

Isaiah Chapter 42

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

THIS I BELIEVE (THE CREED) - Hillsong Worship (4:59)

1 Our Father everlasting, The all creating One. God Almighty. Through Your Holy Spirit, Conceiving Christ the Son Jesus our Savior!

Refrain: I believe in God our Father. I believe in Christ the Son. I believe in the Holy Spirit; Our God is three in one. I believe in the resurrection. That we will rise again, For I believe in the name of Jesus!

2 Our Judge and our Defender. Suffered and crucified. Forgiveness is in You. Descended into darkness, You rose in glorious life. Forever seated high! (Refrain)

I believe in You. I believe You rose again. I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord. And I believe in You. I believe You rose again. I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord!

3 I believe in life eternal. I believe in the virgin birth. I believe in the saints' communion, And in Your holy Church. I believe in the resurrection, When Jesus comes again, For I believe, in the name of Jesus. (Refrain – 2X)

For I believe in the name of Jesus!

GENERAL OUTLINE OF ISAIAH: Referred to as the “Fifth Gospel” since the third century!

Possible date of kings reign” - Uzziah, - 792-740; Jotham, - 750-736; Ahaz, - 735-720 Northern Kingdom of Israel falls to Assyria in 722BC; Hezekiah, - 715-699/686; Manasseh – 687-642

Isaiah's time of prophecy - About a minimum of 40 years and possibly more than 60 years!

In the tenth year of Nabopolassar (616 BC) the Babylonians defeated the Assyrian army.

Cyrus takes Babylon. In October (539 BC), the Persian king Cyrus took Babylon.

ISAIAH 40:1-66:24

The prophecies of chapters 1-39 addressed Judah in her situation during Isaiah's ministry (739 B.C. until c. 686 B.C.). The prophecies of chapters 40-66 address Judah as though the prophesied Babylonian captivity (Isa 39:5-7) were already a present reality, though that captivity did not begin until 605-586 B.C. The words "'There is no peace,' says the Lord, 'for the wicked'" (Isa 48:22; Isa 57:21) signal the divisions of this section into three parts: chapters 40-48 (Comfort of Jehovah), chapters 49-57 (Salvation of Jehovah) and chapters 58-66 (Glory of Jehovah).

Four Messianic Prophecies-Songs of the Suffering Servant: #1 Chapter 42:1-9 -Servant of Jehovah-Jesus; #2 Chapter 49:1-13-Servant of God; Savior of the World; #3 Chapter 50:4-9-Jehovah Adonai-Humility of Rejected Prophet; #4 Chapter 52:13-53:12-Suffering Servant-Jehovah's Servant-Sin Bearer.

- I. THE ASSYRIAN PERIOD - CONFLICT AND VICTORY (Isa 1-39)
 - A. PROPHECIES CONCERNING JUDAH AND JERUSALEM (Isa 1-12)
 - B. PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE NATIONS (Isa 13-27)
 - C. DELIVERANCE FOUND NOT IN EGYPT, BUT IN THE LORD (Isa 28-35)
 - D. HISTORICAL INTERLUDE (Isa 36-39)
- II. THE BABYLONIAN PERIOD - HOPE FOR TROUBLED TIMES (Isa 40-66)
 - A. THE ONE TRUE GOD VERSUS IDOLS (Isa 40-48)
 - B. LORD'S SERVANT WILL BRING SALVATION THROUGH SUFFERING (Isa 49-57)
 - C. THE FUTURE GLORY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE, THE NEW ZION (Isa 58-66)

 Assyria militarily and politically threatened Israel and Judah four times.

Isaiah – Bible Timeline

739 BC	Isaiah Complains of Zion's Corruption	Isaiah 1 - 5
739 BC	Isaiah's Vision and Commission	Isaiah 6
735 BC	Isaiah's Prophecy of Immanuel	Isaiah 7
734 BC	Uriah/Zechariah Verification	Isaiah 8
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies a Child Is Born	Isaiah 9
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Judgments Upon Israel	Isaiah 9:8
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Judgment on Assyria	Isaiah 10
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies The Root of Jesse	Isaiah 11
730 BC	Isaiah's Joyful Thanksgiving	Isaiah 12
725 BC	Isaiah Prophecies against the Nations	Isaiah 13 - 22
725 BC	Isaiah's Valley of Vision	Isaiah 22
725 BC	Isaiah's Burden of Tyre	Isaiah 23
725 BC	Devastation on the Earth	Isaiah 24
725 BC	Isaiah's Songs of Praise	Isaiah 25 - 27
725 BC	Isaiah's Further Warnings	Isaiah 28 - 32
725 BC	Isaiah Prophecies a King Shall Reign	Isaiah 32
725 BC	Isaiah Declares God's Judgments	Isaiah 33, 34
725 BC	Isaiah Declares the Joyful Will Flourish in Zion	Isaiah 35
712 BC	Hezekiah's Illness and Healing	2 Kings 20, Isaiah 38
711 BC	Hezekiah Shows Treasures	2 Kings 20:12, Isaiah 39
711 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Captivity and Restoration	Isaiah 40 - 66
701 BC	Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem	2 Kings 18, Isaiah 36, 2 Chron. 32
701 BC	Hezekiah's Prayer	2 Kings 19, Isaiah 37

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

The Lord's Chosen Servant

Isa 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.

Isa 42:2 He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street.

Isa 42:3 A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth.

Isa 42:4 He will not fail nor be discouraged, Till He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands shall wait for His law."

ISAIAH 42:1-9 – In contrast with chapter 41, with the idols whose works are nothing, here we see Someone who is everything! This is the **first of the four Servant Songs**, fulfilled in Jesus Christ (*Is. 49:1-13; 50:4-9; 52:13-53:12*). Isaiah makes references to the “Servant of the LORD: throughout chapters 40-55.

v. 1 Behold My Servant – In contrast to the idols and the idol-worshiping nations, the LORD formally presents His Servant! The title, *My Servant* is identified with Jesus Christ in the New Testament. God presents His *Servant* as the only hope of the nations. (*Mt. 12:15-21*- Matthew quotes *Is. 42:1-4* – Septuagint translation). *whom I uphold*, The Servant’s success is of God and from God. *My Elect One* - Jesus is the ultimate *Elect One*, our election is really a matter of being chosen in Jesus. *in whom My soul delights* (at Jesus’ baptism; On Mt. of Transfiguration)! The **Servant is God’s delight**, in contrast with the *abomination* of *Is. 41:24; Luke 3:22* *And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."* *My Spirit- Cf. Is. 61:1-2a* - **Jesus was filled, empowered at that point, with the Spirit**, doing ministry in the power and flow of the Holy Spirit, as it came **upon (with, in, & upon – 3 aspects) Him** (*Mat 3:16, Acts 1:8*) in contrast with the “*empty wind*” of *Is. 41:29*. We humans, by implication, are impressed with the wrong strategies, remedies, and powers. **justice** – a key word in these first four verses, in the Bible, means fulfilling mutual obligations in a manner consistent with God’s moral law. not be restricted to the Jewish, but also **to the Gentiles**, bringing justice and righteousness to them.

vs. 2-3 He will not cry out, nor raise His voice: This doesn’t mean that Jesus never spoke loudly. It refers to His gentle, lowly heart and actions. Jesus didn’t make His way by bluster and loud, overwhelming talk, but by the Spirit of God upon Him. (*Isa 53:7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth; Mat 11:28-30; 1Pe 2:23*). **A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth.** Another reference to the gentle character of Jesus. A reed is a fairly fragile plant, yet if a reed is **bruised**, the Servant will handle it so gently that **He will not break** it. And if flax, used for tinder to start a fire, does not flame but only smokes, He will not **quench** it into extinguishing. Instead, the Servant will gently blow on the **smoking flax**, fanning it into flame again! The Servant is gentle, but not weak. **He will bring forth justice for truth.**

v. 4 He will not fail (same word as smoking in smoking flax) nor be discouraged: Jesus never gets **discouraged!**, which is amazing considering the job that He has to do, the obstacles He must overcome, and the tools He needs to work with! It is because He has all power and authority! **Fail** is the same word as **smoking in smoking flax He will not quench**. That person whose love and passion for God has waned. There’s no longer that fire burning in their hearts. Their experience can be likened to just a smoking flax. There’s the remnant there of past blessings, but the fire is gone. **Discouraged** is the same word as **bruised in a bruised reed He will not break**. “So here is the Servant of the Lord . . . there are no bruises about Him; He is no mere smoking flax. He is well able to do the task of redemption because He is free from all the weaknesses and failures. He has no flaws or blemishes - He is perfection and majestic strength. **Till He has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands shall wait for His law:** The work of the Servant will extend to the whole earth, and all the peoples - even those in the distant **coastlands** - shall serve Him.

v. 1 Jesus isn’t just a servant. He is The Servant, and everyone should behold, as the LORD says, My Servant. How we should want to love, worship and honor Him, being obedient to Him and to His word!

vs. 2-3 God doesn’t deal roughly with our weaknesses and failures. Just the opposite. He deals with them gently, tenderly, helping them along until the bruised reed is strong and the smoking flax is in full flame. A reference to that person whose life is crushed by the weight of the world and sin. When that sinful person comes to Jesus Christ, He doesn’t break them, He restores them to completeness. The Lord isn’t wanting to break you, He isn’t wanting to destroy you. The Lord is wanting to save you, to heal you, to mend you. Jesus tells us to learn from Him in Mt. 11:29. The Servant is gentle, but not weak. He will bring forth justice for truth. What a reminder and exhortation for us!

v. 4 Isn’t it wonderful that Jesus never gets discouraged? When we think of the job that He has to do, the obstacles He must overcome, and the tools He needs to work with, it is amazing! He will not be discouraged, until He has accomplished His purpose, until He has established true justice here on the earth and has set judgment in the earth. What an example for us! He is well able to do the task of redemption because He is free from all the weaknesses and failures of His people. He has no flaws or blemishes - He is perfection and majestic strength. How we need to remember this whenever we get discouraged!

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

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:

Isa 42:6 "I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles,

Isa 42:7 To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house.

v. 5 Thus says God the LORD: The promise of the Servant and His ministry is so wonderful, that the One making the promise should state His credentials. Just as when we take out a loan, the bank asks for assurance we can fulfill our promise, so this verse is another “credit check” on God. *God the LORD* is more than happy to do so. First look *up*, because He *created (bara) the heavens and stretched them out*. Then look *down*, because He *spread forth the earth and that which comes from it*. The marvels that come out of it – the marvelous plant life! Then look in a mirror, because He *gives breath to the people on it*. Daniel (*Dan.5:23, the God who holds your breath in His hand*) said to Belshazzar “You praise and glorify the gods of gold and silver, but the God who controls your very breath, the God who can cut off your breath at any moment, the God in whose hand your breath is, you’ve not glorified. I am God, I am Jehovah!” Life, and breath from God. The God who did such great things can fulfill His promises about the Servant! (*Paul, Mars Hill - Acts 17:25, He gives to all life, breath, and all things.*)

v. 6 The ministry of the Messiah. *I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand:* So the prophecy concerning His Son, Jesus Christ. **God has called Him in righteousness, He will hold His hand, and He will give Him for a covenant.** Jesus said, “This is a new covenant, it’s in my blood, which is shed for the remission of sins.” Then, a light to the Gentiles, they that sat in darkness have seen a great light, unto those sitting in the shadow of death hath that light come. *Will hold Your hand:* “I am with You always, to love and guide You. I will never leave You. I am holding Your hand all the time!” *I will keep You:* “You will not get lost or left behind. I am always there to watch over You and *keep You.*” *And give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles:* “You will fulfill the purpose I have called You to. You will bring salvation, not only to Your *people*, but also to those afar off, who seem beyond salvation.”

v. 7 To open blind eyes (physical and spiritual), *to bring out prisoners from the prison:* I will use You to do miraculous works of restoration and healing, both physically and spiritually. *To open the blind eyes* - This is equivalent to saying that **He would impart instruction to those who were ignorant.** It relates to the Jews as well as to the Gentiles. He would acquaint them with God, and with the way of salvation. You will be used to bring sight and freedom to many, into the glorious light of Jesus Christ. The tragedy with a person who is living in the world, and living after the flesh, is his blindness. That really is the real tragedy. They are destroying themselves, but they just can’t see it. You try to point it out to them, and they just can’t see it. “Because”, the scripture tells us, “the god of this world has blinded their eyes, that they cannot see.” The work of Satan, and the work of sin, is that of blinding. But Jesus came to open the eyes of those that were blind, the prison to those that were bound! *Cf. John 9*

v. 5 It indeed is marvelous the way God has created us! To think that, that could’ve all just evolved over a matter of time by mutations, and all. It, it’s just ridiculous! Yet that’s where, that’s where I get discouraged! I think, “O God!”, you know it’s so insane to try to propose that all of this came about by these fortuitous occurrences of accidental circumstances. Yes, it’s ridiculous to think that!

v. 6 What a promise from the LORD to the Servant - Jesus Christ! What encouragement Jesus must have received from passages like this when He faced difficult and trying times during His earthly ministry! We can be confident that the calling will be fulfilled.”

v. 7 What glorious promises, each fulfilled in the ministry of Jesus! By extension, these promises also belong to us. Jesus prayed, *As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. (Joh 17:18).* We are sent as Jesus was sent, and can receive these same promises as belonging to us.

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Isa 42:8 I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images

Isa 42:9 Behold, the former things have come to pass, And new things I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them."

Sing to the Lord a New Song

Isa 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!

Isa 42:11 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.

Isa 42:12 Let them give glory to the LORD, And declare His praise in the coastlands.

v. 8 *I am the LORD, that is My name:* Such glorious promises need confirmation, and the assurance that the one making the promises is able to fulfill them. *I am the LORD:* “This is the famous tetragrammaton, or name of *four letters*, which we write *Jehovah, Yehovah, Yehveh, Yeveh, Jhuh, Javah, &c.* The letters are Y H U(V) H. The Jews never pronounce it, and the true pronunciation is utterly unknown. *My glory I will not give to another:* First, no one else can fulfill these promises, because God will not **share** His glory with any other. We need to understand that Jesus shares in the glory of the Father. Jesus prayed, *And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. (Joh 17:5)* If God the Son and God the Father each share glory, and the LORD shares His glory with no one, it means that the Father and the Son are the LORD God. The LORD God - Yahweh - is one God in Three Persons.

v. 9 *Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I declare:* God is master of both the past (*the former things*) and the future (*new things*). Being the master of both the future and the past, God has the present well in hand also. We see this especially in the way that God can *declare . . . new things*, even *before they spring forth*. As Peter said, *so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place (2Pe 1:19).*

vs. 10-12 The work of the LORD’s Servant - Praise for the victory of the Servant. *Sing to the LORD a new song:* Here in view of God’s goodness in providing a Redeemer. Isaiah calls upon all people to celebrate the divine mercy in a song of praise. The sentiment is, that God’s **goodness in providing a Savior demands the thanksgiving of all the world**. This sounds like a Psalm (*Psa 33:3; Psa 40:3; Psa 98:1*, and others), because it is a song of praise. Who the Servant is and what He does is so glorious, it has to bring out a *new song* of praise. *You coastlands and you inhabitants of them!* Who should sing this *new song*? Everyone who has been touched by the work of the Servant. Since even the *coastlands* were blessed by the Servant (*Isa 42:4*), they should praise Him also!

v. 8 A most important verse! for all of us! A very great danger in ministry is accepting glory that belongs to God. Whenever God uses you to do His work, people are prone to praise you, and to glory in you, because you were God’s instrument. If you touch the glory due to God, you’re in big trouble! God will not share His glory with another. Paul said, “*God forbid that I should glory except in the cross of Jesus Christ.*” Don’t touch God’s glory!

v. 9 God’s prophetic word fulfilled shows us the confidence we can have in His word.

vs. 10-12 Here the prophet calls upon all people to celebrate the divine mercy in a song of praise in view of His goodness in providing a Redeemer. The sentiment is, that God’s goodness in providing a Savior demands the thanksgiving of all the world. We believers, who have been touched by the work of the Servant. Since even the *coastlands* were blessed by the Servant (*Isa 42:4*), we should most certainly praise Him and give Him glory also!

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Isa 42:13 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.

Isa 42:14 "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.

Isa 42:15 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.

Isa 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.

Isa 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.'

Israel's Failure to Hear and See

Isa 42:18 "Hear, you deaf; And look, you blind, that you may see.

Isa 42:19 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?

Isa 42:20 Seeing many things, but you do not observe; Opening the ears, but he does not hear."

vs. 13-17 The LORD brings and shall bring judgment against all who serve false gods. *The LORD shall go forth like a mighty man:* This day of praise is a day of victory for the LORD over all false gods. *He shall prevail against His enemies.* The LORD does this work of judgment with *energy*. *He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war . . . He shall cry out, yes, should aloud . . . I will cry like a woman in labor.* He isn't passive or dispassionate in His judgment. When the LORD sets things right on the earth, He does it with *zeal*. The difference between *He shall cry out, yes should aloud* and *He will not cry out, nor raise His voice (Isa 42:2)* shows the **difference between the first and Second Coming of Jesus**. The **first coming was meek and lowly; the Second Coming will be loud and demonstrative!** No obstacle can get in the way of the LORD's work. *Mountains and hills* can't get in His way. *Rivers and pools* will not stop Him. Even the blindness of others will not prevent His plan. In the end, it is certain that *they shall be greatly ashamed, who trust in carved images*.

vs. 18-20 The deaf and blind come to the Servant. *Hear, you deaf; and look, you blind, that you may see:* Who are the *deaf* and the *blind* the LORD speaks to here? They are the *deaf* and *blind* among God's people. The LORD has already spoken to the blind among the Gentiles (*Isa 42:16*). Now, He speaks to the blind that He calls *My servant*, the deaf whom He calls *My messenger*. Obviously, a *blind* man will have trouble being a good *servant*. A *deaf* man will have trouble being a good *messenger*. *Seeing many things, but you do not observe:* This is a word to these blind who *think* they can see. They act as if they can see, but they really can't *observe* anything. They will stay blind and deaf as long as they can't admit their need. What is the cure? It begins with knowing our condition. When the *deaf* know they are deaf, and the *blind* know they are blind, they know their need, and do not deceive themselves about their condition. When Jesus healed a man born blind, He used the occasion to speak about spiritual blindness, and its cure. In the diagnosis of Jesus, only those who *know* they are blind can be healed of their blindness. Jesus said, "*For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.*" *Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, "Are we blind also?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains."* ([Joh 9:39-41](#))

vs. 13-17 We're pilgrims, just passing through, and this life is short. But our Lord Jesus Christ is coming back, with the roar of a Lion! Then things will be right in the whole world and universe! All the cares of this world will grow dim. We need to be working, waiting and watching, ready for His return!

vs. 18-20 Here Isaiah is speaking of Israel, not about God's Servant, Jesus Christ! Israel has been given so much, but she's not seeing! She is not hearing; thus, she is referred to as being blind and deaf! A great exhortation for each of us, as to our degree of blindness and deafness. Are we seeing? Are we hearing? Are we remembering the sins of Israel and Judah that let to their downfall, being conquered and taken into captivity? The sin of rejecting God and His word and living lives of idolatry immorality and sin.

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Isa 42:21 The LORD is well pleased for His righteousness' sake; He will exalt the law and make it honorable.
Isa 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!"
Isa 42:23 Who among you will give ear to this? Who will listen and hear for the time to come?
Isa 42:24 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.
Isa 42:25 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.

vs. 21-25 The LORD defends His defrauded people. This seems to express the sense of the passage, that it refers solely to the Jewish people, and not, as is often supposed, to the Messiah. The phrase, ‘*is well pleased,*’ means that Yahweh takes delight in His people, or looks upon them with an eye of tenderness and affection. He finds pleasure in contemplating them as His people, and in regarding and treating them as such. ***The LORD is well pleased . . . He will magnify the law and make it honorable:*** The LORD God is pleased to bring this justice on the earth, and to *magnify* and honor the law. Though under the new covenant, we do not come to God on the basis of the law, it does not mean that the law of God is bad. As Paul wrote in ***Rom 7:12, Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.*** The weakness of the law is not in the law, but in us. The law perfectly suits the purpose God intended for it: to display God’s holy standard, to expose our sin, and to show us the need for salvation in Jesus. ***But this is a people robbed and plundered:*** God looks upon His people and sees the pain and devastation the world, the flesh, and the devil has wrought upon them. They are *robbed and plundered*, they *are for prey, and no one delivers*. Worst of all, *no one says, “Restore!”* Why? *Who gave Jacob for plunder, and Israel to the robbers?* Who did this? Isaiah’s answer is almost shocking: ***Was it not the LORD, He against whom we have sinned?*** In this circumstance, God allowed the low, defeated place of Israel as discipline for their sin, for their chosen blindness and deafness. ***For they would not walk in His ways, nor were they obedient to His law.*** The painful and low place of Israel was meant to draw them back to the LORD. We can know that the LORD only used these measures after He had exhausted far gentler measures. Yet even these sharp measures did not work: ***Yet he did not know . . . Yet he did not take it to heart. It has set him on fire all around:*** This correction from the LORD felt like fire to Israel; yet they did not respond to it. In ***1Pe 4:12-19***, Peter also relates trials and correction from the Lord to fire: *Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you . . . For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?* God’s purpose in the fiery trial is to bring us to repentance and softness of heart, and the more we resist that work, the more the fire will burn! We should respond as Peter said we should in ***1Pe 4:19***: *Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.* Is the fire of God’s correction burning away the sin and impurity in your life, or is it just making you blacker and harder?

Four Messianic Prophecies in Isaiah--Songs of the Suffering Servant:
#1 Chapter 42:1-9 - Servant of Jehovah-Jesus;
#2 Chapter 49:1-13- Servant of God; Savior of Gentiles - the World;
#3 Chapter 50:4-9- Jehovah Adonai-Humility of Rejected Prophet;
#4 Chapter 52:13-53:12- Suffering Servant-Jehovah’s Servant-Sin Bearer.

vs. 21-25 The LORD is saying His people Israel, because of their failure to see and hear they’re captive and in bondage. They’re ensnared. He says I’ve poured out fire upon them, they still won’t respond. As with Israel what will God have to do to get us to see that we need to obey His Word? We need to look at our lives and evaluate possible disobedience or stubbornness. Out of His great love for us, if necessary, He will chasten us in order that we might return to Him! How similar am I to that described above?

PRAISE THE SAVIOR – Thomas Kelly (1769-1855) *The Haven Quartet*
**1 Praise the Savior, ye who know Him!
Who can tell how much we owe Him?
Gladly let us render to Him all we are and have.**
2 Jesus is the name that charms us; He for conflict fits and arms us; nothing moves, and nothing harms us while we trust in Him.
3 Trust in Him, ye saints, forever; He is faithful, changing never; neither force nor guile can sever those He loves from Him.
4 Keep us, Lord, O keep us cleaving to Thyself, and still believing, till the hour of our receiving promised joys with Thee.
5 Then we shall be where we would be, then we shall be what we should be; things that are not now, nor could be, soon shall be our own. Amen!