

Theme: The prophets spoke of the Messiah who would come to restore the hope of God's people.

I. Intro – Advent Series - Christmas Carols

- A. Excited to be celebrating Advent again
- B. This has become one of my favorite times of the year!
- C. This year - Christmas Carols
- D. Carols are a major part of this season - for all
- E. These carols are based on themes in Scripture
- F. We will look at these themes - many from Biblical poetry
- G. Today - the prophets song of hope

II. The Servant Song of Isaiah

- A. Isaiah's prophetic book - 3 major sections
 - 1. The early prophecy - chapters 1-35
 - 2. The historical hinge - chapters 36-39
 - 3. The prophecy to the future exiles - chapters 40-66
 - a. Our text is in final section - spoken to exiles
 - b. These people were living in darkness & despair
 - c. All hope seemed to be lost - or is it?
 - d. Our text speaks of the "servant" (Isaiah 42:1)
Here is my **servant**, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. Isaiah 42:1
- B. The "Servant Songs" of Isaiah

- 1. Texts in Isaiah 40-66 speaking of servant of Yahweh
 - 2. "servant" occurs 5x in chapters 1-39; 22x in 40-66
 - 3. Who is the servant of Yahweh?
 - a. Cyrus, king of Persia [Isaiah 41:1-2; 45:1-4]
 - b. Israel - God's people (Isaiah 41:8-9)
But you, **O Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen**, you descendants of Abraham my friend, 9 I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, '**You are my servant**'; I **have chosen you** and have not rejected you. Isaiah 41:8-9
 - 1. Israel is the servant here, the chosen one
 - 2. But in Isaiah 53, Servant dies for Israel
 - 3. Someone beyond Israel is the true Servant
 - c. Jesus - the Anointed One/Messiah/Christ - True Servant
 - 1. He is the only one who can restore Israel to God
 - 2. He is the True Israel, the True Servant
- C. The Servant of Yahweh in Isaiah 42:1-4 - Jesus
 - 1. The NT tells us it is Jesus
¹⁸ "Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. ¹⁹ He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets. ²⁰ A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory. ²¹ In his name the nations will put their hope." Matthew 12:18-21
 - 2. Work of Servant here can only be done by Jesus
 - 3. I taught on this before - see website for this text

III. The Servant & His Work

A. The Servant - He serves Yahweh

Here is **my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him** and he will bring justice to the nations. Isaiah 42:1

1. "MY servant"; I uphold; MY chosen one; I delight; MY Spirit
2. This is Servant of Yahweh - He does Yahweh's work

B. The Servant's Work

1. The focus of the servant's work - justice

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring **justice** to the nations. ² He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. ³ A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth **justice**; ⁴ he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes **justice** on earth. In his **law** the islands will put their hope." Isaiah 42:1-4

- a. His work is referred to as justice three times
- b. It also references his law - basis of justice
- c. This Servant comes to bring justice - right wrongs
- d. This Servant will see justice done - evil punished
- e. This Servant will see justice done - right prevails
- f. If we know ourselves this might not produce hope!

2. The manner of the Servant's work - gentleness

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he

will bring justice to the nations. ² **He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets.** ³ **A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.** In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; ⁴ **he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth.** In his law the islands will put their hope." Isaiah 42:1-4

- a. He establishes real justice - gently
 - b. The Servant does not break bruised reeds
 - c. The servant does not extinguish flickering flames
 - d. He treats us with great gentleness
 - e. This takes great time, but He is not discouraged
 - f. Thanks be to God Jesus is gentle with us
 - g. But justice will be established - all will be corrected
- ##### 3. The outcome of the Servants work - hope
- Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. ² He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. ³ A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; ⁴ he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. **In his law the islands will put their hope.** Isaiah 42:1-4
- a. In his law/Torah/instruction the islands put their hope
 - b. His instruction brings true justice - with gentleness
 - c. Though all seems dark - He brings the light of hope to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness. Isaiah 42:7

- d. The Servant's work restores hope for us!
- 4. The scope of the Servant's work - the whole world
he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes
justice on earth. In his law the **islands** will put their hope."
Isaiah 42:4
 - a. Islands - translated by LXX as 'Gentiles'
 - b. This is major point in passage
**I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant
for the people and a light for the Gentiles,** Isaiah
42:6
 - c. The Servant comes for Israel - and us!
 - d. God's mercy is thrown open for pagan Gentiles!
 - e. This is a basis for hope!

IV. Applying the Word

A. The prophet's song of hope resonates through our carols

1. O Come O Come Emmanuel
O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory over the grave.

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.

2. O Little Town of Bethlehem
O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent
stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee
tonight.
3. We have sung this song of hope for years - sing it
again this year!

B. Receive the hope of Christ today

1. He has come to bring hope to us
2. You may feel exiled from God - so was Israel
3. Your sins may have separated you from God - He
restores us gently
4. You may feel like a bruised reed, flickering flame -
He will not put you out
5. Reject Consumer Christmas - it can not fill the void
or set you free
6. Embrace the Advent of Hope! Christ has come!

The Prophet's Song of Hope

Isaiah 42:1-4
December 1, 2013
Prayer and Water Baptism
Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. ² He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. ³ A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; ⁴ he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his law the islands will put their hope. Isaiah 42:1–4