

## Overview of Lesson on Isaiah 42

Excerpted from Isaiah by the Day by Alec Motyer

### Is 41:21 - 42:17

Everything that speaks of Jesus delights the heart. He identified himself as the 'Servant of the Lord' whom Isaiah foretold. He is the perfect Servant of the Lord, the revelation of truth and light for the whole world, the answer to our hopelessness, darkness and bondage. But, because he is the *poject* Servant, he is also the model Servant, the true pattern for all who, through him, are the Lord's servants today. Very well then — first, the Lord's servants are the Lord's delight (42a). On the one hand, this is our ambition and target (Col. 1a0), but on the other hand it is the truth about us, for once we belong to Jesus we are the Father's delight, 'accepted in the Beloved' (Eph. 1:6). Secondly, the servant is first and foremost the servant of the Word of God. Do remember that this is what 'judgment' (mgv, etc., 'justice') means in 42:1, 3- 4: the decisions he has made, the things he has declared to be true (in brief, what he has revealed to his people, what we possess as the Word of God). The servant's task is to bring this Word of truth to those bereft of the truth (41:28-29, 42:1), making sure that it is God's Word in all its truth (42:3) that is being shared, not some merely human opinion, church tradition or personal whim and fancy. Thirdly, the servant of the Lord does not give up on the job, but perseveres till the truth is fully established (42:4). Like Paul said (2 Corinthian<sup>s</sup>, 4:1): because we have received mercy we have received ministry, and we must not 'lose heart' (Nicrv), that is, leave the work half done, abandon the task, go soft like a decaying apple. How true all this is of the Father's delight - in his fidelity to the Word of God, carrying the job through until he could shout – 'It is finished'! Every servant covets to be made like the Son of God in everything.

### Questions – Isaiah 42:1-25

1. In contrast to futile humanly-constructed idols (41:21-29), list the characteristics of the servant in **42:1-4**.
2. Read **Matthew 12:15-21**. In what ways does Jesus fulfill each aspect of Isaiah's prophecy for the servant?
3. Beyond Judah or Israel, God's plan includes a shining "light for the nations" (42:6). Trace the ever-expanding circle of praise by listing all the places in **42:10-12** where God is to be praised.
4. How is God described in **42:13-17** and what is His multi-pronged mission here?
5. In what ways did the people of Israel fail to live up to the Lord's calling for them and what was the result of their failure (**42:18-25**)?