

The Servant of Isaiah

The gospel according to the prophets

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Riddle Exodus 34:7

And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."

How can God forgive and leave sin unpunished?

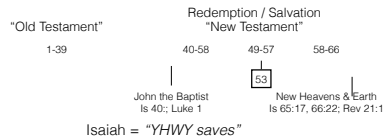
Could the ancient book of Isaiah answer the riddle?



Oldest of DSS (157 BC)

The Aleppo Codex (1000 AD)

Isaiah as the Bible in Miniature



The Incredible Offer Isaiah 1:18

"Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool."

Supremacy of The Servant

"Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." Mark 9:35

"You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:42-45

Servant(s) in Isaiah

Isaiah	Identity	Isaiah	Identity
20:3	Isaiah	48:20	Jacob
22:20	Eliakim son of Hilkiah	49:1-7	restores Jacob light to Gentiles
37:35	David	50:4-11	vindicated, obedient
41:8,9	Israel, Jacob	52:13-53:1-12	vicarious sufferer
42:1-9	brings justice, heals blind, frees captives	54:15-17	redeemed
42:18-22	deaf, blind, imprisoned	56:6	outsiders devoted to God
43:10	regathered Israel to lead deaf, blind	63:17	descendants of Abraham
44:1-5	Jacob, Israel	65:8-10	descendants of Jacob
44:21-23	Jacob, Israel	66:14	allies on day of judgment
45:4	Jacob, Israel		

1 2 3 4 Servant Songs

Two Servants

Isaiah 42:1-7 "servant" 42:1	Isaiah 42:18-25 "servant" 42:18
Upheld by God, chosen, and brings God delight (v1)	Handed over by God to be plundered (v24)
God put His Spirit on Him (v1)	God pours out His burning anger, enveloped in flames (v25)
Brings justice to the nations (v1)	Payed no attention (v20) plundered and looted (v22)
Gentle, quiet, encouraging, enduring (v2-4)	
Faithful (v3), Righteous (v6)	Unfaithful, disobedient (v24)
Opens the eyes of the blind, releases captives from prison (v7)	Deaf, blind (v18,19), imprisoned (v22)

The Everlasting Creator God vs the gods of the nations

Isaiah 40 - 41 is a direct attack on the gods of the nations surrounding Israel

Those gods have no power to explain the beginning or the end (41:21-24)

The absolute foolishness of the craftsman to worship the idol he creates that must be fastened so that it doesn't topple over (40:18-20)

God must be greater than the creation itself

Aristotle deduced there must be an *unmoved mover*

Divine revelation reveals *The Everlasting God, The LORD, The Creator* (40:28)

The LORD is the First and the Last (41:4)

The Servant who brings justice Isaiah 42:1-9, Matthew 12:14-21

"Behold, My Servant" — introduction to the One who will renovate the whole world without a pompous and inept display of power

This is in stark contrast with the idols of 41:29 which can do nothing

"my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him" — echoed in Christ's baptism (Matthew 3:13-17)

"a bent reed He with nor break off" — this is a radically different conqueror

The oppressors of this world are not met with a new oppressor — but one who will bear the evil of this world and respond in unfathomable grace!

Opening the eyes of the blind, releasing the captives Isaiah 42:7

No OT occurrences of the blind being healed is recorded

NT occurrences of Jesus opening blind eyes:

Jesus heals demon possessed man: (Mat 12:15-21 - fulfillment of Isaiah 42:1-4; Mat 12:22)

Jericho (Luke 18:35, Mark 10:46, Mat 20:34) — It is the blind who know who He is!

Bethsaida (Matthew 9:29, Mark 8:22)

Siloam (John 9) "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." (John 9:39)

Jesus reads Isaiah 61:1-2a at his hometown synagogue (Luke 4:16-30)

Jesus' message to John the Baptist: John 11:2-6

Jesus declares Pharisees and teachers of the law "blind" (Mat 15:14, Mat 23:15-16)

Unbelief — John 12:37 — "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts." (Isaiah 6:10)

Servant Redeemer and Savior Isaiah 49

Isaiah 49:1-4: Jesus as the *True Israel*, The seed of Abraham (Gal 3:16)

Exodus (Mat 2:25, Hosea 11:1, Slavery → Freedom)

Isaiah 49:5-7

Servant brings Jacob back to God

A light to the Gentiles — salvation to the whole earth!

Two servants: **Righteous Servant** (singular) redeems the **Unrighteous Servant** (corporate Israel / Jacob).

The confident and resolute Servant Isaiah 50:4-9

Mission is to proclaim the Word and has mastered how and when to speak

The servant is confident in his divine calling and ultimate vindication

Endures suffering for reasons that will be further revealed in Isaiah 53

Superior to other prophets (e.g. Jonah, Moses) in that there is never any hesitation

Submits to humiliation and abuse, not because He is guilty, but because He knows He will be vindicated.