

There was none who declared it, none who
 proclaimed,
 none who heard your words.
 27 I was the first to say to Zion, "Behold, here they are!"
 and I give to Jerusalem a herald of good news.
 28 But when I look, there is no one;
 among these there is no counselor
 who, when I ask, gives an answer.
 29 Behold, they are all a delusion;
 their works are nothing;
 their metal images are empty wind.

CHAPTERS 42-53 FOCUS ON THIS SERVANT
 OF THE LORD, MENTIONED 20 TIMES

The LORD's Chosen Servant

42 Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
 my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
 I have put my Spirit upon him;
 he will bring forth justice to the nations.
 2 He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
 or make it heard in the street;
 3 a bruised reed he will not break,
 and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
 4 He will not grow faint or be discouraged
 till he has established justice in the earth;
 and the coastlands wait for his law.
 5 Thus says God, the LORD,
 who created the heavens and stretched them out,
 who spread out the earth and what comes
 from it,

127 SERVANT SONG

Quoted in Matthew 12:18-21 about Jesus

27-29 God is speaking & asking about the idols & what

THEY were able to do

- 27 God spoke first is a paradoxical expression when you know the idols cannot even speak. God is the one who warns and who gives the good news.
- 28 As if mocking the idols He looks to see if anyone is there, but there is no one. The idols have no voice to share there is no one to answer God's questions.
- 29 Behold is meant to draw attention to them. Everything about them is fake, made up, imagined by their makers. They in the end are merely inanimate objects made by men.

Behold the audience is not identified here. Some say Israel is to see this, but more likely this is for all to behold. All creation will look and see the works of Christ.

- 1 For the Jewish audience the servant is Israel who is seen in a personification of being a chosen individual. The Christian sees the Messiah though unnamed here it is clearly about Jesus. Matthew sees this prophecy in Jesus as His ministry unfolds. Verse one shows His mission. Justice starts with Him and goes out to the nations.
- 2 His approach was different than the prophets who preached (cried out) about sin & punishment alone w/ God's justice. He came teaching a new way to replace the old. His ministry was uniquely based on a new covenant replacing the old one.
- 3 His suffering is alluded to here as well as his rejection of evil and standing against attacks of the enemy. Two negatives show His personal strength while the one positive shows His commitment & purpose.
- 4 Here His strength is shown as endurance which overcomes all that is thrown at Him. In verse 2 He proclaims the message and no results are listed. In verse 3 this is a glimmer of success and hope. In verse 4 victory follows His commitment and endurance.
- 5 Shows God is speaking here. The creator has a message for and about His servant He is sending.

who gives breath to the people on it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

- 6 "I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,
7 to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
8 I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to carved idols.
9 Behold, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth
I tell you of them."

Sing to the LORD a New Song

- 10 Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise from the end of the earth,
you who go down to the sea, and all that fills it,
the coastlands and their inhabitants.
11 Let the desert and its cities lift up their voice,
the villages that Kedar inhabits;
let the habitants of Sela sing for joy,
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 goes out like a mighty man,
like a man of war he stirs up his zeal;

6 God Leave no doubt and declares this comes directly from Him.

The servant is coming from Him w/a clear purpose. There is only one who can do this task and He is selected by God because He is righteous or w/out sin. God will not leave Him and will be with Him all the way. This covenant or contract is w/ the people and not a nation, but all nations will be invited.

7 The servant's ministry is to those who cannot help themselves. Here we see the servant not as a conquering leader of an army but as a deliverer of the weak and oppressed.

8 God makes it clear by repeating His position as sovereign God. No one or no thing can receive the Glory that is His. Here we see the praises men give to idols are not worthy of the living God. It is as if they are wasting their breath. God does not tolerate idol worship & true praise and Glory can only be given to Him.

9 Former things refers to the old prophecies of judgment upon Judah and Israel and the people. These old prophecies are replaced w/ new ones. God wants to tell them in advance so he will receive praise and Glory and so the people will know He is the one they should listen to to know what is coming. Here He is showing them 700 yrs in advance. He is speaking less to the nation of Israel and more to the world w/a new promised covenant/contract.

10 This new song is about praising God for all the new truth in the prophecies that promise a new future. God is to be glorified for what He is revealing. End of the earth refers to anywhere someone hears God's truth proclaimed.

11 There is no boundary to where this is to happen, all are called to praise and sing for joy no matter where they are.

12 This is to contrast the mountains in the previous verse.

13 The reason to praise God and be joyful is again shown. In a metaphor He is victorious over all His enemies. He cannot be stopped or conquered.

he cries out, he shouts aloud,
he shows himself mighty against his foes.

- 14 For a long time I have held my peace;
I have kept still and restrained myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
I will gasp and pant.
- 15 I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands,
and dry up the pools.
- 16 And I will lead the blind
in a way that they do not know,
in paths that they have not known
I will guide them.
I will turn the darkness before them into light,
the rough places into level ground.
These are the things I do,
and I do not forsake them.
- 17 They are turned back and utterly put to
shame,
who trust in carved idols,
who say to metal images,
"You are our gods."

Israel's Failure to Hear and See

- 18 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?

⑭ Here God enters this discourse. Here God is seen as described with human attributes and using human emotions. God is seen as unable to contain Himself any longer. He must now speak and cry out, what he sees drive Him to speak and act.

⑮ God will act through His creation. He will use them in ways that are seen as destructive.

⑯ whether this is about those who are physically blind or the spiritually blind the writer is not clear. What is clear is God intends to take them to a place they could not find w/out His help. The image is God leading people from the darkness into the light. Level ground shows He is removing obstacles, and making their life better. Even as things have been bad He has never left them nor forgotten them.

⑰ Those who have trusted in idols and false gods. Their actions are exposed and produce shame. They are shown to be w/out hope who trust in the gods made w/human hands.

⑱ The narrative turns back to the people. The chapter opened with the true servant of God. Here we see those who should serve Him as deaf to words and blind to all God has revealed to them.

⑲ Here the servant is ISRAEL and the people of God w/are blind to God. His priest and prophets do not hear the message and do not speak for Him.

Who is blind as my dedicated one,
 or blind as the servant of the LORD?
 20 He sees many things, but does not observe them;
 his ears are open, but he does not hear.
 21 The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,
 to magnify his law and make it glorious.
 22 But this is a people plundered and looted;
 they are all of them trapped in holes
 and hidden in prisons;
 they have become plunder with none to rescue,
 spoil with none to say, "Restore!"
 23 Who among you will give ear to this,
 will attend and listen for the time to come?
 24 Who gave up Jacob to the looter,
 and Israel to the plunderers?
 Was it not the LORD, against whom we have sinned,
 in whose ways they would not walk,
 and whose law they would not obey?
 25 So he poured on him the heat of his anger
 and the might of battle;
 it set him on fire all around, but he did not
 understand;
 it burned him up, but he did not take it to heart.

Israel's Only Savior

43 But now thus says the LORD,
 he who created you, O Jacob, the deceiver, the heel grabber
 he who formed you, O Israel: God present, contends, strives
 "Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
 I have called you by name, you are mine.

(19b) Here the priest and leaders are scolded for their blindness to God, His truth, and His message. Here those who should be closest to God's truth see nothing. God is wanting them to see.

(20) They are wise in earthly knowledge but cannot see the truth of God that they all point to. All their learning has not allowed them to hear God clearly.

(21) God is pleased, in that He has done His part. He has provided righteousness or a holy path for His people. He has given them written truth and exalted it before them.

(22) BUT what God intended is not what the people have become. The people have been robbed of truth as if they were attacked by bandits. They have been tricked, captured, and are prisoners with no hope of being restored.

(23) THE QUESTION IS ASK WITH AND UNDERSTOOD. "NO-ONE" THE PEOPLE OF GOD ARE NOT LISTENING TO GOD.

(24) THIS IS CLEARLY THE REASON THEY ARE IN TROUBLE. BY IGNORING GOD THEY HAVE FORCED HIM TO WITHDRAW HIS PROTECTION. THEIR SIN HAS SEPARATED THEM FROM GOD. THEY CANNOT HOLD GOD ACCOUNTABLE FOR WHAT IS HAPPENING.

(25) HE HERE IS THE SERVANT, THE NATION OF ISRAEL WHO HAS REBELLED AND TURNED AWAY FROM GOD. ALL THE BAD THAT HAS HAPPENED WAS INTENDED TO INSTRUCT AND CORRECT THEM, INSTEAD THEY HAVE LEARNED NOTHING. THE NATION WILL BE CONQUERED BY BABYLON AS JUDAH WAS BY ASSYRIA BECAUSE OF THEIR SINS, AND BECAUSE THEY TURNED AWAY FROM GOD. IF THEY HAD REMAINED FAITHFUL THERE IS NO EARTHLY POWER THAT COULD HAVE DEFEATED THEM. THE PEOPLE (NATION OF ISRAEL) SAW ALL THIS AS MANIFESTATIONS OF EVIL AGAINST THEM INSTEAD OF HOW IT WAS INTENDED, TO DRIVE THEM BACK TO GOD.

(1) Here we see through the two names the old man (nation) that is replaced with the new man (nation). They were deceived but because of God's persistence a new hope is coming to them. Redeemed - paid the full price, or one they could not afford. Here we see the value of His name and the reason He protects it. Misusing His name is to reject God. Those who are called by God's name are His and must protect it with how they live daily.