

December 4, 2011
"Behold Christ!" Isaiah 42:1-13

I. Behold Him as God's Servant –

"Behold! My Servant whom I uphold," ... (Isaiah 42:1 NKJ)

1. Christ being called a "Servant" tells us He came to this earth with a God given call / purpose –

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21 NKJ)

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45 NKJ)

2. His call being to serve, to give and to save (us from our sins) He was not distracted from that call but gave Himself wholeheartedly and constantly to it –

A. We should consider ourselves also called to such things –

"Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.⁴⁴ "And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. (Mark 10:43-44 NKJ)

B. We should consider such a call worthy of all our time, energy, wealth and talents –

³ You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

⁴ No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. (2Ti 2:3-4 NKJ)

"I may not stay to play with shadows or pluck earthly flowers, until I my works have done and have rendered up account." Amy Carmichael

3. Note "Whom I uphold" implies God, the "LORD of Hosts" Puts all His power and resources behind the ONE and even ones who serve Him –

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.' (Isaiah 41:10 NKJ)

II. Behold Him as God's Choice / Elect One–

"Behold! ... My Elect One ... (Isaiah 42:1 NKJ)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6 NKJ)

"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 NKJ)

It is not politically correct to say Jesus is the ONLY WAY, but He IS, THE ONLY WAY! Who says Jesus is the ONE, and The only Way?

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 42:5 NKJ)**

III. Behold Him as the One in Whom God "Delights"

"Behold! My Servant ... in whom My soul delights! ... (Isaiah 42:1 NKJ)

Do you want to know what pleases God? Do you want to live more faithfully for Him? Look at / Behold Jesus –

¹⁶ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

¹⁷ And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Mat 3:16-17 NKJ)

1. Make sure you have (believe in) Jesus –

"The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.

"He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." (John 3:35-36 NKJ)

2. Make it your aim by God's grace to follow Jesus –

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." (John 8:12 NKJ) See also Philippians 2:5-15

IV. Behold Him as uniquely "Spirit-filled" –

"Behold! My Servant ... I have put My Spirit upon Him; ... (Isaiah 42:1 NKJ)

³⁴ "For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure. (John 3:34 NKJ)

The title "Christ" means "Anointed One"

V. Behold what He does:

1. Bring forth and establish justice –

A. To the Gentiles – “He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.” (Isa 42:1 NKJ)

B. For truth – “He will bring forth justice for truth.” (Isa 42:3 NKJ)

C. In the earth- “Till He has established justice in the earth” (Isa 42:4 NKJ)

- The “justice” emphasized here is not mere human “justice” which is often not “justice” at all, but God’s justice, ultimately a complete setting of EVERYTHING RIGHT!

“Injustice is more than political dysfunction. It is a spiritual evil, a denial of God...” Raymond Ortlund

We simply cannot even hope for justice without God and His Laws, and here we are told Jesus Christ and only Jesus Christ will truly “bring forth” “Justice” * to the Gentiles *for truth and *in the earth

2. He also as “a Light to the Gentiles”

“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, ⁷ To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house. (Isa 42:6-7 NKJ)

A. Opens blind eyes -

B. Sets prisoners free

VI. Behold what He does NOT do:

1. He will not cry out or raise His voice –

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

2. Break the bruised reed –

A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench; ... (Isaiah 42:3 NKJ)

3. He will not fail or be discouraged –

He will not fail nor be discouraged, Till He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands shall wait for His law.” (Isaiah 42:4 NKJ)

VII. Behold Him as One with the One True God and as outshining all worthless idols –

⁸ I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images. ⁹ Behold, the former things have come to pass, And new things I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them.” (Isa 42:8-9 NKJ)

“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (John 17:3 NKJ)

1. In the previous chapter, Isaiah 41, God challenged the idols to prove themselves, to do something, ANYTHING –

“Present your case,” says the LORD. “Bring forth your strong reasons,” says the King of Jacob. ²² “Let them bring forth and show us what will happen; Let them show the former things, what they were, That we may consider them, And know the latter end of them; Or declare to us things to come. ²³ Show the things that are to come hereafter, That we may know that you are gods; Yes, do good or do evil, That we may be dismayed and see it together. ²⁴ Indeed you are nothing, And your work is nothing; He who chooses you is an abomination. (Isaiah 41:21-24 NKJ)

2. When challenged no man / or idol was able to do anything –

For I looked, and there was no man; I looked among them, but there was no counselor, Who, when I asked of them, could answer a word. ²⁹ Indeed they are all worthless; Their works are nothing; Their molded images are wind and confusion. (Isaiah 41:28-29 NKJ)

3. Without Christ even we can do nothing –

“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (John 15:5 NKJ)

VIII. Give Him (God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit) the Praise He deserves -

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! 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. ¹² Let them give glory to the LORD, And declare His praise in the coastlands. 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. (Isaiah 42:10-13 NKJ)