

## JESUS, THE SERVANT

(Isaiah 42:1-4; Psa 24:7-10)

- A. A prophecy was not just a message that the prophet felt was important to say & then to write down to be read later.

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**2 Pet 1:20-21** – ...no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, *21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

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1. The Holy Spirit “moved” (to bear along) the prophet to speak to some immediate need.
2. And yet many times a prophecy was found later to have a greater meaning than when it was first uttered.
3. We’re not left to wonder which OT prophecies have a greater meaning to us, because those prophecies are appropriately applied by the inspired writers of the NT.

[Isaiah’s prophecy had greater meaning than simply to address his people & the immediate circumstances.

The LORD was describing His Servant. Our purpose is to uncover the Subject He so well described?]

### I. FACTS ABOUT THE SERVANT

- A. “My Elect One” – “elect” means *chosen*, in this case *chosen by God* for His special purpose.

1. God regarded Israel as His Servant (**Isa 44:1; 49:3**); the message of the OT is that God worked through Israel to keep His promise to Abraham & to fulfill His eternal plan to redeem us from sin (**Gen 12:1-3**).

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**Deut 7:6** – For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; *the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure* above all the peoples on the face of the earth.

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2. But God’s Servant was eventually narrowed down to a “remnant” of that nation, which had remained faithful to Him (**Isa 10:20-22; 37:31-32**).

3. Later, God's Servant was narrowed down to a family, & then finally to one man ([Matt 12:9-21](#)).

B. "My Servant whom I uphold" – "uphold" means to sustain; to help, follow close (Strong).

1. God supported Jesus to keep Him from sinking under the pressure of His mission.

2. God spoke often to Him, & even sent angels to minister to Him during His most anxious moments ([Jn 12:28](#); [Matt 4:11](#); [Lk 22:43](#)).

C. "In whom My Soul delights" – "delight" means to be pleased with; to satisfy a debt (Strong).

1. There were three major occasions when God exhibited His utter delight in Jesus.

a. At His baptism ([Matt 3:16-17](#)), transfiguration ([Matt 17:1-5](#)) & resurrection.

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**Acts 2:32-33** – *This Jesus God has raised up*, of which we are all witnesses. 33 Therefore *being exalted to the right hand of God, & having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit*, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

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D. "I have put My Spirit upon Him" – Isaiah mentioned this aspect of God's Servant 3 times.

1. What did the Spirit of God enable Jesus the Servant of God to do?

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**Isa 11:2** – *The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him*, the Spirit of *wisdom & understanding*, the Spirit of *counsel & might*, the Spirit of *knowledge* & of the *fear* of the Lord.

**Isa 61:1** – *The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me*, because the Lord has anointed Me to *preach good tidings to the poor*; He has sent Me to *heal the brokenhearted*, to *proclaim liberty to the captives*, & the opening of the prison to those who are bound...

**John 3:33-34** – He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true. 34 For *He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure*.

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1. Jesus did not possess the Spirit of God in the same way Isaiah did, Jesus was "the fullness of the Godhead bodily" ([Col 2:9](#)).

E. “He will bring...justice to the Gentiles” – “justice” means a judicial verdict pronounced, a sentence or formal decree (Strong).

1. Jesus spoke the words of God, & those words form the basis of all that is just & true.
2. The words of Jesus Christ are the formal & final decrees of God to mankind.
3. His word is “law” (Isa 2:3; cf. 42:4; 51:4; 49:6), & as law it has a discriminating judicial effect.
  - a. It has the power to justify & set free or to condemn & punish (John 8:31-32; Rom 8:2; John 12:31; 16:11); His word will judge everyone in the last day (Jn 12:48; Acts 17:31).

[These are five unalterable facts about the Servant of God, Jesus Christ, which give us every reason to put our faith & trust in His power.

Next, Isaiah gave his people a very clear image of the personality of this Servant of God.

If they had been paying attention they would have known that the Messiah would be nothing like the Davidic king they expected.]

## II. NATURE OF THE SERVANT

A. **Quietly Confident** – *He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street (42:2).*

1. Let’s understand this statement in the light of Matthew 12 where it is used (Matt 12:14-17).
  - a. Jesus tried to avoid confrontation with those who wished to take His life.
  - b. Jesus was not anything like the glory seeking power grabbing Pharisees of His day or the false teachers of our day.

2. Luke 23 is the best commentary as to the nature of God's Servant.

a. He did not resist the injustices heaped upon Him by Pilate, Herod & the Jews.

3. The nature of Jesus, the Servant of God, teaches us that God's servants must be willing to quietly & confidently carry out His orders, even in the face of injustice.

B. **Gently Helpful** – *A bruised reed He will not break, & smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth (42:3).*

1. "A bruised reed" – Picture a marsh where reeds are growing, & some of have been trampled down.

a. These reeds refer to people who are hurting due to theirs' or another's sins (**Gal 6:7-8**).

b. Jesus came not to make their lives more difficult, but to tenderly restore them.

2. "Smoking flax" – Picture an oil lamp & its wick; just before it runs out of oil the light begins to flicker & the wick (flax) smolders.

a. This flax refers to people who have only the smallest spark of spiritual awareness.

b. Rather than put out the flame, Jesus came to fan it back to life, & to restore that person to fellowship with God (**Jn 4:14**).

C. **Courageously Faithful** – *He will not fail nor be discouraged, till He has established justice in the earth; & the coastlands shall wait for His law (42:4).*

1. This goes back to verse 1, which states that Jesus would bring "justice to the Gentiles".

2. “Justice in the earth” was the result of the Great Commission given to the apostles ([Matt 28:18-20](#); [Mk 16:16-16](#); [Luke 24:46-49](#)).

a. Jesus promised them saying, “I will be with you always” ([Matt 28:20](#)) – a little over 30 years later, the gospel had been heard all over the earth ([Col 1:6](#)).

[There is not a place on this earth where God’s justice is not or cannot be known; the gospel is preached the world over, & Bibles are dispensed to the four corners of the earth.]

And Jesus accomplished that with quiet confidence, gentleness & courage, & His disciples have always followed His example.]

## CLOSING

Where is this Servant now? He is in Heaven & He wears the title King of glory ([Psa 24:7-10](#); [Rev 1:5](#); [5:12-13](#); [15:3-4](#); [19:11-16](#))! Isaiah’s prophecy was fulfilled.

One day everything in heaven & earth & under the earth will bow down & confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father ([Phil 2:11](#))

Isaiah gave us a glimpse of God’s Servant who became The King, a “prince & Savior”.

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**Acts 5:31** – Him *God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince & Savior*, to give repentance to Israel & forgiveness of sins.

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He is already “Prince”, but is He your “Savior”? *“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved”* ([Acts 4:12](#); [Mark 16:16](#)).

### GOD’S PLAN FOR OUR SALVATION:

**Hear the gospel of Jesus Christ; read it in your Bible:** Acts 2; 3; 13; Rom 10:17

**Believe Jesus to be Lord and Christ, the Son of God and Savior:** Acts 2:36; John 3:16; 8:24; 20:30-31; Acts 4:12; Titus 1:4

**Repent of your sins:** Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30; 1 John 3:4

**Confess your faith in Jesus Christ:** Matt 10:32-33; Acts 8:37; Rom 10:9-10

**Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins:** Acts 2:38; Rom 6:3-4; Gal 3:27; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet 3:21

**Be obedient to the Lord, He will be your Judge:** Titus 2:11-12; Heb 5:9; 2 John 9; Rev 2:10; John 12:48