

# THE RESPONSE TO THE MESSIAH

## ISAIAH 42: 10–17

### ***Introduction: (Isaiah 42: 1–25)***

If there has ever been a day when people needed help, encouragement, rescuing, it is today. People are sinking ever deeper in the sand under the weight of heavy burdens, constant and brazen temptations, unimaginable evil and a growing insensitivity and indifference to it all. In addition, a host of personal problems are overwhelming people's spirits today, problems such as...

- dissatisfaction, purposelessness, emptiness
- tension, pressure and anxiety
- insufficient income, financial difficulty, bankruptcy
- unemployment, loss of job, lack of skills
- a sense of discouragement, failure, inadequacy

People's need for help is the reason for the present Scripture. God knows our desperate need, and with deep compassion He has stepped forward to meet it. This He did by sending His Servant, the Messiah, into the world. Through His very own Servant, the Lord Jesus Christ, God gives us the power to endure and conquer the hardships that threaten to crush us. He meets all the needs of the human heart, which He created to love and have fellowship with Him. This passage is the first of four "Servant Songs" in the book of *Isaiah* (49:1-13; 50:1-11; 52:12-53:12). This is, *Set Free Through God's Perfect Servant, the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ (the First of Four Servant Songs)*, Isaiah 42:1-25.

- I. The promise to send the Messiah (vv. 1-4).
- II. The mission of the Messiah (vv. 5-9).
- III. The response to the Messiah (vv. 10-17).
- IV. The summons to believe God's promise (vv. 18-25).

### ***Introduction: (Isaiah 42: 10–17)***

God foresaw the various responses to the Saviour, His Servant. In truth, every human being should praise God for sending the Messiah into the world on such a great mission. No greater gift could have been given to the world. Through the Messiah, all human beings can be saved, become acceptable to God, and have a personal relationship with the LORD. Furthermore, they can have all the darkness of sin, guilt and death erased from their hearts. For these reasons, all people should respond to God's gift of the Messiah by lifting up their voices in resounding praise to the Lord. Note the responses that God foresaw.

#### ***I. Isaiah 42:10–12 God's Challenge to All Believers***

God saw that some people's response would be positive. They would accept and believe in His Servant. Of these people God demanded praise (vv. 10-12). Because of His great

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gift to the world in the person of the Messiah, God expected everyone to worship Him in song and praise.

=> the sailors and islanders

=> the people who live in the desert and its towns

=> the few people living in the villages of Kedar or the desert wilderness of Arabia

=> the many people in the city of Sela, the capital of Edom

All the people were to shout from the mountaintops, singing for joy because God had made the most glorious and sacrificial contribution possible to the world. He sent His only Son, His perfect Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, into the world to save men and to set them free. Thus, everyone should glorify the Lord and praise His name to the farthest islands, the ends of the world.

## **II. *Isaiah 42:13–15 God’s Warning to His Enemies***

The LORD knew that His enemies would not respond favourably to the Messiah. He knew that they would reject Christ and remain His enemies (vv. 13-15). Consequently, the LORD foretold that He would march forth like a mighty conqueror against them and triumph over them. Filled with righteous anger due to the rejection of His Servant, God would shout out the battle cry and take vengeance against them. No longer would He keep silent or be patient as He had been, hoping they would repent and praise Him for sending the Messiah. Due to their continued defiance, the day for judgment would come, just as the day comes for a woman to give birth. Like a woman in labour, God would groan, pant and gasp as He gave birth to a new era, the period of judgment on earth. All the enemies’ land and vegetation would be destroyed. Their rivers and water resources would dry up — all because they rejected the Messiah and refused to praise the Lord for sending His Servant into the world.

## **III. *Isaiah 42:16 God’s Promise to the Spiritually Blind***

God also foresaw the response of people who confessed that they were blind (v. 16). The blind would have no difficulty confessing their darkness and need for God’s Servant. Therefore, God promised to lead and guide them. He promised to turn their darkness into light and to remove all obstacles in their path as they walked through life day by day. God also promised to never forsake those who confessed their spiritual blindness and their desperate need for the Messiah.

*Luke 1:78-79* “Because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun [Christ] will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

*Luke 12:8-9* “I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God. But he who disowns me before men will be disowned before the angels of God.”

**John 16:13** *“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”*

**Acts 26:18** *‘To open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’*

**Rom 10:9** *That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

**2 Cor 4:6** *For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*

**Eph 1:18** *I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.*

**Eph 5:8-11** *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light. For the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth. And find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.*

**1 Pet 2:9** *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

**1 John 4:15** *If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God.*

**Psa 25:9** *He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.*

**Psa 48:14** *For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end.*

**Psa 73:24** *You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.*

#### **IV. Isaiah 42:17 God’s Indictment Against the Idolaters**

God also foresaw the response of idolaters (v. 17). Although many would refuse to worship God’s Servant, they would still choose to worship idols and false gods. Despite the fact that God had demonstrated His love by sending His Servant into the world, they would deliberately choose to place their trust in the false gods conceived in their own imaginations. As a result, God declared that He would turn them away from His presence in utter shame. He would reject and condemn them. And they would be utterly embarrassed by their idolatry, ashamed for having worshipped trivial material possessions made by their own hands.

**1 Cor 6:9-10** *Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor*

*male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.*

**Eph 5:3-6** *But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person such a man is an idolater has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.*

**1 Jn 5:21** *Dear children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.*

**Exo 20:3-5** *"You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me."*

**Deu 11:16** *Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them.*

**Psa 81:9** *You shall have no foreign god among you; you shall not worship any god other than me.*

**Isa 42:8** *"I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols." ■*