

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 260 – Behold My Servant Through He Laid It Not To Heart (Isaiah 42:1-25)

1. Who is Isaiah referring to as the servant that shall bring judgment to the Gentiles, not fail, etc.?

The text says: *“Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law” (Isaiah 42:1-4).*

- This is talking about Jesus (**Matthew 12:13-21**).
- Jesus the servant (**Matthew 20:28, Romans 15:1-3, and Philippians 2:3-7**).
- Jesus was chosen of God (**I Peter 2:4-6**).
- The Father delighted in Jesus (**Matthew 17:1-5**).
- The Spirit given to Jesus (**Mark 1:9-13, John 4:34, and Acts 10:38**).
- Jesus brought Judgment to the Gentiles (**Isaiah 11:1-10, Luke 2:25–32, Romans 15:7-12, and Ephesians 2:11-17**; cf. **Acts 13:46-48**).
- Jesus did not come as a loud, attention drawing, public figure (**Matthew 11:29**; cf. **Matthew 16:20, John 6:1-15, and John 7:1-10**).
 - This DOESN'T mean He hid from public teaching (**John 18:20**).
 - This DOESN'T mean He didn't speak forcefully or sharply (**Matthew 23:1-27 and John 2:13-17**).
 - What it does mean is that Jesus Himself did not try and stand out above the message He was preaching (**Romans 1:16 and James 1:21**; cf. **I Corinthians 2:1-16**).
- The imagery of a reed is something easily shaken (**I Kings 14:15 and Matthew 11:7**). The imagery of a broken reed is useless (**Isaiah 36:6**). The point, Jesus wasn't come to weaken or break that which was weak (**Matthew 18:11, Luke 4:13-18, and Hebrews 2:17-18**).
- Quenching a smoking-flax [tow] is imagery of making something perish (**Isaiah 43:17**).
- Jesus did not fail (**John 15:10, John 17:1-4, and Hebrews 12:1-3**).

2. Who is the source of the spirit of man that exists within your flesh?

God: *“Thus saith God the Lord, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein” (Isaiah 42:5).*

- God is the Creator (**Genesis 1:1-31, Isaiah 40:28, Isaiah 43:15, Isaiah 45:18, Jeremiah 10:12, Jeremiah 32:17, and Hebrews 1:1-2**).
- He gave breath to the people (**Genesis 2:7, Job 12:10, and Acts 17:24-25**).
- He is the source of the spirit of man (**Ecclesiastes 12:7, Isaiah 57:16, Jeremiah 38:16, Zechariah 12:1, and I Corinthians 15:45**).

3. What was the person the Lord called in righteousness going to do?

Be a light to Gentiles, open blind eyes, and free prisoners: *“I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house” (Isaiah 42:6-7).*

- Jesus was called in righteousness (**Jeremiah 23:5-6, Romans 3:25-26, Romans 10:4, I Corinthians 1:30, and II Peter 1:1**).
- Holding His hand and keeping Him (**John 8:28-29 and John 16:32**).
- Jesus given for a covenant of the people (**Matthew 26:28, Hebrews 9:15-10:22, and Hebrews 12:24**).
- A light to the Gentiles (**Acts 26:23**), but not only the Gentiles (**John 8:12**).
- Context says this blindness is spiritual (**Isaiah 42:19-20**; cf. **Acts 26:15-18 and II Corinthians 4:1-6**).
- Freedom for those who were in bondage (**John 8:32, Galatians 5:1, II Timothy 2:26, Hebrews 2:14-15, and James 1:25**).
 - Bondage of sin (**Romans 6:17-23**).
 - Bondage of the Law of Moses (**Galatians 4:1-5**).

4. Does the Lord want His glory to be given to graven images?

No: *“I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images” (Isaiah 42:8).*

- He is the Lord, Has a name (**Exodus 3:13-14**; cf. **John 8:58 and Acts 4:10-12**), and His glory is not to be granted to ANYONE or ANYTHING else (**Isaiah 48:11**). The only shared glory is that between our God and His only begotten (**John 5:23**).

5. Can God foretell us of future events?

Yes: *“Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them” (Isaiah 42:9).*

- **Isaiah 44:7-8, Isaiah 46:9-10, Jeremiah 1:5, Daniel 2:28-29, Matthew 24:35-36, John 2:24-25, John 13:18-19, Acts 15:18, and Romans 8:29.**

6. Did God want songs sung to praise Him?

Yes: *“Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth, ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein; the isles, and the inhabitants thereof. Let the wilderness and the cities thereof lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar doth inhabit: let the inhabitants of the rock sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains. Let them give glory unto the Lord, and declare his praise in the islands” (Isaiah 42:10-12).*

- **II Samuel 22:50, Psalms 28:7, Psalms 40:3, Psalms 96:1-9, Psalms 149:1-5, Acts 16:25-26, Romans 15:9, Hebrews 2:12, and James 5:13.**

7. What was the Lord going to go forth as and what was He saying He was going to do?

Go forth as a mighty man, stir up jealousy like a man of war, destroy stuff, and bring the blind by a way they knew not: *“The Lord shall go forth as a mighty man, he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war: he shall cry, yea, roar; he shall prevail against his enemies. I have long time holden my peace; I have been still, and refrained myself: now will I cry like a travailing woman; I will destroy and devour at once. I will make waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their herbs; and I will make the rivers islands, and I will dry up the pools. And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them”* (Isaiah 42:13-16).

- The imagery of a “mighty man” (**Psalms 78:65**). Though, not to say he is limited like a mighty man (**Job 24:22** and **Psalms 33:16**).
- This is not God trying to glorify the idea of a mighty man either (**Jeremiah 9:23-24**).
- God is a jealous God (**Exodus 20:1-5**, **Nahum 1:2**, and **Zephaniah 3:8**).
- He is the God of war (**Exodus 15:3** and **Psalms 24:8**).
- He prevails (**I Chronicles 29:11**).
- God held His peace long enough in restraint (**Jeremiah 15:6**, **Jeremiah 44:20-22**, **Romans 1:21-31**, and **II Peter 3:9-10**; cf. **Ecclesiastes 8:11-12**).
- At this point He was ready to burst out like a woman giving birth. This signifies the pain apostasy has put God through (**Genesis 6:5-6** and **Isaiah 63:10**; cf. **Jeremiah 6:24**).
- Now, His response is to devour at once (**Ezekiel 15:7** and **Amos 1:1-14**).
- Make waste (**Psalms 18:6-8**, **Psalms 107:33-34**, **Isaiah 49:13**, and **Amos 7:9**).
- Bring the blind and lead those out of darkness (**Isaiah 29:18**, **Isaiah 60:1-2**, **Jeremiah 31:9**, and **Luke 1:78-79**).
- Man cannot make the crooked straight (**Ecclesiastes 1:15**), but God can (**Luke 3:5**).
- Not forsaking them (**Romans 8:31-39** and **Hebrews 13:5-6**).

8. Did God want them to learn some things from His jealous rage?

Yes: *“They shall be turned back, they shall be greatly ashamed, that trust in graven images, that say to the molten images, Ye are our gods. Hear, ye deaf; and look, ye blind, that ye may see. Who is blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger that I sent? who is blind as he that is perfect, and blind as the Lord 's servant? Seeing many things, but thou observest not; opening the ears, but he heareth not. The Lord is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable. But this is a people robbed and spoiled; they are all of them snared in holes, and they are hid in prison houses: they are for a prey, and none delivereth; for a spoil, and none saith, Restore. Who among you will give ear to this? who will hearken and hear for the time to come? Who gave Jacob for a spoil, and Israel to the robbers? did not the Lord, he against whom we have sinned? for they would not walk in his ways, neither were they obedient unto his law. Therefore he hath poured upon him the fury of*

his anger, and the strength of battle: and it hath set him on fire round about, yet he knew not; and it burned him, yet he laid it not to heart” (Isaiah 42:17-25).

- They’ll be ashamed for trusting in idols (**Jeremiah 2:26-29** and **Habakkuk 2:18-19**).
- They had chosen not to hear or see (**Isaiah 6:9**, **Isaiah 44:17-19**, **Jeremiah 5:21**, and **Matthew 13:15**; cf. **Psalms 107:43**).
- The Lord was well-pleased FOR HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS sake. This must point forward to Christ and these things being overturned through His coming and doing the will of the Father (cf. **Matthew 3:15**).
- God magnified His law and made it honorable (**Matthew 5:17**, **Romans 8:3**, **Romans 10:3-4**, and **Galatians 3:13-27**).
- They were spoiled, robbed, imprisoned (**Nehemiah 2:17**, **Jeremiah 50:17**, and **Jeremiah 52:11**) for a reason (**Isaiah 52:4-6** and **Ezekiel 35:4**). However, it was intended to be temporary (**Amos 9:14**).
- Their sins caused these things (**Judges 2:10-14**, **I Samuel 12:24-25**, **II Chronicles 36:14-21**, **Psalms 106:3-46**, and **Isaiah 1:20**).
- Many did not lay these things to heart (**Proverbs 21:29**, **Jeremiah 5:3**, **Ezekiel 3:7**, and **Hosea 7:8-9**).
- The next chapter is comforting, implying they do/did eventually “get it” (**Isaiah 43:1**; cf. **II Chronicles 7:14**).