

## *The Servant of the Lord - A Brief Introduction* *Isaiah 41-53*

Let's recall the key themes in Isaiah 40-48:

1. The Sovereignty of Yahweh
2. The Servant of Yahweh
3. The Salvation of Yahweh

All of these are symphonic, each manifesting the others.

“Servant Theology” was crucial to the way the Apostolic Church understood Christ and the mission he entrusted to them, taking the message of Gospel Salvation to the ends of the earth – “The coastlands wait for his word...”

In Christ two strands of Messianic Expectation meet – Son of Man and Servant of Yahweh. The former is founded primarily in Daniel 7:9-14, and the latter in the ‘Servant songs’ of this magnificent section of Isaiah’s prophecy. Christ calls himself the Son of Man, and yet also identifies himself as the one who has come to serve and give his life as a “ransom” for many: - Mark 10:43-45

How is that the divine and the human, the all-powerful might of the God-ordained ruler and the humility and suffering of the servant can reside in one and the same person? How can authority come to the zenith of its expression in the idea of sacrifice?

### **I. Israel as the Servant** – Isaiah 41:8-16

### **II. The Anointed Elect One as the Servant** – Isaiah 42:1-9, 18ff

- ? Remember, “Israel” begins as a single individual – Jacob.
  - A. The Spirit comes upon the Servant to bring about the mission to the Gentiles
  - B. The servant is given as a covenant for the peoples
  - C. The Servant is to be the Light of the World

### **III. The Blind Servant** – Isaiah 42:24 – 43:18

### **IV. The Elect servant Redeemed** – Isaiah 44:21-28

- ? We will return to this passage to look at “the shape of redemption.”
  - A. Redemption is accomplished for the elect one through the sovereignty of God – Isaiah 45:1-7, 14-17, 21-23; 46:8-11
  - B. “Anti” means not only “against” but also “in place of”

### **V. The World-Mission of the Servant** – Isaiah 49:1-7

- ? Mary’s Song in Luke 1.
  - A. Isaiah’s great theme of the inclusion of the Gentiles in Israel’s privileged Sonship.
  - B. Thus Isaiah plays such a central role in Paul’s theology of the Cross and Mission

## **VI. The Submission of the Servant**

A. A Man under authority – Isaiah 50:4-9

B. Thus Israel must obey the Servant (note the distinction in the two now)

? Matthew 8 - the Roman Centurian and Christ

## **VII. The Sacrificial Intercession of the Servant** – Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

? We will spend a day or two on this passage.

### Servant Theology –

1. Israel as the Servant of Yahweh

2. Christ as the Servant of Yahweh – taking to himself Israel's unique vocation and purpose.

3. The Church extending the work of the Servant of Yahweh through the Mission of the Gospel in all the nations, while noting Israel's judgment and salvation as well:

? Romans 9:21-24, 27-29, 33; 10:11-15, 20-21; 11:26-27; 15:7-12, 20-21

? Many other passages could be cited from the rest of the Pauline corpus – Tolle Lege!