

**ONLY GOD BRINGS FORTH WHAT HE FORETOLD!****Isaian 42:1-9 (vv. 8-9)**

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**I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND BIBLICAL CONTEXT**

From Genesis all the way to Revelation, the Bible is about the story of **God's relationship with His Children** *through* a **Covenant**: God **promises** to *manifest* all of **His Goodness** (a) Abundant Love, Grace, Mercy, Peace, Prosperity, Justice, Holiness and Righteousness upon His Children on the one hand (b) while He *demand*s, expects Faithfulness, Obedience, Fruitfulness and Purposefulness from them on the other hand. When we examine the Scripture, faithfulness and obedience to God trigger the *release* of **all of God's Blessings** to *benefit* and *empower* His Children. On the other hand, unfaithfulness and disobedience trigger **curses as consequences** due to the *breach of trust* under the **Covenant Relationship** (Read Deuteronomy 29 and 30).

**A. Historical Background**

We know that the God who is loving, gracious and merciful *initiated* His Plan of Salvation through Abrham and Sarah (Genesis 12) under a **Covenant Relationship** which worked its way through **Isaac**, **Jacob** and the **12 Tribes of Israel** who eventually became a nation under the leadership of Joshua and later on King David. Unfortunately, the history of God's people (the Israelites (OT) and now Christians) is *tainted with periods of unfaithfulness and disobedience* as a **consequence** of which they not only *suffered* physically, emotionally and spiritually, but also *lost* lands, wealth, status and reputations along the way! Aren't these things happening even now?

**B. Biblical Context**

After the Fall of Adam and Eve due to unfaithfulness and disobedience, the way of **Reconciliation** with God is *based on Redemption* *through* a **Mediator** within a Covenant Relationship of Faith and Obedience. **The Mediator** is of course **the Messiah** which has been **foretold** by God in Isaiah, for example, Isaiah 4:2-6; 7:13-25; 9:1-7; 11:1-16; 27:1-13; 42:1-9; 53:1-12; 61:1-11. We know that the God who created the Universe **knows, sees** and **controls** everything! Because God can foresee what is *yet to be/come*, He can therefore foretell *ahead of time* **the outcome** according to His Will/Plan. That is why He *sprinkled* Isaiah's prophecy with a **vision of hope** while the Israelites were *engulfed* in despair, hopelessness and disillusionment. God **foretold** the redemption, restoration, healing and empowerment *that is yet to come* through **the Mediator -- the Holy One of Israel, The Messiah!**

We need to keep in mind as we study Isaiah 42 today that we are receiving it with the knowledge that the Prophecies about **The Messiah** has already been fulfilled in Christ. We are receiving it in *hindsight*, the Rear-View-Mirror Perspective. *On the other hand, the Prophecies about The Holy One of Israel came to the Israelites as a **Message/Vision of Hope for their future**. During the time of Isaiah, the Israelites were receiving this glorious message of hope while they were suffering the consequences of their sins! At the time, they had lost territories, because **Samaria**, the capital city of Israel (northern kingdom), was already destroyed and the Israelites (the 10 Tribes) were also totally swallowed up by the Assyrian Kingdom (during Tiglath-Pileser III). *What a tragedy!* On the other hand, **Judah** (the southern kingdom), was *under siege* by the Assyrians (king Sennacherib) during King Hezekiah's reign. **The Remnants desperately needed to hear this Message/Vision of Hope!***

It was during this time of extreme distress, suffering and sorrow that God sent the Message of Hope through Isaiah about **The Mediator**, The Messiah, "the Servant of God." Aren't you glad that we believe in and serve the God who can **bring forth** what He **Foretold** in the past! Is there anybody glad that God **foretold** about the Mediator, the Redeemer, the Messiah through His prophets! Aren't you glad that our Redemption in the Messiah has been **foretold** by the God who created the Universe! Aren't you glad that God **foresaw** that you and I shall be in a **covenant relationship** with the Messiah, who died on the Cross to Redeem us by His Blood?

## II. THE LESSON: Only God Brings Forth what He Foretold!

### 1. v. 1. Only One among servants God Chose Qualified as The Messiah.

#### a) Chosen to become God's Servant.

Now God has "chosen" and raised up His "servants" in the past such as Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Deborah, Samuel, David, Solomon, and Hezekiah to mention the few faithful and obedient ones. However, none of them were without Sin. Even though all of them were "chosen" by God and were faithful and obedient "servants" of the LORD, each of them has failed in some ways. Even though God put **His Spirit** on each of the "servants" mentioned above, none of them were qualified to become The Messiah, The Mediator, The Lamb of God, The Redeemer, The Savior and Lord! Nobody but only The Messiah was sent from heaven and came from God! Jesus Christ is the Only One who could qualify as the Lamb of God because He was and is without Sin! Amen!

#### b) Chosen to Bring Justice to the Nations.

The *role and responsibility* are too **huge** in *scope* and too **heavy** to *execute* for people God's way! Let us consider "scope" and "execution" of justice to "nations."

- **Too Huge in Scope.** As the servant of God, to “bring justice to nations”, you must assume a lofty **position of influence** higher than the presidents, kings, leaders of nation who are *politically entrenched to maintain their power, prestige, wealth and influence related to their positions*. Obviously, there are too many national leaders who are not interested in overseeing, establishing or having a just government oriented towards *practicing and promoting justice* because it requires undoing/dismantling the systems of prejudice, inequality and privileges that favor the already rich and wealthy.
- **Too Heavy to Execute.** As the servant of God, one must have Supernatural Powers which *supersedes* the political, economic and financial powers of this world as well as “the rulers, authorities and spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:12).

“To bring justice to the nations” is *insurmountable* for any one of the “servants” God chose *except* for the One all the prophecies of the Old Testament pointed to – **The Messiah!** We know *only* Jesus Christ could **fulfill** all the requirements of The Law and the prophecies in the Old Testament. **Only Jesus Christ qualifies to “bring justice to nations.”** Only Jesus Christ has *the Power* “**to bring justice to the nations**” because “... God was pleased to have all His Fullness dwell in Him and through Him to *reconcile* to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through the Blood shed on the Cross” (Colossians 1:15-20).

## 2. **vv. 2-4. In Faithfulness He will bring forth Justice.**

### a) The Posture of **Humility** of the Servant of God

**Humility** is an essential quality of “the servant” of God. Anyone whom God chooses to serve Him must have **humility** as part of his/her *intrinsic/inherent character traits*. As faithful and obedient disciples of Christ, **humility** is one of the *divine characteristics* that is imputed to us when we gave our lives to Him. God wants us to get rid off **pride** because it will cause us to stumble and fall. *God’s Power is not transmitted through pride because He hates it!* **Prideful people are not capable of giving or promoting justice!** *Prideful and selfish people are arrogant!* **Justice and Righteousness go hand in hand.** *Prideful people are never humble, just or righteous!* *But the Holy One of Israel, The Messiah, humbled Himself in obedience to His Father and became The Lamb of God!* **Therefore, He Alone “will bring forth justice!”**

### b) The **Transformative** Power of God is Manifested in **Faithfulness**

**Faithfulness and Obedience** are the *hallmark* – **a distinct characteristic** of those who genuinely love God. They are the *fundamental qualities* of the believers that

*distinguish them* as the “servants” of the Almighty God! Indeed “servants” of God such as Moses, Joshua, Ruth, David, Esther, Apostle Paul, Barnabas, Priscilla & Aquila and so many others demonstrated faithfulness and obedience through the generations. *Indeed, they sought and promoted justice by faith.* Yet, only The Messiah had/has the divine qualifications to bring “justice to the nations” in **faithfulness** by being **humble**, even to death on the Cross!

### 3. v.5. The God who Created the Universe Ordained It!

In verse 5, Isaiah declared: “This is what God, the LORD says” as a *prefix* to circle back and remind them/us to what **He** has done in the Beginning. Reminding the people about the One who declares the prophecies is the God who formed the Earth, created Adam and Eve and breathed life into them! It is the same LORD “**who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it.**” The God who spoke the universe into existence is the One who is **foretelling** the coming of the Messiah. **The God who created the universe Ordained It!** Therefore, it came to pass!

### 4. vv. 6-7. God Called His Servant to be a Covenant for the People.

God *called* His “servant” in Righteousness to **bring forth** justice to nations *empowered* by His Spirit. In verse 6, God puts emphasis by pointing to Himself says, “**I, the LORD**, have called you in **righteousness.**” and

a) **Promised** saying, “**I**” will:

- “**take hold** of your hand;
- “**keep you** and **make you** to be a covenant for the **people**;
- **make you** “a light for the Gentiles.”

Understand the “covenant” mentioned here is “**The New Covenant**” *fully revealed in The Messiah* which is going to be the “**New Things**” that will include **the Gentiles** who profess Christ as their Savior by faith. Under “The New Covenant,” the “**New Things**” will **abolish** the Jewish priests, the Levites, and the various offerings the Law required since Jesus *fulfills* all the Law, Psalms and Prophecies of the Old Testament.

b) **Purpose** being to:

- “to **open** eyes that are blind;
- “to **free** captives from prison;
- “to **release** from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.”

These refer to both literal and spiritual sense. Since people can be Blind both *literally* as well as *spiritually*. In the same way, people can be *physically* in **prison** or *spiritually* **imprisoned** because of *the absence of God* in their lives. In addition,

people can live in **dungeons** *literally* (maximum prison, black sites, etc.) as well as spiritually if the Spirit of God doesn't live within them. The absence of God renders them vulnerable to becoming prisoners of Satan and live in darkness.

### 5. **vv. 8-9. God Foretold Former Things give way to New Things.**

The God who spoke the universe into existence said this in verse:

- a) "I am the LORD; that is My Name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols."

First, He *emphasized* His Name as the LORD. Even though God is known by many names, He chose **LORD** in this case because He is the Sovereign God of the universe. He alone owns and controls the universe! No one else but Him governs it! The earth is just a minute part of the universe! Therefore, all glory and praise belong to no one but Him, the LORD! That is why it is so grievous and unforgivable to praise and worship idols! When a person whom God created "in His own image" praises and worships idols, not only that person debases himself or herself, but also **dishonors** God, the LORD of the Universe! But God always has a way to right the wrongs! Woe to the unfaithful and disobedient person!

- b) See, the **former things** have taken place, and **new things** I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you."

When the Holy One of Israel – The Messiah, The Lamb of God, The Redeemer about whom The Law given to Moses and the Prophets of Isaiah pointed to is **revealed**, God said, **the former things** will have *passed away* because I am *declaring* "**New Things**" that must take place in my "Servant."

### III. CONCLUSION/APPLICATION

- **Continue to learn about the LORD and trust Him regardless of what is going on in this dying world.**
- **Also, praise and worship God, the Sovereign LORD of the Universe! Don't withhold your praise and worship while there is still breath in your mouth! Who are you saving it for?! Psalm 150 says, "Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!"**