV And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw **the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;** and behold, a voice from heaven said, "**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.**"

+ 5^{thly} "**I have put my Spirit upon him**" (As revealed in "the dove" descending.)

AND THERE'S MORE HERE... **Vs. 1** "...he will bring forth justice to the nations."

2. This servant has **a very great assignment.**

In fact, THE GREATEST ASSIGNMENT EVER TAKEN ON. EVER!

Q. **HOW GREAT A PROJECT IS THIS?**

→ **How much has the world ever needed justice?**

Psalm 14:1 ESV The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good. GREAT injustices!!! e.g. Syria, North Korea, Mali...

→ **How ready have the nations ever been to have God's justice brought to them?**

Psalm 14:2,3 ESV The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one. NO ONE CARING ABOUT IT. **A GREAT ASSIGNMENT!** (ONE OF THE REASONS) WHY THE

SERVANT IS OF SUCH IMPORTANCE TO GOD.

THIS WORLD NEEDS JUSTICE VERY VERY BADLY --- AND GOD'S CHOSEN SERVANT WAS SENT TO BRING IT!

AND **HOW HE BRINGS IT** WILL DISPLAY HIS OWN GREATNESS!

Isaiah 42:2-4 ESV GOD DESCRIBES HIS SERVANT He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.

3. His assignment will **display his great meekness AND perseverance.** In its completion.

WEST LONDON ALLIANCE CHURCH, London, Ontario. www.wlchurch.org

All Scripture references: HOLY BIBLE, **English Standard Version**, © 2001, CROSSWAY PUBLICATIONS

CHRIST SPOKE PLAINLY OF HIS OWN MEEKNESS **Matthew 11:28-30** ESV Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

And **as for his perseverance:** (Vs. 4 “He will not grow faint or be discouraged ...”) An example to us all. **Hebrews 12:1-3** ESV Therefore... let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith... Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Isaiah 42:5-7 ESV GOD SINGS **TO** HIS SERVANT ABOUT HIS ASSIGNMENT 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: “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,** to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

4. His assignment will greatly change the world.

A COVENANT? Condensed wording here: as with “*He shall be our peace*” and “*Christ who is our life*”. Christ is **the means**, the Agent, the One who **makes a reality** our peace and our life and the covenant between God and us. (**Hebrews 8,9,12:** “the mediator of the new covenant.”) **All of that is what greatly changes the world.**

A LIGHT FOR THE NATIONS? **John 8:12** ESV “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” **NOTICE:** This light changes nations ONE LIFE AT A TIME! “**Whoever follows... will have the light of life.**” AND THIS OF COURSE RAISES **A PERSONAL QUESTION.**

ONE MORE GREAT THING TO KNOW... **Isaiah 42:8,9** HOW GOD FINISHES THE SONG... I am the LORD; that is my name; **my glory I give to no other**, nor my praise to carved idols. Behold, the former things have come to pass, **and new things I now declare;** before they spring forth I tell you of them.”

WHAT THIS SONG DEALS WITH IS A NEW THING! IN WHICH “SOMEONE ELSE” DOES THE GREATEST WORK EVER DONE, AND YET ALL THE GLORY IS RETAINED BY GOD HIMSELF! “A NEW THING.”

5. This great servant with his great assignment is your greatest hope.

John 12:21 ESV “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”

THERE IS A WAY OF “SEEING” JESUS THAT WILL BRING YOU THE THING YOU NEED THE MOST.

→ EVERYONE NEEDS FOOD AND WATER BECAUSE WE LIVE IN PHYSICAL BODIES.

→ EVERYONE NEEDS RIGHTEOUSNESS BECAUSE WE LIVE IN GOD’S WORLD.

AND THEN **Isaiah 42:10-13** ESV ISAIAH CALLS **THE WHOLE WORLD** TO SING 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. Let the desert and its cities lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar inhabits; let the inhabitants of Sela sing for joy, let them shout from the top of the mountains. Let them give glory to the LORD, and declare his praise in the coastlands. **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.

→ JESUS TOOK ON GOD’S DEMAND FOR JUSTICE LIKE A MIGHTY MAN, LIKE A MAN OF WAR:

AGAINST HIS FOES.

→ BUT HE IS MEEK. GENTLE. WARM. INVITING.

Isaiah 42:2-3 ESV He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

→ HE “CRIES OUT” MEEKLY. HE “SHOUTS ALOUD” MEEKLY. AND HE CALLS OUT MEEKLY TO PEOPLE LIKE YOU AND ME WHO HAVE MADE THEMSELVES HIS FOES. **Matthew 11:28-30** ESV Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

HE CAME INTO THE WORLD TO ACCOMPLISH SALVATION WITH GREAT MEEKNESS AND PERSEVERANCE.

HE HUMBLING HIMSELF TO DO IT.

SO WILL YOU NOW HUMBLE YOURSELF AND MEEKLY LOOK TO HIM FOR THAT SALVATION? FOR THAT GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS? FOR THAT EVERLASTING FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SINS? FOR THAT GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE?