



ISAIAH: THE MESSAGE OF HOPE

Lesson 6 - A Prophetic Song: God is Love!

John L. Kachelman, Jr

Dalraida Church of Christ, Montgomery, AL

INTRODUCTION

The simple concept of “God is love!” is usually learned in Bible class as young children.

1. We read of stories in the Bible where God has reached out and helped men and women because He loves them.
2. We consider the blessings God gives freely to all people—even those who do not obey Him or keep his commandments.
3. Even though this fact is simple, it offers a marvelous security to the childish heart. This fact provides unspeakable comfort to a troubled heart. Regardless of what one does, the love of God remains a constant force in life.
4. The amazing love that God holds in His heart for His creation is an epic narrative.
 - a. 📖 The love of God spans the entire biblical narrative and can be considered as a theme of the inspired Book.
 - b. The love of God announces the far-reaching limits that divine affection will go to in order to offer rest and comfort to a struggling soul (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”).
5. We live in an unloving world. We are bullied and battered by unloving people. We are abused, betrayed, deserted, cheated, and suffer continual injustice.
 - a. This world seeks to persuade man that it can offer him everything he needs for happiness, but the world cruelly deprives him of the most basic essential for happiness—sincere love.
 - b. A simple message is proclaimed to those who are shattered by this world’s cruelties: “You are loved by the Almighty God! It does not matter how corrupt you are or how broken you have become or how crushed your spirit has become. You are loved by God regardless of your present situation!”
 - d. There is no better description of this simple message than the brief expression that it is “good news.”

1 Timothy 1:12-17, “I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus. It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life. Now to



the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”

☞ The story of man's redemption is the story of *God's love in action*.

1. The consequence of redemption's story is love being perfectly performed.

a. One has looked at the love of God and asked three questions that are answered with the sweet term of “love.”

1) “Who made you?” It was love that God the Father possessed.

2) “Who saved you?” It was love that the God the Son perfected.

3) “Who sanctifies you?” It is love that God the Holy Spirit performs.

b. The “Apostle of love” observed, “We love because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19).

2. The hymn proclaims, “Come let us all unite to sing, ‘God is love!’”

a. In the joyous praise of this hymn the worshiper calls attention to the theme of the prophecy of Isaiah.

b. Throughout Isaiah's message the marvelous love of God is proclaimed.

c. Isaiah's message reveals that the love of God provided the scheme for the coming Christ, the redemption and restoration of the lost.

d. ☞ A quick reading of the prophecy highlights these passages that mention God's wonderful love:

Isaiah 14:1, “When the Lord will have compassion on Jacob and again choose Israel, and settle them in their own land, then strangers will join them and attach themselves to the house of Jacob.”

Isaiah 30:18, “Therefore the Lord longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; how blessed are all those who long for Him.”

Isaiah 38:14-20, “Like a swallow, like a crane, so I twitter; I moan like a dove; my eyes look wistfully to the heights; O Lord, I am oppressed, be my security...O restore me to health and let me live...It is You who has kept my soul from the pit of nothingness, for You have cast all my sins behind Your back...It is the living who give thanks to You, as I do today; a father tells his sons about Your faithfulness...The Lord will surely save me.”

Isaiah 41:10-17, “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand...all those who are angered at you will be shamed and dishonored; those who contend with you will be as nothing and will perish....Those who war with you will be as nothing



and non-existent...For I am the Lord your God, who upholds your right hand, Who says to you, 'Do not fear, I will help you'...declares the Lord, "and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel...As the God of Israel I will not forsake them."

Isaiah 43:1-7, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior...you are precious in My sight...you are honored and I love you...Bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth, everyone who is called by My name, and whom I have created for My glory."

Isaiah 49:13, "Shout for joy, O heavens! And rejoice, O earth! Break forth into joyful shouting, O mountains! For the Lord has comforted His people and will have compassion on His afflicted."

Isaiah 63:7, "I shall make mention of the lovingkindnesses of the Lord, the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord has granted us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which He has granted them according to His compassion and according to the abundance of His lovingkindnesses."

THE SERVANT'S SONGS

Four passages in Isaiah are identified as "the Servant's songs" (42:1-9; 49:1-13; 50:4-11; 52:13-53:12).

1. Each song presents an aspect of the Servant's person and work.
 - a. The First Song presents the gentleness and worldwide mission of the Servant (42:1-9).
 - b. The Second Song presents the comfort that the Servant's mission and successes bring (49:1-13).
 - c. The Third Song describes the perfection of the Servant (50:4-11).
 - d. The Fourth Song prophesies the suffering and ultimate exaltation of the Servant (52:13-53:12).
2. These four passages unite to frame significant concepts about the coming Messiah.
 - a. These "songs" present prophetic revelations that provides comfort to those struggling in a world of sin.
 - b. These songs announce facts regarding Christ's Person, Kingdom, and blessings.
3. These songs will be examined in three lessons.
 - a. These unite to present a message of encouragement to those whose hope is not present in their heart.
 - b. Look carefully at the first "Servant's Song" and discover how it reveals God's wonderful love.



c. The assurance of God's love revives hope in the hearts of those troubled by this world.

GOD'S LOVE PERFECTS WHAT MAN CANNOT PERCEIVE!

The first song emphasizes the Servant's gentle nature and proclaims that God's mercy and grace extends to the entire world.

Hope is offered by the proclamation that the Almighty God of heaven and earth offers what struggling mankind needs most.

The prophet describes the coming Servant as One providing the critical deliverance that mankind cannot provide for himself.

Read the first song and observed how the four points of the song describe how the wonderful love of the Almighty God has been demonstrated to man. ☞ A summary of this lesson's four points.

I. ☞ ***THE DIVINE LOVE IS EXPRESSED BY THE SERVANT (42:1-4).***

A. Isaiah uses the term "Behold!" and emphasizes the urgency of the announcement.

1. This section describes the coming Servant in terms that stress grace, mercy, reconciliation, and covenant blessings.
2. Added to the emphatic "Behold!" is the phrase "My Servant."
3. This is a special introduction of the One who would demonstrate the love of the Almighty God to the entire creation. Look closely at the passage and observe how the love of God is demonstrated through His Servant.

B. ☞ ***First, it is demonstrated by a unique Person.***

1. The fact that God calls the Servant "My Servant" and "My chosen" indicates that such is One of great status sent to help mankind.
2. This Servant is distinctive. It is important to understand the impact of the term "delight" (verse 1).
 - a. This is the same term describing God's response to sacrifices properly offered to Him.
 - b. It expresses that the work of the Servant was something that the Lord God Almighty really wanted and was very pleased when it was done (Matthew 3:17; 17:5). "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."
 - 1) This term expresses the deep desire of the Almighty God for man to be redeemed from sin and restored to fellowship:

Ezekiel 18:23-27, "Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked," declares the Lord God, rather than that he should turn from his ways and live? But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity and does



according to all the abominations that a wicked man does, will he live? All his righteous deeds which he has done will not be remembered for his treachery which he has committed and his sin which he has committed; for them he will die...Again, when a wicked man turns away from his wickedness which he has committed and practices justice and righteousness, he will save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all his transgressions which he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die.”

2 Peter 3:9, “The Lord is...patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”

2) This word (“delight”) teaches that God is concerned about matters of salvation, the Church, and service.

3. ☞ Look at the distinctive traits of this “Servant”:

- He belongs to God.
- He is addressed with honor.
- He is commissioned to do a job that no one else could do.
- He is the “delight” of God.
- He is endued with the Spirit of God (Isaiah 61:1).
- He establishes a standard by which judgment will be meted.
- This establishes the bold statement of Acts 4:12.

C. ☞ *Second, it is detailed by a unique service.*

The uniqueness of the coming Servant is explained by what the Servant will do in His ministry.

The activities of the Servant provide comfort for those who are wearied with the trials and traumas of earthly existence.

In the “job description” of this Servant one is able to see the marvelous love of God.

Look closely at each of these points and see how Isaiah’s words offer comfort to those who struggle.

1. The Servant’s work will be performed by gentleness (Isaiah 42:2).

a. The worldly conqueror loudly boasts his deeds and uses sensationalism to impress others, but the Servant will not act that way.

b. The Servant will not force His will upon others (Revelation 3:20).



- 1) He will not cry out when offended nor enter into heated debates with opponents.
 - 2) The Servant speaks with calm words and accomplish His teaching by quiet instruction.
 - 3) Isaiah states that the Servant's behavior will be in remarkable contrast and easily observed (Matthew 7:28-29; John 8:32; 2 Corinthians 5:11).
2. The Servant's work will bring blessings and relief (Isaiah 42:3).
- a. The metaphors of the "bruised reed" and the "smoking flax" refer to weakness and oppression.
 - b. Those who are weakened and bruised by the traumas of earthly living cannot withstand much more.
 - c. Those in this condition are so broken in strength that a total collapse is a real possibility.
 - 1) Such will confess, "I just do not know how much more I can take!"
 - 2) Like the "bruised reed" they are broken and weak. The "smoking flax" also indicates tragedy.
 - 3) All hope appears gone and inner-life is almost extinguished.
 - d. The Servant offers those in this weakened condition relief and strength.
 - 1) Those struggling with the weaknesses from worldly oppression find strength in the guarantee that the Servant will bring "justice."
 - 2) It is this relief that the widow sought in Luke 18:3.
3. The Servant's work will not be hindered (Isaiah 42:4).
- a. Although difficulties will confront him, the Servant will be successful.
 - b. God gives absolute assurance that the Servant's tasks will be successful.
 - 1) This Servant will establish "justice" as the governing principle and this principle offers God's followers great hope.
 - 2) This justice will be executed by the "law" of the Servant.
 - 3) This "law" refers to the doctrine that the Servant provides.
4. Those who struggle on earth can find comfort because they know if one follows the doctrine of Christ then justice will be granted to them.

They may face difficulties that will dishearten and almost crush them, but they must remember that the Servant has succeeded and His law is the ruling principle.



II. 🕊️ **THE DIVINE LOVE IS GUARANTEED BY THE ALMIGHTY GOD** (Isaiah 42:5-6).

The marvelous love of God is explained by Isaiah with terms communicating tender concern.

God commissions Christ to come to earth and perform the services that the Servant needed to do but God was very concerned that the tasks would be accomplished.

Look at how Isaiah describes what God did to guarantee the success of the Servant's tasks.

A. 🕊️ **God's majestic power guarantees the task** (Isaiah 42:5).

1. Here are terms expressing the fact that the Lord God is the Almighty God.
2. The One who seeks the redemption and restoration of erring man is the very One who created everything.
3. The fact that the majestic power of creation supports the efforts of the Servant offers an undeniable success.
4. The Servant will be successful in His mission.

B. 🕊️ **God's intrinsic nature guarantees the task** (Isaiah 42:6a, 7).

1. The pronoun "I" is emphatic.
2. God assures that the Servant will succeed because the divine "Name" is involved.
3. The integrity of the "Name" is never doubted.
4. The Servant will succeed because His mission is assured by the integrity of God's Name.

C. 🕊️ **God's spotless righteousness guarantees the task** (Isaiah 42:6b).

1. The Servant will be successful because His mission is a "righteous" mission.
 - a. "Righteousness" refers to a standard.
 - b. God acts according to the standard of righteousness.
 - c. The mission of the Servant was "right." The mission of the Servant was "just."
2. God always acts with righteousness.
 - a. The Servant's mission focuses on righteousness and those who "consent and obey" will be the objects of the divine pleasure but those who "refuse and rebel" will perish (Isaiah 1:18-19).
 - b. This provides great comfort to those who do "right."
 - c. Regardless of the trials of life, if you are doing "right" you will be blessed.



D. 🕊️ ***God's tender care guarantees the task*** (Isaiah 42:6c).

1. The phrase, "I will hold you by the hand and watch over you," reveals God's passion toward those following His will.
2. When the crushing traumas of life sought to weaken and hinder the Lord's mission, God's sustaining care was there to protect.
3. God's tender care is offered to Christians today.
4. How wonderful is the comfort that assures our troubled hearts when we "*hold to God's unchanging hand.*"
5. The tenderness of God constantly watches over our paths.

E. 🕊️ ***God's eternal purpose guarantees the task*** (Isaiah 42:6d).

1. God has "appointed" and no one can change that plan (Isaiah 43:13).
2. The entire purpose of the mission of the Servant is to establish a "covenant" between man and God.
3. This covenant was designed to be world-wide (universally offered).
 - a. It is the covenant that was made with Abraham.
 - b. Anyone in the world can become a member of this covenant if there is a willingness to obey God's commands (Galatians 3:26-29).

III. 🕊️ ***THE DIVINE LOVE IS EXPLAINED BY DIVINE METAPHORS*** (Isaiah 42:7).

The purpose of the Servant's mission is explained by two metaphors in verse 7.

A. 🕊️ ***First***, the Servant will provide sight to those who are blind.

1. Blindness is the result of sin.
2. The Servant will answer the sin problem and thus restore sight.
3. The Lord came announcing He was the "light of the world" (John 8:12).
4. The Apostle Paul was told that his ministry to the Gentiles would fulfill this task of the Servants (Acts 26:17,18).

B. 🕊️ ***Second***, the Servant would provide freedom to those who were captives.

1. Sin's darkness is described as a dungeon where souls are imprisoned.
2. The Servant's mission will cause the captives to "be brought out" of captivity.



3. Freedom is available to all who are willing to obey the Servant (2 Timothy 2:23-26).

IV. 🕊️ **THE DIVINE LOVE IS ASSURED BY THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD** (Isaiah 42:8-9).

A. God's sovereignty is absolute.

1. No god is able to contest the Almighty's rule.
2. What God has planned and announced will occur because there is no other being powerful enough to prevent God from accomplishing His purposes.
3. There is no one but God.
4. If God promises that the planned blessings will become a reality then the blessings will become a reality.

B. Even though the Servant's mission will be performed in calmness and quietness, there will be conflict.

1. However severe the conflict becomes there is no way that God's plans will fail.
2. The Almighty God is an intolerant God!
3. God does not want His commands to be obeyed in just any way.

C. God has given specific commands and He expects specific responses.

1. The obedience, service, and worship expected by God must not be given to any other or performed with casual attitudes.
2. Divine 🕊️ love expects a divine exclusiveness because it is a jealous love.

🕊️ GOD'S LOVE PROVIDES WHAT MAN CANNOT PRODUCE!

The Servant of God is commissioned by the Almighty to bring erring man what is desperately needed:

- 🕊️ **Justice** (Isaiah 42:1, 3, 4, "Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations. "A bruised reed He will not break and a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice. "He will not be disheartened or crushed until He has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law.")
- 🕊️ **Light** (Isaiah 42:6, 7, 16, "I am the Lord, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, and I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the nations, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon and those who dwell in darkness from the prison. "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").



- 🕊️ **Truth** (Isaiah 42:4, “He will not be disheartened or crushed until He has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law.”)
- 🕊️ **Freedom** (Isaiah 42:7, “To open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon and those who dwell in darkness from the prison).

🕊️ GOD'S LOVE PERFORMS WHAT MAN CANNOT PROVIDE!

The Servant is commissioned by the Almighty to act in ways that will bring salvation to those who are lost in sin.

1. 🕊️ He will act with justice so all are treated equally (Isaiah 42:1, “He will bring forth justice to the nations).

Acts 10:34, “I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.”

2. 🕊️ He will not bind impossible burdens (Isaiah 42:3-4).

Matthew 11:28-30, “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light”; in contrast are the false religions in Matthew 23:4, “They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men’s shoulders, but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger.”

John 16:12. “Things you cannot bear now.”

Acts 15:10, “why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?”

3. 🕊️ He will speak in genuineness (Isaiah 42:3)

Matthew 7:28-29, “When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.”

4. 🕊️ He will perform His task with determination (Isaiah 42:4).

Isaiah 50:7, “The Lord God helps Me...I am not disgraced...I have set My face like flint.” (Luke 9:51)

5. 🕊️ He will establish God’s Law on earth (Isaiah 42:4,6)

Matthew 26:27-28, “(T)his is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.”

6. 🕊️ He will establish a universal reign and thus Jew and Gentile will be united in the covenant (Isaiah 42:4, 6).

Galatians 3:26-29, “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who



were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise."

CONCLUSION

1 John 3:1, "See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are."

The divine love is...

- EXPRESSED by the Servant (42:1-4).
- GUARANTEED by the Almighty God (42:5-6).
- EXPLAINED by divine metaphors (42:7).
- ASSURED by the sovereignty of God (42:8-9)