

ISAIAH 42-43
Sunday, October 2, 2016

Ch. 42 – THE SERVANT OF THE LORD

I. The Purpose of the Servant (42:1-9)

II. Praise to God for His Servant's Work (42:10-13)

III. Promise of Deliverance (42:14-17)

A. Note: 42:14 – “I have held My peace a long time,
I have been still and restrained Myself.”

IV. Israel Missed the Spiritual Point (42:18-25)

A. Note: 42:24 – “Was it not the LORD, He against whom we have sinned?”

Ch. 43 – REDEMPTION FROM CAPTIVITY

I. Love in Spite of Israel's Unworthiness (43:1-7)

A. 43:1 – “I have called you by your name; You are Mine.”

B. 43:3 – “Egypt ... Ethiopia ... Seba” – Jackson: “The Persians were instrumental in effecting the release of Judah; and not without significance is the fact that Egypt and Ethiopia eventually (in the time of Cambyses, son of Cyrus) did become a Persian territory. The ransom of these pagan peoples as a token of Israel's deliverance was due to God's love for his covenant children” (69).

C. 43:7 – “For My glory”

II. Useful in Spite of Their Previous Blindness (43:8-13)

III. The Future is Bright (43:14-21)

IV. God's Mercy, Not Israel's Merit (43:22-28)

A. “The bright future promised Israel did not mean that the nation did not deserve her exile judgment nor that she would merit her coming deliverance. The new exodus was to be, not payment for services rendered, but pardon by the grace of the Sovereign Lord, as verse 25, the focal verse of the paragraph, insists” (Woods, 192).

B. Woods argues that the unacceptable worship here described is not directed against exile worship, but rather focuses on the pre-exilic worship already condemned in the book (cf. 1:10-15) – see Woods, 192).

Concluding Observations:

1. Christ came to establish God's justice, but He does not force anyone to submit.
2. Christ's work is praiseworthy.
3. God chooses to redeem His people – in spite of their flaws – because He loves us.