

The Servant of the Lord ~ Part 1

Yesha'yahu 42:1-9.

In my last post, we concluded our exploration of **The Helper of Isra'el ~ Part 2** in **Yesha'yahu 41:16-29**. In this post, we begin to examine **The Servant of the Lord ~ Part 1** in **Yesha'yahu 42:1-9**.

Several songs in the latter half of **Yesha'yahu** focus on the **Servant of the Lord** (see also 50:4-6; 52:13-53:12). The identity of the **Servant** is much debated, and most modern commentaries give full lists of options. The context of these verses points in the first instance to **Isra'el** or **Y'hudah** filling the role of the **Servant**. After all, 41:8-9 addresses the nation as the **Servant**. In answer to the objection that this song's description of the **Servant** is much too positive to refer to the nation as a whole, it can be conceded that **Yesha'yahu** spoke of the remnant that would emerge from the purifying fires of judgment. However, even the postexilic survivors did not live up to the hope expressed in these verses. So what or who is the **Servant**? Let's see if we can answer that from our text today.

¹ "Here is My Servant, whom I support, My chosen one, in whom I take pleasure. I have put My Spirit on Him; He will bring justice to the Goyim.

This is one of the most beautiful prophecies concerning the coming of **Messiah**. When **Yeshua** was baptized, the words were thundered from heaven; **This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased**. (Matthew 3:17). The **Ruach HaKodesh** (Holy Spirit) anointed Him at that time, empowering Him for ministry, to accomplish great things for the glory of **Adonai**. We receive power when the **Ruach** comes upon us.

Such anointing in the **Tanakh** granted the recipient the ability to perform a divinely given task, in this case, to bring justice to the **Goyim** (that's most of us folks). **Adonai** commissioned **Isara'el** with this task beginning with the promises to **Avraham** that included their being a blessing to the **Goyim** (see Gen 12:1-3), but it is **Yeshua** who will perform His Father's will fit perfectly in this regard. **Yeshua's** work of justice included bringing judgment on sinners.

² He will not cry or shout; no one will hear His voice in the streets.

This speaks of **Yeshua's** humility and gentleness. Rather than being loud and obnoxious, rather than drawing attention to Himself, **Yeshua** was so ordinary in the eyes of men that **Judas** had to identify Him to the Roman soldiers (see Matthew 26:48).

³ He will not snap off a broken reed or snuff out a smoldering wick. He will bring forth justice according to truth;

The **Servant's** work of **bringing justice** to the world is also characterized by compassion. Like **Adonai** who would not destroy **Sodom** and **Gomorra**h if just ten righteous people could be found there, so the **Servant** will not crush anyone, provided there is even a glimmer of hope in them.

⁴ He will not weaken or be crushed until He has established justice on the earth, and the coastlands wait for His Torah."

The **coastlands** refer to the distant nations, so it is a way of identification of all the **Goyim**. The whole earth will heed **Adonai's** instruction, bringing **justice to the world**.

⁵ Thus says God, Adonai, who created the heavens and spread them out, who stretched out the earth and all that grows from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk on it:

Adonai is not a part of creation; He is its **Creator**. He is also not a human being, but the One who created human beings. He gave them breath, starting with Adam.

⁶ "I, Adonai, called you righteously, I took hold of you by the hand, I shaped you and made you a covenant for the people, to be a light for the Goyim,

Adonai had entered into a covenant with **Avraham** on behalf not only of future **Israel** but also of the **Goyim**. But history shows **Isra'el's** miserable failure. Again, **Adonai's** purposes were fulfilled in the good news of **Yeshua**. As the ***light for the Goyim***, **Yeshua** would indeed be the ***light for the Goyim***.

⁷ so that you can open blind eyes, free the prisoners from confinement, those living in darkness from the dungeon.

Yeshua came to liberate. He came to deliver humanity from the prison of our sin. Therefore, our sins are forgiven totally for all those who confess and believe that **He is the Son of God**. In the Word, He has given us all the answers to life practically. We get to know the **Creator** of the universe personally as we study and meditate on His Word and talk with Him in prayer.

⁸ I am Adonai; that is My name. I yield My glory to no one else, nor My praise to any idol. ⁹ See how the former predictions come true, and now new things do I declare - before they sprout I tell you about them. ~ Isaiah 42:1-9 (CJB)

When **Yeshua** came on the scene, He was able to do what He taught us we should do. ***"In the same way, let your light shine before people, so that they may see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven."*** ~ Matthew 5:16 (CJB) Without exception, every time **Yeshua** did a miracle, the people glorified **Adonai**.

It's so crucial that, as **Yeshua** begins to increasingly use us in serving Him, we don't fall into the subtle temptation of touching the glory, of building a name for yourself. It will wipe us out. Perhaps the fastest way we can undo what **Adonai** desires to do in your life is to start taking credit for it. Give Him all the glory!

In my next post, we continue our examination of **The Servant of the Lord ~ Part 2** in **Yesha'yahu 42:10-17**.