

The Book of Isaiah

**Salt & Light Institute
Winter 2010**

**Week 9: You Are My Servant, Pt 2
Isaiah 48-55**

The Vision of Isaiah 40-47

We left Isaiah 39 learning that...

“Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the LORD. And some of your own sons, who will come from you, whom you will father, shall be taken away, and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.” (39.6-7)

The Vision of Isaiah 40-47

- Why do they need comfort?
 - They have been exiled for some 60-70 years
 - The end of exile would be accomplished through crushing international conflict (41.2-3)
- What comfort would come?
 - Yhwh's comfort is for their good (40.9-11)
 - Yhwh has not forsaken them, but is their help and strength (41.8-10)

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The Vision of Isaiah 40-47

What was Yhwh's plan?

- Isaiah 44.24-28
 - Jerusalem would be inhabited (26)
 - The cities of Judah would be rebuilt (26)
 - The people would return in a new Exodus (27)
 - Cyrus would cause this to happen (28)
 - The foundation of the Temple would be laid (28)
- Ezra 1.1-4
 - The Edict of Cyrus, explicitly allowing Isaiah's prophecy to come true

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The Vision of Isaiah 40-47

For what greater purpose does Yhwh raise up Cyrus?

- Isaiah 45.1-7
 - For Cyrus (3)
 - For Israel (4)
 - For the nations (5-6)
- That all would know that He is Yhwh, and that there is no other (45.6)

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Important Themes in 40-55 (so far)

- Yhwh establishing his sovereignty
 - 40.26-28
 - 41.21-27
- The exile caused by Israel's hardness (42.18-25)
- Yhwh has not given up on his servant, Israel
 - The exile will end (40.1-3)
 - He will lead them in a new Exodus (43.1-7, 16-21; 44.1-5)
- A new Exodus will be lead by a new Moses, the Servant

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The Servant Songs

- Isaiah 42.1-9
 - The Spirit of Yhwh would be upon the servant
 - He will bring justice to the nations
 - He will bring his *torah* to the coastlands (nations)
 - He will be a covenant and light to the nations
 - He will open the eyes of the blind and free prisoners
- Three more this week
 - Isaiah 49.1-7
 - Isaiah 50.1-11
 - Isaiah 52.13-53.12

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Isaiah 42 and the Davidic Ruler

- The Spirit of Yhwh (42.1; 11.2)
- Bringing justice (42.1-4; 9.7; 11.4, 5; 32.1)
- Will be peaceful (42.2; 9.6-7)
- A light to those in darkness (42.6-7, 12; 9.2)
- Brings about the new things (42.9; 9.1)
- Rejoicing over his work (42.10-12; 9.3)

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Servant Song #2 --- Isaiah 49.1-7

- Many think we hear two servants here, some only one
- Two servants
 - Servant Israel speaks in 1-4
 - The Servant speaks in 5-7
- One servant
 - In 1-4 the Servant becomes a new Israel, and will take on Israel's initial responsibilities (5.1-7)

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Isaiah 50

- Israel is the disobedient son of a divorced woman
- Verses 4-9 speak about the Servant
- Verses 10-11 seem to say that Israel has rejected the ministry of the Servant

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Isaiah 51-52

- Yhwh would set up a new Zion (1-3)
- The ministry of the “arm” seems to be the ministry of the Servant (4-6)
- Commands to “Awake” (51.7, 17; 52.1)
 - The Arm (7-16)
 - Jerusalem (17ff)
 - Zion (52.1-6)
- 52.7-10 further detail ministry of Arm
- 52.11-12 Call Israel to prepare (Leave, leave!)

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Isaiah 52.13-53.12

- The Servant has a three-fold mission
 - Humiliation
 - Sprinkling
 - Exaltation
- The salvation of Israel (and the world) would be the work of God’s Servant

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Isaiah 54-55

- Isaiah 54
 - The outcome of 53 is rejoicing and singing!
 - Yhwh would never again cast off Israel and the nations
 - He would create a new covenant of peace with them (54.10)
- Isaiah 55
 - An open invitation for all nations to come and worship under the Davidic covenant

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The Emerging Vision

- Quote from Stephen Dempster in his book *Dominion and Dynasty* (181)

“A Davidic ruler will emerge from the stump of a judged and devastated Israel. This individual is a faithful Israel. His mission leads to suffering that will restore the tribes of Israel and be a light to the nations. The effect of his mission is to provide salvation and justice to the ends of the earth through a sin-bearing sacrifice. Through his sacrifice, the Spirit is poured out upon the people and a covenant like the Davidic covenant is made with them as he extends to them ‘the sure mercies of David’. The Davidic ruler will then assume his kingly role. How this will happen is not spelled out in the text.”

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The Emerging Vision

- The Accomplishments and Afflictions of the Servant (Isa 53)
- An Open Invitation for all nations to a relationship with Yhwh through the work of the Servant (Isa 55)
- A Careful linking of the Davidic Ruler (7, 9, 11, 32) with the Servant (42, 49, 50, 53)
- A Curious Linking of the Servant and Yhwh

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