

Isaiah

Comfort from God's Messiah
Isaiah 42

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Introduction

If there has ever been a day when people needed help, encouragement, rescuing, it is today. People are sinking under the weight of heavy burdens, temptations, unimaginable evil, and a growing insensitivity and indifference to it all. In addition, a host of personal problems are overwhelming people's spirits today, problems such as ...

- dissatisfaction, purposelessness, emptiness
 - tension, pressure, and anxiety
- insufficient income, financial difficulty, bankruptcy
 - unemployment, loss of job, lack of skills
- a sense of discouragement, failure, inadequacy

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Introduction

God knows our desperate need, and He has stepped forward to meet it. He did by sending His Servant, the Messiah, into the world. Through His Servant, the Lord Jesus Christ, God gives us the power to endure and conquer the hardships that threaten to overwhelm us. He meets all the needs of the human heart, which He created to love and have fellowship with Him.

3



Introduction

This passage is the first of four “Servant Songs” in the book of Isaiah (42:1-25; 49:1–13; 50:1–11; 52:12–53:12). This one is “**Comfort Because of God’s Servant.**”

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Isaiah 42:1-4

“Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One *in whom* My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. ² He will not cry out, nor raise *His voice*, Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. ³ A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth. ⁴ He will not fail nor be discouraged, Till He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands shall wait for His law.”

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Isaiah 42:1

Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One *in whom* My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.

The Promise to Send Messiah (vs 1-4)

God is introducing his servant. “Behold!” means to look and pay attention to Him. Servant means that the Messiah’s heart will be set on doing exactly what God commands. Messiah is coming to accomplish God’s will on earth, and God declares that He will uphold Him. No matter what the difficulties or how great the opposition, God will sustain, strengthen, and protect His Servant. He will make sure the Messiah accomplishes His task.

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Isaiah 42:1

Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, **My Elect One in whom My soul delights!** I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.

Notice the statements given about the Father's Servant.

He is God's Elect One. This means the Messiah will be **God's Chosen One.** He has been called, appointed by God Himself. And God takes great delight in the Messiah, in all that He is in His **nature** and **character** and in all the **work** that He accomplishes. God expressed His delight in the Lord Jesus Christ on two different occasions—at His baptism and at His transfiguration.

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Isaiah 42:1

Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One *in whom My soul delights!* **I have put My Spirit upon Him;** He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.

This passage stresses that the Messiah will be filled with the fullness of God's Spirit. God's Spirit will fully equip Him to carry out His task. Down through history, God had given His Spirit to His servants, but they were mere human beings, so the power of the Spirit to work through them was limited. But that will not be the case with the Messiah. Colossians 2:9 - For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

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Isaiah 42:1

Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One *in whom* My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; **He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.**

The Messiah will be righteous and just. He will bring true justice to the nations and the people of the world. This is important to God, for it is mentioned three times in these four verses (v. 1, 3, 4). Messiah's very nature compels Him to save the world by establishing justice among its nations and peoples. When the Jesus returns to set up God's kingdom, His justice will eliminate all wicked and evil behavior.

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Isaiah 42:2

He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street.

The Messiah will be peaceful, not boisterous, threatening, or lawless. He will not accomplish His mission through uprising. He will not take part in riots. or revolts. He will not be violent, but rather have a calm, restful spirit. As a man of peace, He will share the message of harmony between people and between God and people.

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Isaiah 42:3

A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth.

The Messiah will be compassionate.

Bruised reeds are useless, so people break them and discard them. Jesus will not break or throw anyone away as useless.

Smoking flax picture people who have lost meaning and purpose.

Jesus' purpose for coming to earth will be to help the bruised and lost of this world. Think of who Jesus ministered to.

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Isaiah 42:3

A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth.

The Messiah Compassion on:

- the weak, the purposeless, and the aimless—upon all who had lost faith and hope (Matthew 9:36).
 - the sick, those who were diseased. (Matthew 9:35).
 - the hungry, those who had nothing to eat (Matthew 15:32).
 - the handicapped (Matthew 20:34).
 - the lepers who were considered unclean (Mark 1:40-41).
- the bereaved, the grief-stricken who had lost loved ones (Luke 7:12-14).
 - sinners who repented (John 4).

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Isaiah 42:4

He will not fail nor be discouraged, Till He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands shall wait for His law.

The Messiah will not falter, fail, or become discouraged. No matter what difficulty, hardship, or opposition confronts Him, He will persist in His task. He will not give up or stop until true justice is established on earth. He will be totally committed to teaching God's law. And He will not rest until all people place their trust in His Law.

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Isaiah 42:5

Thus says God the Lord, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it:

The Mission of Messiah (vs 5-9)

Having described the character of the Messiah, God now discusses His Servant's mission, which He says will not fail. God sent His Son into the world as a Servant of the human race. And yet God knew that many would not believe and would reject Him. For these very reasons He wants the world to clearly understand three facts.

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Isaiah 42:5

Thus says God the Lord, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it:

Fact #1 – He is the Creator

God's how the power to guarantee that His Servant, the Messiah will be able to accomplish His Mission.

- He Created the heavens and stretched them out. Science is just now discovering that our Universe is literally stretching!
 - He Created the Earth and all that comes from it.
 - He give people breath (physical life) and spirit (spiritual life).

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Isaiah 42:6a

“I, the Lord, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand;

Fact #2 – He is Righteous

God's righteousness guarantees that the Messiah will come and fulfill His purpose. God will always do what is right. Because the world so desperately needs salvation, God will send the Messiah to save the world and to establish a righteous relationship with His people.

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Isaiah 42:6a

“I, the Lord, have called You in righteousness,
And will hold Your hand;

Fact #3 – His Presence and Care

God’s presence and care guarantees the coming of the Messiah and the fulfillment of His mission. God actually says that He will hold the hand of the Messiah. He will guide and take care of Him. God says that He will keep His Servant, or hold Him up and protect Him, as He goes about fulfilling His mission. Nothing will keep God’s Servant from doing exactly what God sends Him into the world to do.

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Isaiah 42:6b

...I will keep You and give You as a covenant
to the people, As a light to the Gentiles,

The Mission of Messiah

The Messiah’s mission was to have two very specific and important purposes. Note how these purposes meet the desperate needs of the world, the deepest needs of the human heart.

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Isaiah 42:6b

...I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles,

The Mission of Messiah - Institute God's New Covenant
 Messiah will institute God's new covenant, a new relationship with His people. Note that the **Messiah Himself is the new covenant**. This fact is of critical importance. God will make the Lord Jesus Christ the basis of the new relationship that He establishes with people.

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Isaiah 42:6b

...I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles,

The Mission of Messiah - As a Light to the Gentiles
 God's Servant will be God's light for all nations. The world lives in the darkness of sin and ignorance of God's Truth. God's Servant will be sent to earth to bring God's light to the world. Notice that Messiah's mission was not merely to Israel, but to redeem the world!

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Isaiah 42:7

To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners
from the prison, Those who sit in darkness
from the prison house.

The Mission of Messiah - As a Light to the Gentiles

He will open the eyes of all who are spiritually blind and set free captives held in the darkness of sin and death. Through the light of God's Servant, people can now be freed from the prison of sin and death. The light of God's Servant has vanquished even the darkness of death and eternal separation from God. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

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Isaiah 42:8

I *am* the Lord, that *is* My name;
And My glory I will not give to another,
Nor My praise to carved images.

The Servant's Mission is Assured by God

The name "the Lord" is the Hebrew Yahweh. He is the God who makes and keeps His covenant. God declares "That is my name!. He will fulfill His promise. God will send His Servant into the world to fulfill His mission. He will not give His name or glory to anyone other than His Servant, the Messiah. He will never, ever allow any false god or idol to take credit for sending the Messiah into the world.

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Isaiah 42:9

Behold, the former things have come to pass,
And new things I declare;
Before they spring forth I tell you of them.

The Servant's Mission is Assured by God

God's power has fulfilled former predictions (prophecy). Therefore, His power will fulfill the predictions concerning the coming Messiah. Just as promised, He will send His Servant into the world, and He will make sure the Messiah fulfills His mission.

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So What ...

Isaiah looked forward to the arrival of Messiah. Today we know that He came. Jesus fulfilled the mission given to Him by the Father. He came to pay the debt of sin we each owe so we could have a restored relationship with Him. Have you accepted Jesus' gift of salvation?

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