

Isaiah

Comfort from God's Messiah
Isaiah 42 Part 3

1



Introduction

The world is in desperate need and God knows that 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.

2


 The word "Isaiah" is written in a stylized font over a background of Hebrew text.

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.”**

3


 The word "Isaiah" is written in a stylized font over a background of Hebrew text.

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.

We have looked at the first half of the song
 “Comfort Because of God’s Servant”
 Verses 1-4 declared the Character of
 Messiah
 Verses 5-9 declared the Mission of Messiah

4


 A decorative graphic featuring the word "Isaiah" in a large, bold, serif font, overlaid on a background of Hebrew text from the Bible.

Isaiah 42:10-17

Sing to the Lord a new song, *And* His praise from the ends of the earth, You who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, You coastlands and you inhabitants of them! ¹¹ Let the wilderness and its cities lift up *their voice*, The villages *that* Kedar inhabits. Let the inhabitants of Sela sing, 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 shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up *His* zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies. ¹⁴ "I have held My peace a long time, I have been still and restrained Myself. *Now* I will cry like a woman in labor, I will pant and gasp at once. ¹⁵ I will lay waste the mountains and hills, *And* dry up all their vegetation; I will make the rivers coastlands, *And* I will dry up the pools. ¹⁶ I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, *And* crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, *And* not forsake them. ¹⁷ They shall be turned back, They shall be greatly ashamed, Who trust in carved images, Who say to the molded images, 'You *are* our gods.'

5


 A decorative graphic featuring the word "Isaiah" in a large, bold, serif font, overlaid on a background of Hebrew text from the Bible.

Isaiah 42:10

Sing to the Lord a new song,
 And His praise from the ends of the earth,
 You who go down to the sea, and all that is in it,
 You coastlands and you inhabitants of them!

The Response to Messiah

God foresaw the various responses to His Servant. Every human being should praise God for sending the Messiah into the world on such a great mission. No greater gift could have been given to the world. Through the Messiah, all human beings can be saved, become acceptable to God, and have a personal relationship with their Creator.

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Isaiah 42:10

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The Response to Messiah

Furthermore, they can have all the darkness of sin, guilt, and death erased from their hearts. For these reasons, all people should respond to God's gift of the Messiah by lifting up their voices in resounding praise to the Lord. Note the responses that God foresaw.

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Isaiah 42:10-12

Sing to the Lord a new song, And His praise from the ends of the earth, You who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, You coastlands and you inhabitants of them! Let the wilderness and its cities lift up *their voice*, The villages *that* Kedar inhabits. Let the inhabitants of Sela sing, Let them shout from the top of the mountains. ¹² Let them give glory to the Lord, and declare His praise in the coastlands.

The Response to Messiah

God saw that some people's response would be positive. They would accept and believe in His Servant. Of these people God demanded praise. Because of His great gift to the world in the person of the Messiah, God expected everyone to worship Him in song and praise.

⇒ the sailors and islanders

⇒ the people who live in the desert and its towns

⇒ the people living in the villages of Kedar or the desert wilderness of Arabia

⇒ the people in the city of Sela, the capital of Edom

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Isaiah 42:10-12

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The Response to Messiah

All the people were to shout from the mountaintops, singing for joy because God sent His only Son, His perfect Servant into the world to save men and to set them free. Everyone should glorify the Lord and praise His name to the ends of the world.

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Isaiah 42:13-15

The Lord shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up *His* zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies. ¹⁴ "I have held My peace a long time, I have been still and restrained Myself. Now I will cry like a woman in labor, I will pant and gasp at once. ¹⁵ I will lay waste the mountains and hills, And dry up all their vegetation; I will make the rivers coastlands, And I will dry up the pools.

The Response to Messiah

God knew that His enemies would not respond favorably to the Messiah. God stated that He would march forth like a mighty conqueror against them and triumph over them. Filled with righteous anger due to the rejection of His Servant, God would shout out the battle cry and take vengeance against them.

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Isaiah 42:13-15

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The Response to Messiah

No longer would He keep silent or be patient. He had given them a chance to repent and praise Him for sending the Messiah. Due to their continued defiance, the day for judgment would come, just as the day comes for a woman to give birth. Like a woman in labor, God would groan and gasp as He gave birth to a new era.

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The Response to Messiah

This will be a period of judgment on earth. All the enemies' land and vegetation would be destroyed. Their rivers and water resources would dry up. This is all because they rejected the Messiah and refused to praise the Lord for sending His Servant into the world.

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Isaiah 42:16

I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, And crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, And not forsake them.

The Response to Messiah - blind

God also foresaw the response of people who confessed that they were blind. The blind would have no difficulty confessing their darkness and need for God's Servant. Therefore, God promised to lead and guide them. He promised to turn their darkness into light and to remove all obstacles in their path as they walked through life day by day. God also promised to never forsake those who confessed their spiritual blindness and their desperate need for the Messiah.

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Isaiah 42:17

They shall be turned back, They shall be greatly ashamed, Who trust in carved images, Who say to the molded images, 'You *are* our gods.'

The Response to Messiah. - idolators

God also foresaw the response of idolaters. Although many would refuse to worship God's Servant, they would still choose to worship idols and false gods. Though there are those who worship idols made by human hands, I believe far more worship idols of materialism, pleasure, sensuality, and anything else that takes the #1 position in one's life.

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Isaiah 42:17

They shall be turned back, They shall be greatly ashamed, Who trust in carved images, Who say to the molded images, 'You *are* our gods.'

The Response to Messiah. - idolators

Others worship the idols that they have created in their minds. They claim to worship God, but it is not the God of Scripture, but a watered down concept of god that they feel comfortable with. It is a god that allows them to partake of the things of this world while they reject the true holiness and righteousness of a True and Living God!

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They shall be turned back, They shall be greatly ashamed, Who trust in carved images, Who say to the molded images, 'You *are* our gods.'

The Response to Messiah. - idolators

Despite the fact that God had demonstrated His love by sending His Servant into the world, these will deliberately choose to place their trust in the false gods conceived in their own imaginations. As a result, God declared that He would turn them away from His presence in utter shame. He would reject and condemn them. And they would be utterly embarrassed by their idolatry, ashamed for having worshipped trivial material possessions made by their own hands.

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Isaiah 42:18-25

“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 *he who is* perfect, And blind as the Lord’s servant? ²⁰ Seeing many things, but you do not observe; Opening the ears, but he does not hear.” ²¹ The Lord is well pleased for His righteousness’ sake; He will exalt the law and make *it* honorable. ²² But this *is* a people robbed and plundered; All of them are. snared in holes, And they are hidden in prison houses; They are for prey, and no one delivers; For plunder, and no one says, “Restore!” ²³ Who among you will give ear to this? *Who* will listen and hear for the time to come? ²⁴ Who gave Jacob for plunder, and Israel to the robbers? Was it not the Lord, He against whom we have sinned? For they would not walk in His ways, Nor were they obedient to His law. ²⁵ Therefore He has poured on him the fury of His anger And the strength of battle; It has set him on fire all around, Yet he did not know; And it burned him, Yet he did not take *it* to heart.

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Isaiah 42:19-20

“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 *he who is* perfect, And blind as the Lord’s servant?”

The Call to Believe

God now calls on the Israelites to believe the promise concerning His Servant. When Isaiah gave this prophecy, he was standing before the Israelites of his day. He spoke as well to all the deaf and blind people of succeeding generations. “Hear, you deaf!” God cried. “Look, you blind, that you may see”. **Four clear reasons are given why God summoned the Israelites to believe the promise regarding the coming of the Messiah.**

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Isaiah 42:19-20

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¹⁹Who is blind but My servant, Or deaf as My messenger *whom* I send? Who is blind as *he who is* perfect, And blind as the Lord’s servant?

1. The Israelites were blind servants and deaf messengers

Most of the Israelites had blinded their eyes and shut their ears to God’s Word and His marvelous works.

God had called them to be His servants and messengers of His promises to the world. Even when God performed mighty works among them, they paid little attention. They shut their eyes and ears to both the works and the Word of God.

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Isaiah 42:21

The Lord is well pleased for His righteousness’ sake; He will exalt the law and make *it* honorable.

2. God had magnified His Law among the Israelites

God had given Israel His Word so they could believe Him and to live righteously. No people had ever been blessed as richly as Israel. God had given them the responsibility of sharing His Word with the world. And His Word included the promise of the Messiah. For this reason, the spiritually blind and deaf had to open their eyes and ears. They had to repent, turn back to the Lord, and obey His law.

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Isaiah 42:22

But this *is* a people robbed and plundered; All of them are snared in holes, And they are hidden in prison houses; They are for prey, and no one delivers; For plunder, and no one says, "Restore!"

3. Israel was suffering God's judgment because they rejected Him.

Down through the generations, Israel and all other nations who disobeyed God's Word had suffered the judgment and discipline of God. Due to their sins, God had allowed them to be imprisoned and enslaved by enemies. In Israel's case, there was no one to rescue them from God's judgment. And there will be no one to rescue any of the wicked who continue to disobey God's Holy Word and commandments.

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Isaiah 42:23

Who among you will give ear to this? *Who* will listen and hear for the time to come?

4. Israel needed to believe because they did not learn from the past.

Isaiah asked a critical question: "Who will listen and pay close attention to the summons of God to believe His servant, the Messiah?" Few people seem to learn from past experience. In the future, God would discipline and punish Israel through the Babylonian captivity and exile. But like their forefathers, they would refuse to believe that God would actually judge and punish them.

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Isaiah 42:24-25

Who gave Jacob for plunder, and Israel to the robbers? Was it not the Lord, He against whom we have sinned? For they would not walk in His ways, Nor were they obedient to His law. ²⁵Therefore He has poured on him the fury of His anger And the strength of battle; It has set him on fire all around, Yet he did not know; And it burned him, Yet he did not take *it* to heart.

4. Israel needed to believe because they did not learn from the past.

The thought that their sin would cause God to judge them so severely would never cross their minds. Due to their sin, God would pour out His anger on them in judgment; still they would refuse to understand His discipline. Like so many people down through the years, they would refuse to heed God's warnings. They would harden their hearts toward Him and become insensitive to His warnings.

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So What ...

The church has been commissioned to take God's message to the world, but like Israel, people become consumed by their own lives and forget about a world that needs to hear God's truth.

We will each stand before God and give account. Let's endeavor to to serve Him with all our heart.

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