

Deutero-Isaiah
Chapters 41-42
July 2023

Learning objectives

- Outline: Deutero-Isaiah 41 & 42
- Identify: 'my servant'
- Interpret: the message
- Apply: to Jesus
- Apply: to us

Chapter 41 Structure

- A 1-7 Summons to a legal trial.
 - B 8-13 Boost Israel's moral.
 - C 14-16 More encouragement.
 - B' 17-20 Immanent reversal of fortune.
- A' 21-29 Back to the trial.
 - 25-29 It was Yahweh who raised up Cyrus, not Bel (= Ba'al = Marduk) did not.

First court scene (42:1)

Who brought Cyrus from the east? (2-4)

- What kind of salvation?
- Where was 'the east'?

Who could not do so? (7)

- Who resides in the idol?

'I will help you' (14-16)

A reversal of fortunes (17-20)

Back to the trial... (21-24)

Back to Cyrus... (25)

- The north: The Persians attacked Babylon from the north.
- Call on my name: "Thus says Cyrus ...: Yahweh ... has given me all the kingdoms of the earth. Ezra 1:2



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In Cyrus' own words

"I returned the (images of) the gods to the sacred centers [on the other side of] the Tigris whose sanctuaries had been abandoned for a long time, and I let them dwell in eternal abodes. I gathered all their inhabitants and returned (to them) their dwellings." Cyrus Cylinder



In Ezra's words

"Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'Whoever there is among you of all His people, may his God be with him! Let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah and rebuild the house of [Yahweh], the God of Israel; He is the God who is in Jerusalem.'" Ezra 1:1-4

The court's verdict (26-29)

Chapter 42 Structure

- 1-9 First 'Servant Song'.
- 10-13 Ode to Yahweh.
- 14-17 Yahweh's outburst.
- 18-22 Israel, a useless servant.
- 23-25 Yahweh himself judged Israel.

Yahweh's righteous servant (1-7)

Views on who is the servant

- Collectively: Israel, part of Israel, or 'the elect' in Israel.
- Individually: Moses, Hezekiah, Uzziah, Jehoiachin, Jeremiah, Zerubbabel, the prophet himself, an anonymous individual, or a messianic figure.
- Ultimately: 'his/your holy servant Jesus', Acts 3:13, 26; 4:25, 27, 30

Servant songs in 2 Isaiah

1. 42:1-4
 2. 49:1-4
 3. 50:4-9
 4. 52:13-53:12
- Distinguished from 'my servants', the Israelite faithful.
 - Cyrus is never called 'servant', but 'anointed' (messiah) in 45:1.

Deutero-Isaiah

Matthew 12:16-21

16 [Jesus] warned them that they should not reveal his identity, 17 in order that what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah would be fulfilled, who said, 18 “Behold my servant whom I have chosen... I will put my Spirit on him... 21 In his name the Gentiles will hope.” [Per the Greek LXX]

Former things ... new things (8-9)

Ode to Yahweh (10-13)

Yahweh’s reply (14-16)

Yahweh’s warning (17)

Israel, a useless servant (18-22)

Yahweh himself punished Israel (24-25)

2 Isaiah 42	
Hebrew Masoretic Text	Greek Septuagint Text
<p>¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.</p> <p>² He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street;</p> <p>³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.</p> <p>⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching.</p>	<p>¹ Iakob is my servant; I will lay hold of him; Israel is my chosen; my soul has accepted him; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth judgment to the nations.</p> <p>² He will not cry out or send forth his voice, nor will his voice be heard outside;</p> <p>³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoking wick he will not quench, but he will bring forth judgment for truth.</p> <p>⁴ He will blaze up and not be overwhelmed until he has established judgment on the earth, and nations will hope in his name.</p>