

## Unit II: God Promises a Just Kingdom

# Seeking a Champion of Justice

DEVOTIONAL READING: Psalm 98

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 42

PRINT PASSAGE: Isaiah 42:1-9

**Key Verse**— Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. (Isaiah 42:1, KJV)

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“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations.” (Isaiah 42:1, NIV)

### Lesson Aims

As a result of experiencing this lesson, you should be able to do these things:

- Explore the concept of “Messiah.”
- Sense the wonder of Jesus’ role as servant to the nations.
- Emulate Jesus as a servant of God who executes justice.

### \*Key Terms

**Light (verse 6)**—Hebrew: *or* (**ore**): bright; clear; illumination.

**Servant (verse 1)**—Hebrew: *Ebed* (**eh’-bed**): slave.

\*(Word Study Supplement—Refer to page 2)

### Life Happens

In the nonprofit space, Jillian runs across many who are doing powerful work in the name of justice. Jillian met with an organization that teaches elementary schoolchildren how to play soccer. In soccer, one learns endurance, persistence, competition, and teamwork. While the students were learning the foundational skills of soccer, the executive director noticed that the students struggled with reading. So, she instituted read-alouds but soon realized that they were not enough.

Therefore, Jillian guided this organization to a nonprofit that upcycles children’s books and gives books to children for free. She also contacted a summer reading program about building a solid reading curriculum.

The executive director is so appreciative. She knows that her idea is a long shot, but she is



## Overview

The book of Isaiah is a prophetic book concerned with the theological truths of redemption and salvation. Throughout this book, Isaiah prophesies about a coming Messiah, new things, warnings of correction, and judgment for justice in Israel and throughout the earth. Isaiah, a preacher of righteousness, was a true believer and an optimistic prophet who rebuked evildoers and denounced the unjust.

Isaiah prophesied in the eighth century BC. He preached on hope and the coming of Israel's Savior. The coming Messiah, who will be the Lord of Lords and King of Kings, would come to win over the unjust and defeat the wicked for Israel and the whole world. It would not be an easy task, but God would equip the Chosen Servant with humility and meekness, with a determined Spirit to fulfill the promise to His people. God used Isaiah to prophesy to His people concerning what was to come hundreds of years later. God used Isaiah the prophet to validate His word and works so that it will not be seen as just another random event when it occurs.

**judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.**

## NIV

**“HERE IS my *servant*, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations.**

**2 “He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets.**

**3 “A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;**

**4 “he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope.”**

In this passage, God described His chosen one, Jesus Christ, and His purpose for coming to this world. God wants us to recognize Jesus as Lord and Savior, the Light in darkness, the Lord of

willing to try something for the sake of the children she serves. Jillian recognizes this executive director and her organization as a champion for justice.

## Questions

1. What person(s) or organization(s) do you recognize as a champion(s) for justice? Why have you selected him/her or the organization?
2. Describe in your own words what it means to be a champion of justice.
3. In what ways can you provide more support, individually or collectively, to a nonprofit dedicated to championing causes for justice?

## COMMENTARY ON THE BIBLICAL TEXT

### The Chosen Servant (*Isaiah 42:1-4*)

#### KJV

**BEHOLD MY *servant*, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.**


**2 He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street.**

**3 A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth.**

**4 He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set**

Lords and King of Kings. The servant He has chosen will be made in His own image, perfect in all ways, filled with His Spirit. Paul describes the Chosen One as being made in the fashion of a servant brought to the cross. Jesus would come as a champion to defeat the unjust and bring justice to the nations (**verse 1**). He is not just another servant but “The” Servant of God.

The Chosen Servant is going to be humble and meek as He brings justice and peace to all the earth in preaching God’s Word. Jesus will come as a soft-spoken servant and will not be loud or cry out when they mistreat Him (**verse 2**). A bruised reed He will not break (**verse 3a**); this is a reference to the gentleness that will be evidenced in the ministry of the Chosen Servant. God’s servant will not cast aside those who may feel useless (**verse 3b**). There will be a sensitivity exhibited by the Servant. The Servant will be faithful to God and will bring justice to an unjust world (**verse 3c**). Jesus will neither give up nor be dismayed while here on earth. The Servant will teach about hope and salvation and the importance of living a just life under God’s covenant. He will complete His task as servant and savior to us (**verse 4**). Just as God chose our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to do His will here on earth, God has also chosen us as Christians to spread His Word to help bring the lost to Him. Nevertheless, we are to emulate Jesus as a servant of God who executes justice through love and faithfulness. We are to be humble as well as strong in the Lord in order to carry out God’s plan for our lives.

 **What Do You Think?** As a church, we study and worship our servant and savior, Jesus Christ. What more can we do to teach others about the Chosen Servant of God?

## The Servant’s Promises (*Isaiah 42:5-7*)

### KJV

5 Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:

6 I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a *light* of the Gentiles;

7 To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

### NIV

5 This is what God the LORD says—the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it:


6 “I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a *light* for the Gentiles,

7 “to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.”

In these verses, God reminds us of who He is: the Creator of the heavens and earth and everything in it. He is the one who gives life here on earth as well as our eternal life with Him in heaven (**verse**

5). He reminds us that we must walk in justice and do what is right. The Chosen Servant will be called righteous. God made a promise to lead and guide Him through the deliverance of the people by crucifixion for our sins and resurrection as the Light of the world. God will enter into a covenant with His people through the blood of Jesus, who is the Suffering Servant (**verse 6**). The Chosen Servant's task is to minister to the wicked people of Israel and the sinful world. He is to minister with compassion from the hand of God and be a light to open the eyes of the blind (**verse 7a**). The Chosen Servant's mission and promise is to free the ones who are bound in sin. He is the only one who can bring deliverance. Sin is powerful. It binds a person and blinds that person as though he or she is in a dark dungeon until he or she is released by the hands of our Messiah, the Servant, and God's Holy Spirit (**verse 7b**).

The Servant of God is our Savior; He is a champion ready to defeat the wicked and eliminate injustice so there is only room for the righteous. God has promised us that He will defend us and defeat the enemy for His name's sake. If we only have faith and trust Him to bring just treatment to all of humanity, then God will keep His promise through His Chosen Servant, Jesus Christ.

 **What Do You Think?** As believers, we have already accepted Jesus as our Savior. When we experience injustice, what can we do to make sure we are not blaming God for the incident?

## My Name Is Lord (Isaiah 42:8-9)

### KJV

**8 I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.**

**9 Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.**

### NIV

**8 "I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols.**

**9 "See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you."**

In **verse 8**, God used Isaiah to prophesy to the people of Israel, letting them know that God is Lord and there shall be no other God before Him. He is Yahweh, and there is none other than He, the true God. It was the name which He had chosen to distinguish Himself from all idols. Psalm 96:5 reads, "For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens." In addition, God said that if they did not stop praising and worshipping false gods, then He would destroy them all. God was stern and meant what He said. He was not going to give His glory and praise to a false god. It was time for them to repent and put away all those wooden statues and golden calves that they were idolizing. The things that were tolerated before could be no more. It was time for new things, and Isaiah promised that all this would come to fruition in God's own timing, which was approximately seven hundred years later. Isaiah was preaching by the Spirit of God about things and events pertaining to the future, relative to the coming Messiah and to the nation as a whole (**verse 9**).

Isaiah looked forward to the time of the fullness of God’s grace—as His power will forever be with us. Christ (the Chosen Servant) would be champion of the Israelites and champion of the universe when He died on the Cross and would be raised three days later. The Israelites were seeking a Savior to save them, and their champion is named Jesus Christ, our Lord. Jesus was not just their champion, but He is our champion as well. He is Lord and Savior of all who trust Him. He suffered on the Cross at Calvary, making the ultimate sacrifice to deliver His people from sin through His death.

**?** **What Do You Think?** **As God’s servants, we must do our best on a daily basis to emulate Jesus. Why would it be good for pastors and church members to emulate Jesus’ gentleness with brokenhearted sinners?**

## Your Life

We must do our best to exercise righteousness and justice in our own lives privately and publicly, which is pleasing to God. In practicing this, we will receive divine blessings that God has just for us as His faithful servants.

## Your World!

In this world, it may seem as though evil times will never end. We have to stay faithful and trust that Jesus is our champion, since He has already paid the ultimate price for all of us to win.

**🙏** **Closing Prayer** Loving God, we thank You for sending Your Son, our Lord and Savior, to die on the Cross at Calvary for our sins. We want to thank You even more that He arose on the third day. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

## Home Daily Bible Readings

<b>MONDAY</b> , April 6	“Women Find Jesus’ Tomb Empty”	(Mark 16:1-8)
<b>TUESDAY</b> , April 7	“Saul Meets Jesus on the Damascus Road”	(Acts 9:1-9)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> , April 8	“The Free Gift of Grace and Hope”	(Romans 5:12-17)
<b>THURSDAY</b> , April 9	“The Dead in Christ Will Rise”	(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
<b>FRIDAY</b> , April 10	“All Things Are under God’s Control”	(1 Corinthians 15:24-28)
<b>SATURDAY</b> , April 11	“Victory through Our Lord, Jesus Christ”	(1 Corinthians 15:50-58)
<b>SUNDAY</b> , April 12	“All Are Made Alive in Christ”	(1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-14, 20-23, 42-45)