

## The Song of the Faithful Servant

*Isaiah's Servant Songs*

Isaiah 49:1-13

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### Isaiah's Servant Songs

42:1-13 *The Elect Servant*

49:1-13 *The Faithful Servant*

50:4-11 *The Learned Servant*

52:13-53:12 *The Suffering Servant*

61:1-11 *The Joyful Servant*

### I. Not My Will but Thine Be Done (Mk 14:32-42)

### II. I will not give My glory to another (Is 42:8 cf. 48:1-11)

*God is jealous of His glory* and so challenges the idols to a contest: who can reveal the future? God alone!

<sup>5</sup>Even from the beginning I have declared it to you [Israel]; Before it came to pass I proclaimed it to you, Lest you should say, 'My idol has done them, And my carved image and my molded image Have commanded them.'

<sup>6</sup>"You have heard; See all this. And will you not declare it? [Acknowledge that I am the Living God?] I have made you hear new things from this time, Even hidden things, and you did not know them. <sup>7</sup>They are created now and not from the beginning; And before this day you have not heard them, Lest you should say, 'Of course I knew them.' <sup>8</sup>Surely you did not hear, Surely you did not know; Surely from long ago your ear was not opened. For I knew that you would deal very treacherously, And were called a transgressor from the womb.

<sup>9</sup>"For My name's sake I will defer My anger, And for My praise I will restrain it from you, So that I do not cut you off. <sup>10</sup>Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. <sup>11</sup>For My own sake, for My own sake, I will do it; For how should My name be profaned? And I will not give My glory to another.

### III. The Song of the Faithful Servant

Isaiah 49:1-13

<sup>1</sup>"Listen, O coastlands, to Me, And take heed, you peoples from afar! The LORD has called Me from the womb; From the matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name. <sup>2</sup>And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword; In the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me, And made Me a polished shaft; In His quiver He has hidden Me." <sup>3</sup>"And He said to me, 'You are My servant, O Israel, In whom I will be glorified.' <sup>4</sup>Then I said, 'I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and in vain; Yet surely my just reward is with the LORD, And my work with my God.' " <sup>5</sup>"And now the LORD says, Who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him, So that Israel is gathered to Him (For I shall be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, And My God shall be My strength), <sup>6</sup>Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.' "

<sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD, The Redeemer of Israel, their Holy One, To Him whom man despises, To Him whom the nation abhors, To the Servant of rulers: "Kings shall see and arise, Princes also shall worship, Because of the LORD who is faithful, The Holy One of Israel; And He has chosen You."

<sup>8</sup>Thus says the LORD: "In an acceptable time I have heard You, And in the day of salvation I have helped You; I will preserve You and give You As a covenant to the people, To restore the earth, To cause them to inherit the desolate heritages; <sup>9</sup>That You may say to the prisoners, 'Go forth,' To those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves.' "They shall feed along the roads, And their pastures shall be on all desolate heights. <sup>10</sup>They shall neither hunger nor thirst, Neither heat nor sun shall strike them; For He who has mercy on them will lead them, Even by the springs of water He will guide them. <sup>11</sup>I will make each of My mountains a road, And My highways shall be elevated. <sup>12</sup>Surely these shall come from afar; Look! Those from the north and the west, And these from the land of Sinim." <sup>13</sup>Sing, O heavens! Be joyful, O earth! And break out in singing, O mountains! For the LORD has comforted His people, And will have mercy on His afflicted.

#### A. The Servant's Call (vv. 1-2 cf. Dt 18:15; Jer 1:5)

The Servant summons the nations to listen to Him because He is God's \_\_\_\_\_. Like Jeremiah and Moses, He is Chosen by God to speak on God's behalf (cf. Dt 18:15).

#### B. The Servant's Purpose (vv. 3-6 cf. vv. 8-12)

##### 1. To bring glory to the Lord (3-4 cf. Jn 17:4)

The Servant is named \_\_\_\_\_ – He is the true *Israel* who would be all that Israel was supposed to be but failed. So what is His task? *To bring glory* to the Lord.

2. To save Israel and the nations (5-6)

How will He do this? By rescuing Israel and the nations from their blindness and idolatry and restoring them to the worship of the Living God.

3. To restore the earth (8-13 cf. Rom 8:18-25)

Through the Servant, God will *restore the earth*. He will save His people and reconcile them to Himself and the earth – the earth will cease its groaning.

C. The Servant's Reward (v. 7)

God promises His Servant that *kings and princes* would acknowledge Him as their Sovereign \_\_\_\_\_. Though He would initially be despised, eventually He would be honored and praised.

#### IV. The Call to be Faithful Servants

A. Worship the Lord (49:13; Rom 1:18-32; Rev 4:11; 14:6-7)

First, to be a faithful servant of God like unto our Lord Christ is to *worship the Lord*. As the 24 elders in Revelation sing, "*You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created*" (Rev 4:11). God is worthy of worship.

If we would see our culture transformed, then it must begin with *worship*. *Worship is the engine that powers moral and cultural transformation*. So we summon the nations to *worship the Lord*:

<sup>6</sup>*Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—<sup>7</sup>saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."* (Rev 14:6-7)

B. Honor His Christ (cf. Ps 2:10; Jn 5:25; 8:34; Tit 3:3; Rev 2:12-16)

Second, to be a faithful servant of God is to honor His Christ and listen to His voice. If we are to worship the Lord and be transformed, then Christ must save us from our bondage to sin and idolatry. We must listen to His voice: "*Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live*" (Jn 5:25).

But if we are to summon the nations to honor God's Christ and listen to Him, then this means that we Christians must model that. We must honor and listen to our Christ.

<sup>12</sup>*"And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword... <sup>14</sup>I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. <sup>15</sup>Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.*

C. Walk by Faith (49:4, 7; Heb 12:2)

Third, to be faithful servants of Yahweh is to walk by faith. Jesus was a man of great \_\_\_\_\_. Though tempted to doubt the efficacy of His labor (49:4a), He trusted the Lord (49:4b). He believed that after He suffered and was despised, He would be exalted (49:7).

#### V. Conclusion