

## ISAIAH 42

### *Yahweh's Servant Will Establish Justice*

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1 Behold my Servant (עֶבְדִּי), whom I uphold, my Chosen One (בְּחִירִי), in whom my soul delights.<sup>1</sup> I have put my Spirit upon him.<sup>2</sup> He will bring forth justice (מִשְׁפָּט) to the nations. 2 He will not cry aloud, lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street. 3 A bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench.<sup>3</sup> He will faithfully bring forth justice (מִשְׁפָּט). 4 He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice (מִשְׁפָּט) in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law (תּוֹרָה).

5 Thus says God, Yahweh, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it:

6 I am Yahweh. I have called (קרא) you (אַתָּה, masc. sing.) in righteousness (צְדִיקָה). I will take you by the hand and keep you. I will give you as a covenant (בְּרִית) for the people, a light for the nations, 7 to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. 8 I am Yahweh. That is my name (שֵׁם). My glory I give to no other nor my praise to carved idols. 9 Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare. Before they spring forth I tell you of them.<sup>4</sup>

#### *Yahweh Stirs Up His Zeal*

10 Sing to Yahweh a new song, his praise from the end of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants.<sup>5</sup> 11 Let the desert and its cities lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar inhabits. Let the habitants of Sela sing for joy, let them shout from the top of the mountains. 12 Let them give glory to Yahweh and declare his praise in the coastlands. 13 Yahweh goes out like a mighty man. Like a man of war he stirs up his zeal.<sup>6</sup> He cries out. He shouts aloud. He shows himself mighty against his foes.

14 For a long time I have held my peace. I have kept still and restrained myself. Now I will cry out like a woman in labor. I will gasp and pant. 15 I will lay waste mountains and hills and dry up all their vegetation. I will turn the rivers into islands and dry up the pools. 16 And

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<sup>1</sup> Mt 3:17 17 Behold, a voice from heaven said, This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

<sup>2</sup> Mt 3:16 16 When Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him.

<sup>3</sup> He will be very different from other ancient Near Eastern rulers.

<sup>4</sup> This contrasts with the idols of Is 41, who have no such power.

<sup>5</sup> This describes New Zealand!

<sup>6</sup> See *The Zeal of God*.

I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know. In paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them.

17 They are turned back and utterly put to shame who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images,

You are our gods.

### *Israel's Deafness and Blindness*

18 Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! 19 Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of Yahweh? 20 He sees many things but does not observe them. His ears are open but he does not hear. 21 Yahweh was pleased for his righteousness' sake to magnify his law and make it glorious. 22 But this is a people plundered and looted. They are all of them trapped in holes and hidden in prisons. They have become plunder with none to rescue, spoil with none to say,

Restore!

23 Who among you will give ear to this, will attend and listen for the time to come? 24 Who gave up Jacob to the looter and Israel to the plunderers? Was it not Yahweh, against whom we have sinned, in whose ways they would not walk, and whose law they would not obey? 25 So he poured on him the heat of his anger and the might of battle. It set him on fire all around, but he did not understand. It burned him up, but he did not take it to heart.

*Notes*