

Introduction: In some ways the world wide pandemic has contributed to an increased awareness of injustice built into all human institutions because all people are in some way broken and flawed. History has shown over and over that when people are left to their own devices, sooner or later, people make a mess of things. It seems that entropy, the principle that inanimate creation is tending to increasing chaos, may also apply to living human beings. *** Are people destined to always succumb to their flaws? Praise God, NO! *** The eternal spirit God, Creator of everything, visited this planet two thousand years ago. He was born to a woman who had ‘not known a man’ (that is her baby boy was conceived in her by God’s Holy Spirit). As an adult He spoke of God with authority and performed various miracles of healing. When jealous religious authorities sought to kill Him, He allowed them to do so, in His time and in His way. Then He rose from the dead on the third day, taught His followers for forty days, and returned to The Throne of the universe. From there, He poured out His Spirit upon and into His followers. *** Through the free gift of faith in Him all people may now surrender themselves body and soul to Him, by admitting and confessing their brokenness and flaws to Him, in order to be forgiven and empowered to be changed by Him. *** The first advent (or coming) of Jesus gives all who know Him hope, peace and joy from walking in His light and obeying Him in faith as they wait for His second advent (or coming). The Isaiah passage about The Covenant God Yahweh’s chosen servant can give joy and hope to many people in these troubled times. *** Let’s now see what Isaiah said, and how Jesus applied it to Himself.

I. Yahweh speaks of His chosen servant bringing justice to all, and as a light to nations setting people free to sing a new song of joy to Him. (Isaiah 42:1-11)

A. Yahweh delights in His chosen servant bringing justice to all waiting in hope, having called him in righteousness to be a light to nations so people see and are free from darkness. (Verses 1-7)

1. Behold! My servant whom I will uphold, My chosen in whom My soul has delighted, I have put My Spirit upon him, he will bring forth justice to the nations. (Verse 1)

Servant: This, the first of four songs in Isaiah about ‘The (Messianic) Servant of Yahweh’, describes bringing of light and justice to all (42:1-9). The second describes the restoration of his captive people (49:1-13). The third describes his voluntarily suffering because Adonai Yahweh helped him so those fearing Yahweh may trust in him (50:4-11). The fourth describes him as a wise ruler willing to suffer to heal, save and justify many (52:13-53:12).

Delight: Yahweh delights in His chosen servant.

Spirit: Yahweh has put His (Holy) Spirit on His chosen servant.

Justice: Yahweh’s chosen servant will bring justice, a righteous world order rooted in and according to God’s character, to the nations.

God delights to bring justice to people

2. He will not cry out or make his voice heard in the street, nor break what is bruised or extinguish what is going out. (Verses 2-3b)

Not cry out: He will not call attention to himself as he heals what is broken and gives light in darkness.

3. He will bring forth justice into truth, he will not be crushed until he sets justice in the earth; and, the shores shall hope in his instruction. (Verses 3c-4)

Wait in hope: Because of his commitment to justice, people in all the habitable lands will hope in his (law of) instruction (Torah).

4. Thus says God Yahweh, creator of everything, who gives breath and spirit to people walking on earth: (Verse 5)

Creator: What follows is from The Covenant God who created the earth and everything.

Breath: And, He has given breath to those walking on earth.

5. I (am) Yahweh and have called My servant in righteousness and given him a covenant to people and a light to nations. (Verse 6)

Righteousness: The Messiah comes in Yahweh God’s righteousness.

Covenant: He has been given to be a (new) covenant to (all) people.

Light: He comes to bring light to (all) nations.

Jesus came to bring light to all people

6. In order to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon – those sitting in darkness from a house of confinement. (Verses 7)

See: First, the messianic servant was given so the blind would see.

Free: Second, he would also free prisoners in darkness of confinement in a dungeon.

B. The only glorious Yahweh, creator of all and giver of life, declares new things before they spring forth; and, He commands all people to sing a new song, shouting for joy. (Verses 8-11)

1. I (am) Yahweh, that (is) My Name; I will not give My glory to another, My praise to graven images. (Verse 8)

Glory: All glory is IN The Covenant God. He will not give it to any creature, or to anything humans may create. In other words all worship should only go to The One totally glorious God.

2. Behold! The first things have come, and I am declaring new things to you all, before they will spring up I will proclaim (them to) you all. (Verse 9)

New springing forth: Yahweh is now addressing all people and declaring new things which He will proclaim to people before they spring up (under His sovereign control).

3. Yahweh commands multitudes to sing a new praise song to Him from the extremities of the earth: Those going down to the sea and all in it, the shores and those dwelling there; the wilderness and its cities will lift up (the new praise song), villages inhabiting Kedar. (*Verses 10-11b*)

Praise covers the world: This new praise song to Yahweh will be sung in every corner of land and sea.

Darkness: It will even be lifted up in the wilderness cities and villages in Kedar (which means darkness).

This will be because the servant (Jesus) chosen by Yahweh has brought light to all people.

Jesus came to bring light to all people

4. The inhabitants of Sela (a stronghold cliff rock in Edom) will sing for joy, they will shout from the top of the mountains. (*Verses 11c-d*)

Joy: This is amazing. Even the enemies of God's people will be singing for joy at the coming of Yahweh's chosen servant – The Messiah-Savior.

II. Jesus heals multitudes and charges them to not expose Him, fulfilling Isaiah's word: Yahweh's chosen servant will proclaim justice to victory and nations will hope in Him. (*Matthew 12:15-21*)

- A. As Jesus withdraws from the Pharisees after another Sabbath healing, He heals multitudes and charges them to not expose Him, fulfilling what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet. (*Verses 15-17*)

1. But Jesus, having known, withdrew from there. (*Verse 15a*)

Awareness: Jesus had just done another Sabbath-day healing (*Matthew 12:9-14*) and the leaders of the Pharisees are infuriated at Him. They have made a plot to kill Him, and it is now known to Jesus,

2. And large crowds followed Him and He healed them all. (*Verse 15b*)

ALL healed: We don't know the number or size of these crowds, or how many needed healing. But it is amazing Jesus healed all who needed healing.

3. And He charged them that they would not make Him manifest. (*Verse 16*)

NOT make manifest: He requests that they not bring out into the open what He has been doing. He does not want publicity because many do not understand who He is or what He is doing.

4. Let it be fulfilled what was said through Isaiah the prophet. (*Verse 17*)

To fulfill Isaiah: He will now quote the Greek language translation of the beginning of the passage we just examined. Notice also what Jesus says about prophecy: God speaks His word through the prophet.

- B. Yahweh's chosen, beloved and well-pleasing servant will proclaim justice to the nations, staying out of the public spotlight, until he sends out justice to victory and nations hope in His Name. (*Verses 18-21*)

1. Behold! My servant whom I have chosen; My beloved in whom My soul is pleased. (*Verses 18a-b*)

Chosen servant: The Greek translation leaves out the phrase about the servant being upheld.

Beloved and pleasing: Yahweh's servant is both beloved by Him, and His soul is well-pleased in him.

2. I will put My (Holy) Spirit upon him and he will proclaim justice to the nations. (*Verses 18c-d*)

God's Spirit: Again, God will place His (Holy) Spirit on His chosen and beloved servant.

Will proclaim justice: And the servant of Yahweh God will proclaim justice to people of the nations.

God delights to bring justice to people

3. He will not strive, nor will he cry out, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. (*Verse 19*)

Not cry publicly: He will not draw attention to himself in public places.

4. He will not break a reed having been bruised, nor will he extinguish flax fibers made into linen that have been made to smolder, until he sends justice out to victory. (*Verse 20*)

Send out justice to victory: After showing concern for what is bruised and burning, He gives victory to justice so all people get what is fair according to God.

5. And in his name the nations will hope. (*Verse 21*)

Nations hope: We now know His name is The Savior-King (Messiah). And all people of all nations who have humbly received him in obedient faith are having hope in his justice which Zephaniah said He brings to light every morning (*Zephaniah 3:5*).

Jesus came to bring light to all people

Joy and hope between advents: And it is possible for all to have joy in what Jesus did in His first advent to have hope while waiting for His second advent. Because of all the turmoil in our world we all need hope.

Bottom Line: May we give God glory because IN Jesus His chosen servant, He has brought light to all, setting them free so they can sing new songs of joy to Him because of His new works of justice for all people. However, justice will not be fully realized until the second coming (advent) of Jesus.

Conclusion: Yahweh speaks of His delight in His chosen servant bringing justice to all as a light to nations, setting people free to sing new songs of joy to Him over the new things He will do. Jesus heals multitudes and tells them He is the one Isaiah said would be Yahweh's beloved and well-pleasing servant, who came to send out justice to victory and the nations will hope in His Name.

Jesus came to bring light to all people