

The LORD's Cherished Servant

Isaiah 42:1-12

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Introduction:

Today as we continue in Isaiah, we find that God's message of comfort to His people continues!

- This wonderful message began in chapter 40 where the people are described as in the wilderness, in darkness and bondage.
 - Their sin has brought them to the place of desperate barrenness!
 - And **these!** the covenant people of God!
 - **These!** the people who are supposed to be a kingdom of righteousness and a blessing to all the families of earth!
- Instead of righteousness and life, there is barrenness and death!
 - But in chapter 40 God comforts them by declaring to them that He Himself will come to them to save them!
 - It is a prophecy that projects into the future when John the Baptist would declare that the Kingdom was at hand because the Promised One who is greater than all had come!
 - It speaks of the coming of Jesus, the very Son of God, into this world to save His people from their sins, and to establish His Kingdom of true righteousness in the earth!
 - God would not forget His promise!

In the rest of chapter 40, the LORD reminds them of how great He is!

- He knew that it might be hard for them to believe that He really would bring His promised salvation when they were so weak and broken under the oppression of the nations.
- But He reminds them that He is the One who called into being all that is and who disposes of all things as He determines!
 - He is the One who will cause His people,
 - now seemingly about to wither away under the oppression of their enemies,
 - to renew their strength!
 - He assures them that there is no limitation in His power at all.
 - The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary....
 - He is the rather than one who gives power to the faith and the weary.
 - Isa 40:30-31: "Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew *their*

strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.”

This message is reinforced all the more in chapter 41.

- There we saw how the LORD declares that He is the One who alone foretold Israel’s troubles and oppression...
 - He is the One who declared long before the fact that He would raise up those who would oppress them—and then He did it—again and again it was done...
 - He foretold of the oppression in Egypt, of the oppression in the times of the Judges, of the oppression of the Assyrian, or the oppression of Babylon.
 - He planned all this for His holy purposes.
 - The troubles they are in did not just happen—they were planned out by the Lord.
 - The hard things that come upon the church today are also His doing, His hand of chastisement.
 - No one ought to suppose that a suffering covenant people means that He has forgotten His promise or been unable to follow through with it!
 - Such times of difficulty are not times to turn to idols as if the LORD has failed.
 - They are times to repent and to wait upon Him to renew your strength!
- Therefore, you His people must not lose heart in trying times,
 - when the church is weak and battered about by oppressors.
 - It is no time to begin making modifications of God—to manufacture idols that are like Him, but not Him, for comfort.
 - Such idols are worthless!
 - The LORD will carry through on all that He has spoken.
 - In the very heart of the chapter, the message sounds forth clearly:
 - Israel is His servant, His chosen people, the seed of Abraham.
 - In verse 9 and 10 He says:
 - Isa 41:9-10: “You are my servant, I have chosen you and have not cast you away. Fear not, for I *am* with you; Be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”
- My brothers and sisters, you who trust in Jesus Christ who is now given,
 - you who wait on the LORD...
 - These words are also for your encouragement and comfort when we see the church weak and oppressed in our day!
 - God says to us today:
 - Isa 41:9-10: You are my servant, I have chosen you and have not cast you away. Fear not, for I *am* with you; Be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will

strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

- Just as surely as ever, the Almighty works out His plan concerning the establishment of righteous kingdom.

And now, as we come to chapter 42, we see that the LORD begins to focus in on His chosen servant who brings about His salvation!

- He presents His servant to us in all His graciousness and faithfulness...
- And then He assures us that He will indeed give Him to carry out His purpose of establishing a righteous kingdom in all the earth!
 - Isaiah, of course, spoke these things before His coming, but they are also written for our encouragement now that He has come.
 - For we are in the midst of the days when Christ is going forth through the agency of His church to establish that righteous kingdom in all the earth!
 - The One Isaiah speaks of as God's true servant (our dear Lord Jesus Christ) has now been revealed as our salvation.
 - He has come, and He has died on the cross for us and God has accepted His sacrifice and raised Him to sit at His right hand until all His enemies are put under His feet.
 - And even as this passage encouraged the people of Isaiah's day that He would complete His promised work,
 - so it encourages us who live in the days when this work is being completed!
 - Let us then dive into these wonderful words of encouragement and let them soak into us for our encouragement and hope!
 - That we may all the more attached to our Lord Jesus!

I. First of all, see how our dear LORD Jesus Christ is presented to us here!

- Indeed, it is always so good to look at Him in all the different ways that He is shown to us in God's word.
 - And here you see that we are called to behold Him!
 - We are summoned to look at Him with glad eyes as He is presented to us here!

A. See how He is described here in relation to the Father.

1. First, that God calls Him "My servant."
 - a. We ran into this title back in chapter 41, verse 8, where Israel as a whole was called God's servant.
 - But now you see that the servant seems to be just one person instead of a nation.

- He is an amazing individual who is not only a part of God's kingdom,
 - but who actually establishes God's kingdom of righteousness among the nations!
 - This is no ordinary servant!
 - His work goes far beyond the purview of any mortal man.
- b. In just a moment, we will look at the great work that the servant was given to do...
- but for now I just want you to see that He is God's true servant.
 - Through out this portion of Isaiah, God speaks of His servant...
 - And you will find that He switches back and forth...
 - Sometimes he speaks of an individual, and sometimes of His covenant people as a nation.
 - This is a splendid thing because the individual who comes is so identified with them that they are blended together.
 - Or course this speaks of our LORD Jesus Christ, the One who is the Head of the church!
 - He is the one who single-handedly carries out the Father's work—for the church—the great task of redeeming the church.
 - He is the One who brings light and liberty where there was darkness and death.
 - He is the One who does the Father's will.
- c. We are told very clearly in Philippians 2 that Jesus Christ is the Servant of the Lord.
- that
 - Phil 2:6-8: being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.
 - It was as a servant (or bond-slave as it says here) to the Father that Jesus went to the cross...
 - It was the work that the Father had given Him to do.
 - As a servant, He did all that He was told to do—
 - His obedience was so complete that He even went to the cross to bear sins that He did not commit.
2. You see that He is also called God's "elect one"
- a. This shows us that God chose Him for this work.

- He did not give Himself this work, but was called to it by the Father.
 - This is why, in relation to the Father, this work is called obedience.
 - It was because of the Father's great love that He sent His Son for us.
 - And it is in demonstration of that love that He offered Him up to die for our sins.

- b. Jesus did not just take it upon Himself...without it being given to Him...
 - He did not presume that if He did this work, the Father would accept it, but He was appointed to this work by the Father's initiative.
 - There was no putting of Himself forward, but there was beautiful submission to the Father's will.
 - Submission that was grounded in love that was deep enough to obey to the point of becoming flesh and then going to the cross.
 - This is the grand display of the glory of submissive love as it is found in the Son.
 - It is the submissive love that has been there for all eternity, but that is revealed for us to see when Jesus obeys this task.
 - It is to characterise the submissive love of that we are to have toward those in authority over us—and especially toward our Lord.
 - Whatever He gives us to do, we are to do cheerfully.
 - Heaven will be filled with love that is this deep.

- 3. And now you see how the Son is described as the very delight of His Father.
 - a. We are told this several times in the gospels—that the Father is pleased with Him...
 - At His baptism we are told that:
 - Mt 3:17:And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
 - And again at the transfiguration:
 - Mt 17:5: While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"
 - Oh how the Father loves His Son!
 - What great delight there is in Him from all eternity!
 - What harmony, what sweetness... and here it is revealed to us!
 - b. And my friends,
 - It was the Father's good pleasure that we should also become the delight of His soul through Jesus.
 - That is why Jesus came into the world...
 - He takes us and brings us to the Father so that we, once cut off by sin, become the delight of the Father!

- He cleanses us from all our sin by the cross...
- And brings into us life in the Spirit so that the love that is in Him is reproduced in us.
 - And the Father delights in us!
 - He brings us into His delight by His work!

TRANS> The work that God's elect servant was given to do is described again and again in our text.

- We are told in particular what task He is to accomplish...
 - We are not told what He is to do as far as going to the cross, but what He is to achieve...
 - even that He is to bring salvation to the whole world!

B. Now let us look at the work that the servant was given to do.

1. At the end of verse 1, it says:

- "He will bring forth justice (*mish-pawt*) to the Gentiles."
- *Mish-pawt* refers to judgement in the sense of that which is *right* in the fullest sense of justice...
- Ever since the fall, things have simply not been *right*,
 - but this servant of the LORD will Himself make things right.
 - He will establish a kingdom that is characterised by true righteousness rather than oppression, corruption, and wickedness.
 - Most of all, this will be a kingdom in which men are right with God!
 - Where all that is wrong between them and God will be settled and rectified!
 - You know what a blessing it is when you have been at odds with someone and then things are truly settled and put right.
 - That is what the servant will do with fallen men and women.
 - He will make things right between them and God.
 - He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles (the nations).
 - And of course when things are right with God, they will be right with each other as well!
 - They will live together in peace, as those who serve one another and really do bless one another—
 - They will give their lives for each other with the same energy and spirit that Jesus gave His life for us.
 - Everyone will live this way.
 - Oppression will cease, beautiful, sweet, *mish-pawt* will prevail.

- Don't you see, if you are in Christ, He is bringing you into this glorious kingdom of righteousness!

TRANS> And as I said before,

- The fact that this single individual that God calls "my servant" will do this great work is repeated again and again in our text.

2. It is in verse 3 where it says that "He will bring forth justice for truth."

- Once again, the word justice is *mish-pawt*—kingdom righteousness, a kingdom that is right and true.
 - Truth seems to be referred to as the way in which He will bring forth *mish-pawt*.
 - The ESV translates it that He will *faithfully bring forth justice*.
 - The word *truth* can be translated *faithfulness*.
 - So the idea is that He will bring forth *mis-pawt* fully... or truly
 - In other words, it won't be done in any slip shod or inadequate manner, but with complete faithfulness and integrity.
 - This suggests the idea that He will absolutely do all that is necessary to secure this righteous kingdom.
 - There will be no deficiency in His work.
 - As the hymn writer put it so well, "Jesus paid it all!"
 - When He died on the cross, He fully paid the penalty of our sin.
 - Nothing was lacking, nothing was short.
 - It as the sacrifice of the very Son of God for sinners!
 - Nothing was missing!
 - And then to accomplish the necessary change in us, there is the giving of His Spirit!
 - He was poured out abundantly on the church as never before when Jesus went into heaven...
 - And when He was, we were given all that we need for life.
 - But we are also told that what we have now of the Spirit is only the downpayment!
 - The fullness will be given to all the people of God when we are raised up at the last day and brought to live in the immediate presence of our God!
- And notice that *mish-pawt* is something that He is said to *bring forth*.
 - This is a divine act—

- Even as the Son of God *brought forth* the Heavens and Earth, so He will *bring forth mish-pawt*.
- Where things were not right, He will make them right!
 - He will establish a kingdom where righteousness dwells!

TRANS> And that the Servant will do this is repeated again in verse 4.

3. It says that He will not fail or be discouraged until He has *established justice in the earth*.
 - Does anybody care to guess what Hebrew word is translated *justice* here?
 - That's right, *mish-pawt*.
 - He is going to establish a kingdom of righteousness and nothing is going to stop Him.
 - This is the strongest statement of all...
 - He is the one who will actually *establish* this *mish-pawt* in the earth.
 - The word *establish* means that He will **put** *mish-pawt* in the earth which was not there before.
 - It will not be something that other men put in the earth, but it will be brought into the earth by Him...
 - The world is dead and He comes to give us life...
 - The world is full of sin and He comes to bring righteousness...
 - The world is full of guilt and He comes to bring pardon...
 - The world is full of corruption and oppression and He brings *mish-pawt*.

TRANS> But how does He accomplish this great task that the Father has given Him to do as His servant?

C. Consider how He carries out this work of establishing *mish-pawt* in the earth.

- There are two things that are shown—
 - He does it with gentleness and with faithfulness.
 - We are not told of the cross per se, but we are told of the manner in which His work will be done—with gentleness and faithfulness.
 - Let us look at each.
 1. That the servant does His work with gentleness is seen in verses 2 and 3:
 - Isa 42:2-3: He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench;
 - a. This tells us something about the remarkable nature of His kingdom!
 - 1) Kingdoms are usually established by force and oppression.

- The King goes forth with His armies making a great ruckus and pounds His enemies into submission.
 - He tramples over them in their weakness and forces them to yield.
- 2) But Christ establishes His kingdom in an entirely different way!
- He comes forth calling men to be reconciled to the living God.
 - He declares to them that He has a sacrifice for them that is sufficient to take away their sins.
 - And those who are wounded and oppressed by the fall,
 - instead of being crushed, come to Him for life!
 - Instead of trampling upon the weak, He invites them to come for healing.
 - He does not prey on their weakness, but comes to deliver them from it.
 - He brings forth justice—*mish-pawt*
 - something they never had before...
 - something they could not have because of their sin and corruption and because of the curse of God upon them.
 - They are like a delicate reed that is bruised and soon to be broken if help does not come.
 - and like a wick that is about to burn out if no one comes to revive it.
 - Instead of seeing these as of no use to Him,
 - God's servant rather comes to restore them and make them princes in His kingdom, filled up with His righteousness!
- b. How could anyone refuse His gentle call?
- 1) Here is *mish-pawt*... everything made right by our gracious redeemer!
- You see at the end of verse 4, it says that the nations are waiting for His law.
 - God has prepared them for the gospel.
 - They grow weary of their own way and then He comes to bring them *mish-pawt*.
- 2) What could ever keep you from coming to Him for this?
- Are you bruised? Are you about to burn out?
 - Are you full of sin and guilt and despair in this fallen world?
 - Then come to Him!
 - He will not stomp on you—He will make everything right!

- He is here to establish beautiful beautiful mish-pawt, a kindom of sweet righteousness.

3) Do you think He will have no use for you?

- Will He count you as worthless and cast you away?
 - No, He will heal you.
 - How long will you avoid Him?

TRANS> Do not misunderstand... judgement will come at the last day for those who reject His salvation...

- but until that day, He calls all men everywhere to repent...
 - Now is the accepted time—now is the day of salvation.
 - He comes to you in gentleness, gathering all those who look to Him for salvation.
 - Gathering all that the Father has given Him.
 - Establishing *mish-pawt* with gentleness.
- Now see secondly, as pertaining to the manner of His work:

2. That the servant does His work with faithfulness

a. This is brought out in verse 4 where it says:

- Isa 42:4: He will not fail nor be discouraged, till He has established justice in the earth;
- This shows that His task will not be easy...
 - There will be that which might cause failure and discouragement...
 - Indeed! He was oppressed and afflicted in this world!
 - What a task was set before Him!
 - To take upon Him our flesh and then to bear our sins, a people who were lost and ungrateful!
 - He had every reason for discouragement!
 - He Himself might become as the bruised reed and the smoking flax...
- But not Him!
 - He is God's faithful servant!
 - He will not stop until the work is complete...
 - His love for the Father is too deep to quit.
 - He will not fail or be discouraged, till He has established justice in the earth.
 - Do you see?

- Isaiah told us here, 700 years before, what the outcome of Gethsemane would be when Jesus struggled with the overwhelming burden of the work He had been given to do!
- He was like a bruised reed and smoking flax!
 - But He would not give up the work that He had been given to do!
 - The Father's will was His choice even though that meant suffering in the highest degree...
 - He carried out that work until He could declare triumphantly...
 - "It is finished!"
 - His struggle makes His obedience all the more grand and impressive!
 - Nothing would stop Him from doing the Father's will.
 - And all this was rooted in the Father's great love for us!

b. It was the Father who upheld Him in His task!

1) Having come in the weakness of human flesh,

- The Son of God incarnate had the holiness and integrity of His person, but not the power of His nature...
 - He was subject to death and weakness and all sorts of suffering.
 - But His character was such that He would not sin even under the worst provocations and temptations to sin.
 - This is the righteousness that He brought to us—to all of us who are His—to all who are trusting in Him.

2) But because He was made like us,

- It was necessary for Him to be upheld by the Father...
 - Therefore, in v. 1, the Father speaks of Him as "My servant whom I uphold."
 - The Father provides for Him in the same way that He provides for us.
 - Jesus, in our flesh, did His work by the Holy Spirit.
 - To be properly human is to be one who lives in dependence upon the Spirit of God.
 - The Spirit was not just given for salvation...
 - It would have been for us, even if we had never fallen, to live by the power of the Spirit.

- We would have relied on Him to strengthen us and to uphold us.
- That is how the Saviour lived and worked in our flesh—as one dependant on the Holy Spirit.
- And you see in verse 1 that the Father explains this provision of the Spirit....
 - He says,
 - Isa 42:1: “I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth *mish-pawt* to the Gentiles.”
 - He is able to establish *mish-pawt* among the nations because He is anointed with the Spirit of God.
 - He is called *the* anointed one because He is given the Spirit without measure for His task.
 - That is what the name *Messiah* and the name *Christ* mean...
 - The anointed One! The one anointed with the Holy Spirit.
 - On the day of Jesus’ Baptism, the Holy Spirit was shown to come upon Him in the form of a dove and to remain on Him.
 - In this way, He was given an anointing to be God’s prophet to us, God’s priest for us, and God’s King over us.
 - He was fully furnished by the Father for the work that He was given to do,
 - and He was faithful to complete it!
 - He did not grow faint or discouraged until it was done.
 - Until justice was established among the nations.

TRANS> His work on the cross is complete...

- But He is still going forth into the earth to establish His kingdom of *mish-pawt*.
- 3) This work is still being carried out in the power of the Spirit
 - We must not grow faint and discouraged until the work is finished and the kingdom of righteousness is fully established among the nations.
 - Jesus our head will complete the work.
 - We must not judge by our present circumstances, but by the faithfulness of our Saviour and our God who promises...
 - that Jesus shall reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

TRANS> And so you see that the Son is the faithful servant who does His Father's work, upheld by the Father in His task.

- But remember that the people to whom Isaiah spoke were in the wilderness.
 - It was hard for them to believe that such a One would come...
 - They need assurance concerning His work.
 - And in verses 5-9, the Father gives them assurance that He will truly give His Son to accomplish this work.
 - There really will be a kingdom of mish-pawt, not just in Israel, but among the nations!
- So let us not consider

II. **How the Father gives assurance that He will indeed strengthen His servant to do His work!**

- This encouragement is spoken to the Son, to encourage Him.
 - but it was also spoken to Israel in the wilderness, to encourage them,
 - and it is also spoken to us, for our encouragement that God really is going to establish a kingdom of perfect righteousness by His Son.
 - that He really will uphold Him until the work is complete.
- A. That we may be fully encouraged, He once again reminds of just who He is!
1. In verse 5 it says:
 - Isa 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:
 - Here is the one who spoke the worlds into existence—
 - There was nothing but emptiness--
 - And He stretched out His hand and filled up all that emptiness with this amazing universe in which we life.
 - He is the One who stretched them out by the mere call of His voice!
 - He is the One who breathed life into us and into all the living!
 - It is His amazing, marvellous doing.
 2. And it is **this one**, the LORD, who calls the Son in righteousness...
 - Do you see that in verse 6?
 - **He** is the one who holds His hand!
 - **He** is the One keeps Him and gives Him as a covenant to the people, a light to the Gentiles!
 - This one who spoke the heavens and the earth into existence by His Son,

- now speaks a kingdom of righteousness in a fallen world into existence by His Son.
- Before He came on the scene, there was emptiness...
 - But then He spoke and there was a universe.
- Before He came for salvation, the nations were brown and dead,
 - but after He has passed by with His word of life, they are green and teeming with life and fruitfulness.
- He speaks the Son forth as a covenant to the people and a light to the Gentiles.
 - And the Son comes and does His will.

B. But what does this all mean?

- That He calls Him in righteousness?
 - That He gives Him as a covenant and a light?
1. That He “calls Him in righteousness” means that there is no injustice in the way He establishing a kingdom or righteousness among sinful nations.
 - Our LORD has found a way to declare that we, who are sinners are righteous, without violating justice.
 - It is an abomination for a judge to declare the guilty to be righteous.
 - Such a judge is not righteous—
 - But our LORD has found a way to declare the guilty to be righteous without violating His holy justice.
 - It is in the giving of Christ, His servant, to be a covenant for us and a light for us.
 - You know what He did to make this so...
 - He joined Himself to us as the head of the church and took all the condemnation upon Himself...
 - And we walk—we walk away forgiven!
 - And there is no injustice because Jesus did all that justice requires!
 2. He Himself was given as a covenant and a light?
 - a. This is not just saying that the Father *makes* a covenant with Him or with us...
 - It is saying that He actually gives the Son as a covenant!
 - He is the promise that God dispenses!
 - He Himself is life and righteousness and resurrection.
 - God no longer gives us words of promise, but He actually gives His only Son who does what God promised to do in His covenant.

- b. Think of it in this way...
 - A town is being raided and they look to the government for help...
 - And the government promises to help them (a covenant promise).
 - And then they send an army...
 - The army is given to them as the covenant—that is how the promise is fulfilled.

- c. You see, it is like this,
 - God came to Abraham and said that He would bless him and that all the nations would be blessed through His seed...
 - To be blessed of God meant that Abraham must be righteous...
 - He must have all His sins forgiven and He must be given life.
 - But how could a just and holy God do this?
 - Where would righteousness come from when there was sin and death?
 - He had promised to do it in His covenant, but how could it be done?
 - The answer is that Jesus did it!
 - He Himself became the promise—the righteousness that was promised and the life that was promised.
 - The Father gave Him to us to be our salvation.

- 3. And you see what the giving of the Son accomplishes...in verse 7...
 - a. His is given to “open blind eyes, to bring prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house.”
 - We were shut up, bound up in our ignorance and condemnation.
 - We could not be in the kingdom of righteousness.
 - There was no *mish-pawt* for us.
 - Everything was wrong and we trapped in our wrong with no way to escape—in prison and in darkness, held there by our guilt and sin.
 - There was no escape for us...
 - Until the Son was given!
 - We were dead in our trespasses and sins, like an empty barren wilderness...
 - and then He speaks life into us by virtue of the cross and the barren wilderness is brimming with life and fruitfulness.
 - Life and light and escape from condemnation is suddenly ours and all things are made new!

- b. He is the One who opens blind eyes...
 - He does not merely shine light on us.
 - You can shine light on a blind man all you want, but he will still not be able to see.
 - That is the way people are before Christ opens their eyes.
 - The light is shining all around them and they can't see.
 - But He breaks into our darkness as the light.
 - He opens our blind eyes so that we who could not see in the light of day can now see clearly.
 - And He Himself leads us forth from prison by entering into the prison of our condemnation.
 - He so closely associated Himself with us that He took our sin—He became sin for us who knew no sin...
 - And He Himself is given to be God's promised righteousness.
 - As soon as that righteousness comes to us, we are released from the prison of condemnation!
 - There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
 - All the sudden, we are righteous because He is righteous and He is given to us.
 - Christ the righteous is joined to man the sinner who is condemned in prison...
 - And being joined to us, He is brought under condemnation, but being righteous, He overcomes the condemnation for all of us and releases us forever!
 - Our blind eyes are opened and we are released to into the true service of God.

C. And so God reminds us that He will not give His glory to idols!

1. As we saw last week, the nations, in their fear of God, resort to idols...
 - They are terrified, so they make up things about God that make them feel more comfortable.
 - But the glorious LORD who gives His Son to be covenant and light will not share His glory with idols.
 - There is no *mish-pawt* as long as there are idols...
 - Things are not at all right...
 - there is corruption and blindness and the prison of condemnation.
2. This means that when God has given Jesus to be a covenant and a light,
 - He has no patience for those who continue to hold to their idols!
 - There is no excuse for it!

- It was understandable when there was no provision for sin.
 - But now it is inexcusable for men to worship idols when God is in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself,
 - calling all men everywhere to repent before the day of judgement comes.
 - Why should men cuddle up to idols when they can now come to the true God through Christ for *mish-pawt*?
3. Listen, this is the God who declared long in advance that He would gather the nations by giving Christ!
- a. Isaiah wrote these words seven hundred years before Christ was given!
 - And He was given...
 - Just as God declared it, it has happened...
 - He became light to the nations and released them from prison into His glorious salvation through the cross!
 - b. How could Isaiah have possibly known in His day—
 - when the people of God were under the oppression of idol worshipping nations...
 - that in the distant future God would raise up His servant and that when He did, the nations would come to Him?
 - It is a most remarkable prophecy!
 - It proves that God is the LORD of history!
 - He told what He would do when there was no way to foresee it by human eyes...
 - and then He did it and now people from every nation of the world are worshipping God!
 - c. The God who in Isaiah's day had foretold the coming of oppressors like Assyria and Babylon,
 - foretold the coming of Christ to bring salvation—*mish-pawt*, to the nations!
 - And now He has done it and those among the nations who are still worshipping idols desperately need to repent!
 - There is no excuse for their unbelief.
 - The LORD will not give His glory to idols!
 - Let them forsake Allah and Krishna and Brahman and find life in the true God who gives His servant to restore *mish-pawt*.

III. The outcome is that the nations are found praising Him.

- A. Here the nations are summoned to join in the praise of the true God who sent His Son to redeem us.
- Isa 42:10: Sing to the LORD a new song,
 1. A *new song* is a song of victory that is sung after a great deliverance!
 - We have many new songs in the Psalter—such as Psalm 33, 96, 98, and 149 which are *called* new songs.
 - But any song of salvation is a new song, in which you sing of God’s deliverance and of His bringing you from bondage to freedom.
 2. This song is to be sung *to the LORD*.
 - He is the one who brought about our deliverance in Christ, so our songs are to be addressed to Him.
 - We sing of the servant that He has provided to be our salvation.
 - We sing of the kingdom of righteousness that He established for us by the work that He faithfully carried out to the end.
- B. This song of praise is to be heard from the ends of the earth.
1. This is the remarkable thing!
 - It not just that Israel is scattered among the nations and that they sing songs of praise to God...
 - It is that the Gentiles themselves are delivered from blindness and prison and come forth praising God for what He had done in Christ.
 - That is exactly what we are doing here today in this assembly!
 - It is what the LORD foretold.
 2. And you see that this praise is to be so widespread that it is heard in the most remote of places...
 - Such places are named for us.
 - Those that are on the sea...
 - Those that are on the distant continents...
 - Those that are in the wilderness, in the villages that Kedar inhabits
 - Those of Sela
 - Those on the tops of the mountains...
 - The whole world is to come alive with the praises of God—of the one true God who sent His Son Jesus!
 - “Let them give glory to the LORD and declare His praise in the coastlands!”
 - Let the whole world sin the new song of praise!
 - See that you are not excluded.

- When God's work is complete, this world will be filled with the praises of God.
 - It will become a new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells!
 - That is what the LORD will do.
 - All idol worshippers will be cast out and all His people will be holy—they will be a kingdom of *mish-pawt*...
 - filled with songs of praise to our God.
3. Don't you be discouraged when there is a God or mercy and salvation in heaven!
- Don't you avoid Him and dodge Him...
 - No no!
 - Come to Him with eagerness and let Him speak light and liberty into your darkness and bondage.
 - You need not live in any longer.
 - The Son is there for you.
 - He rejects none that will come to Him.
 - Come on and join the song of those who have new life...
 - Put behind you all the whining and all the selfishness and all the pettiness and the darkness and confusion and bitterness...
 - God's servant has come to impart life and liberty.
 - It is His task and He does it with perfect faithfulness.
 - Come to Him and receive it.