

Jesus, For Who He Is (Part 3) – Is 42:1-9

Is 42:1-9; This is Part 3 of a message I started several weeks ago, in order to see Jesus for who he is; Something we get glimpses of every now and then in the OT . . .
But rarely with this kind of clarity

The problem is, we don't often see it; We don't often see Jesus for who he is, and therefore fail to delight in him, b/c we tend to create him in our own image
In which case it behooves us, either as a corrective or a preventative, to pay close attention to passages like these, and see him for who he is (**Review**)
And I'd like to read it from the top, just to get the big picture again

God is speaking, and says . . .

[1] Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; [1b] I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. [2] He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; [3] a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. [4] He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.

[5] Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: [6] "I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, [7] to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

In Part 1 we discovered that . . .

Isaiah 42 is a **Servant Song**

A messianic prophecy about the coming Savior and Deliverer

And having seen the **indicators** that point in that direction (Stand-alone Pronouns; Worldwide Scope; Supernatural Deeds; Contextual Support; NT Fulfillment) . . .
The first thing we found is that . . .

Jesus is the apple of **God's eye** (v1)

The one he delights in; And second, that . . .

Jesus makes wrongs, **right** (v1b,3b,4)

Starting with the wrong of our heart, and ending with the wrong of this world

That was Part 1 (**Summary**)

Part 2, focused on the truth that . . .

Jesus is the **guarantee** of our salvation (v6-7)

Using words like *covenant/light* to describe him, and the release of *prisoners* to show it

And then we found that it wasn't . . .

• **Not of his own accord, but God's** (v6)

Instead of acting on his own, Jesus acted in concert with the Father – serving *him*

• **Perfect and holy** in every way (v6)

Making him *able* to save, and able to *guarantee* it; Third, he was . . .

• **Led and protected** by the Father himself (v6)

And 4th, he was . . .

• **Given to us as a covenant** (v6)

Speaking to Jesus, 700 years before he walked the earth, God said in v6b – *I will give you as a covenant for the people*

Which is no small thing, b/c we found that . . .

Covenants are a means of . . .

1. Establishing a relationship

A relationship of love, loyalty, and trust

2. Making a commitment

Which God has been doing since the beginning of time, to establish his kingdom

3. Defining responsibilities

Which for us means obeying, and worshipping, and loving him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength

4. Extending blessings

That's why Jesus is the guarantee of our salvation; B/c as our *covenant* . . .

We have a mutual *relationship* of love, loyalty, and trust with him . . .

He's *committed* himself to saving and keeping us . . .

He's enabled us to fulfill our *responsibilities* . . .

And he's extended *blessing* upon blessing; That was Part 2 (**Summary**)

➤ But that's not it regarding covenants; The next thing I want you to see, is that . . .

Covenants were made by giving a gift, making a sacrifice, or sharing a meal (Ex 24:4-13)

And sometimes all 3

Like when the 70 elders in Ex 24 ate a meal in the sight of God on Mt. Sinai

And the young men sacrificed peace offerings of bulls at the bottom

And God gave them gifts of stone tablets to preserve the conditions and promises of the covenant

3 ways in the Ancient Near East, of making or ratifying or cutting a covenant as it's sometimes said, between 2 parties

And I want you to see it for yourself; Ex 24:4-13

➤ Moses and the Israelites are in the Sinai Desert, at the base of Mt Sinai, and God tells them in Exodus 19 that . . .

He will keep his covenant with them to be their God and they his people (Ex 6), if they obey; And then goes on to lay out the conditions of the covenant in chapters 20-23

After which, in ch24, God calls Moses and the elders to the top of the mountain, to ratify it and seal it

[4b] He [Moses] rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel [a way to represent the people as a whole in worship]. [5] And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD [they made a sacrifice]. [6] And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins [containers], and half of the blood he threw against the altar [keep that in mind].

[7] Then he took the Book of the Covenant [the Law, the commitments and responsibilities of the covenant that had just been given in the previous chapters; cluing us in to the fact that this is a covenant ceremony] and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said,

“All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient [we will fulfill our responsibilities].” [8] And Moses took the blood [that remained in the basins] and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.” That’s the sacrifice part

Here’s the meal

[9] Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, [10] and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. [11] And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God [they looked on him], and ate and drank. IOW they shared a meal; A 2nd way of making a covenant

And then, in v12 . . .

[12] The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” That’s a gift; Something to mark the occasion
And the 3rd way to ratify a covenant in the Ancient Near East

All 3 of which are found right here; A meal was shared, gifts were given, and a sacrifice was made – a sacrifice of blood; With Moses sprinkling half on the altar . . .
And half on the people, as a special means of joining them in a relationship of love, loyalty, and trust

➤ And here’s the thing – he’s still doing it today; Only now it’s through Jesus
I will give you as a covenant for the people God said to him in Is 42 (v6)
You are the means of making a covenant with people; Something completely new
And they knew it; Jeremiah said so explicitly a hundred years later (Jer 31:31), and Hebrews chapter 8 confirms it’s for us

But little could the prophets have imagined, that God would bring it to fruition, through the gift, sacrifice, and meal of his Servant – all in one
But that’s exactly what he did; B/c first of all . . .

1. Jesus is our covenant gift (Rom 3:21-25)

And I want you to see this as well in your Bible – Rom 3:21-25

The Apostle Paul is writing here, and he just said that no one is justified, or declared righteous in God’s eyes, through works of the Law; By doing the right things

[21] But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law [apart from the Old Covenant], although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it [referring to] — [22] the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe [and we’re seeing it, right here in Is 42; found in covenant relationship with his servant; it’s for all who believe]. For there is no distinction: [23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24] and are justified [saved] by his grace as a gift, through the redemption [through the restoration, the salvation, the relationship] that is in Christ Jesus, [25] whom God put forward as a propitiation [a means of appeasing his wrath for our sin] by his blood [by his sacrifice on the cross], to be received by faith [belief].

IOW Jesus was given or put forward by God as the embodiment of his gift – his gift of grace; And he did so, to bring about our redemption, our salvation . . .

Through a New Covenant relationship with him

24 – [We] are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus; As opposed to the animal sacrifices and good works under the Old Covenant

And that gift of God’s grace embodied by Jesus, is received through faith, belief
Belief that it’s not only true, but that it’s for you
Which makes Jesus our *covenant gift*; God’s way of sealing the deal and establishing a relationship, once and for all
So what the tablets were under the Old Covenant, Jesus is under the New

But that’s not it; He’s also . . .

2. Jesus is our covenant sacrifice (Eph 5:2; Heb 10:12)

Something alluded to in Rom 3, but made explicit in **Eph 5:2** – Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
And **Heb 10:12** says – When Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God

Why? Why a sacrifice?*****

B/c in God’s justice, that’s what he requires to pay for sin – without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin (Heb 9:22)
And in his design, that’s what he uses to make a covenant; To form a bond
So what the oxen were under the Old Covenant, Jesus is under the New; Shedding his blood, and putting away our sin, by the sacrifice of himself – Heb 9:26

And then 3rd . . .

3. Jesus is our covenant meal (Mt 26:26-29)

The very thing we celebrate and observe every 5 or 6 weeks around here; The Lord’s Supper as Paul puts it (1 Cor 11:20)
Which is based on the last supper Jesus had with the 12 on the night he was betrayed

Saying in **Mt 26:26-28** as they were eating bread – “Take, eat; this is my body [it was a meal].” [27] And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, [28] for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

It wasn’t just a meal to observe the Passover or change its meaning; But a meal, to seal the deal; A meal to seal the *covenant* he was making; *This is my blood of the covenant* IOW I am the meal, to seal the deal
The very thing we remember and commemorate through the symbolism of the Lord’s Supper, the Lord’s meal, every time we eat it*****

➤ And check this out, we’re going to eat it with Jesus some day
When he defeats his enemies at the end of this age, and gathers his bride, the church, for the marriage supper of the Lamb – Rev 19:9
It’s a meal of all meals, to celebrate and seal the covenant we enjoy, once and for all

And Jesus alluded to it at the last supper; Saying in **Mt 26:29**

“I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine [referring to the cup he held] until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”
We do it now, and we’ll do it then; B/c Jesus was and is, our covenant meal*****

And our covenant sacrifice, and our covenant gift – all in one (**Summary**)
He did it all; Sealing the deal, drawing us close, and guaranteeing our salvation

And then last, back to Is 42:7, Jesus is the guarantee of our salvation . . .

- **Providing hope and guidance for all to follow (v7)**

Hope and guidance b/c that's what a light does; In v6b God says . . .

I will give you as a . . . light for the nations, [7] to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

That's hope and guidance; Just like a lighthouse provides hope for sailors in the midst of a dark night; Or a flashlight provides guidance along a dark path

Only in this case Jesus is the light of the *world*; Offering hope and guidance to *everyone*; And shining in our *hearts*

To give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God (2 Cor 4:6)

➤ The question is, are you *following*? Are you *walking* in the light as he is in the light?
That is, are you conducting your life according to *his* ways and *his* righteousness?

I hope so; B/c the Bible says in 1 John – *God is light* [he *is* righteousness, he *is* hope], *and in him is no darkness at all* [no unrighteousness, no sin]

[And] *if we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness* . . .

While we continue in sin, while we live with our girlfriend, while we indulge in pornography, while we perpetuate gossip, while we judge falsely . . .

If we say we have fellowship with him while we seethe in anger, while we lie on our taxes, while we fail to submit, while we fail to lead, while we fail to love . . .

While we fail to forgive, while we love to hate, while we hate to love . . .

If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth [the Bible says]. (1 Jn 1:5-6)

Heaping sin upon sin, and darkness upon darkness

And then wonder where God is when we stumble and fall; Or why the blessings of his covenant seem to elude us; Or the ways of this world get us down

Is that you? If so, listen (**Summary**)

Jesus is a light for the nations, yes; And a light for your soul, yes; And a light for your path, yes; But if you don't *follow* him, it's all for naught

If you don't *live* for him, it's all moot; If you don't *love* him, there's no covenant;

There's no relationship

Prayer – Lord, you've not only done something we couldn't, but you've given us tangible ways of remembering and commemorating it; Love so amazing; Thank you for being our covenant, and saving our souls

We give now of our tithes and offerings, as an expression of our worship and love