

The Life and Times of Isaiah

The Uniqueness of the Servant of the Lord, Isaiah 41-53

The Four "Servant Songs" Scholars commonly identify four poetic sections as the "Servant Songs" (or "Songs of the Servant of the Lord"), where the figure is described in detail:

Isaiah 42:1–9 Gentle servant bringing justice to the nations.

Isaiah 49:1–13 Servant called from the womb, mission to restore Israel and be a light to the Gentiles.

Isaiah 50:4–11 Obedient servant who suffers but trusts God.

Isaiah 52:13–53:12 The exalted yet suffering servant who bears sins and makes many righteous.

Isaiah 42:10 Sing to the Lord a new song, sing His praise from the end of the earth! You who go down to the sea, and all that is in it. You islands, and those who dwell on them.

A Call to Praise and the Lord's Victorious Action (vv. 10–16)

Isaiah 42:11 Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voices, the settlements where Kedar inhabits. Let the inhabitants of Sela sing aloud, let them shout for joy from the tops of the mountains.

Isaiah 42:12-13 Let them give glory to the Lord and declare His praise in the coastlands. The Lord will go forth like a warrior, He will arouse His zeal like a man of war. He will utter a shout, yes, He will raise a war cry. He will prevail against His enemies.

Isaiah 42:14 "I have kept silent for a long time, I have kept still and restrained Myself. Now like a woman in labor I will groan, I will both gasp and pant.

Isaiah 42:15 "I will lay waste the mountains and hills and wither all their vegetation; I will make the rivers into coastlands and dry up the ponds."

Isaiah 42:16 "I will lead the blind by a way they do not know, in paths they do not know I will guide them. I will make darkness into light before them and rugged places into plains. These are the things I will do, and I will not leave them undone."

Israel's Spiritual Blindness and Deafness (vv. 17–25)

Isaiah 42:17-18 They will be turned back and be utterly put to shame, who trust in idols, who say to molten images, "You are our gods." Hear, you deaf! And look, you blind, that you may see.

Isaiah 42:19 Who is blind but My servant, or so deaf as My messenger whom I send? Who is so blind as he that is at peace with Me, or so blind as the servant of the Lord?

Isaiah 42:20-21 You have seen many things, but you do not observe them; Your ears are open, but none hears. The Lord was pleased for His righteousness' sake to make the law great and glorious.

Isaiah 42:22 But this is a people plundered and despoiled; All of them are trapped in caves, or are hidden away in prisons; They have become a prey with none to deliver them, and a spoil, with none to say, "Give them back!"

Isaiah 42:23-24 Who among you will give ear to this? Who will give heed and listen hereafter? Who gave Jacob up for spoil, and Israel to plunderers? Was it not the Lord, against whom we have sinned, and in whose ways they were not willing to walk, and whose law they did not obey?

Isaiah 42:25 So He poured out on him the heat of His anger and the fierceness of battle; And it set him aflame all around, yet he did not recognize it; And it burned him, but he paid no attention.