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## ISAIAH 42:2-4

### (WHAT THE SERVANT OF THE LORD IS LIKE – CONTINUED)

#### INTRODUCTION

We come again this morning to Isaiah chapter 42, and the opening verses of it, verses 1-9. You will recall that Isaiah in these verses is speaking of the SERVANT OF THE LORD. Isaiah having called the people of God to BEHOLD THEIR GOD in chapter 40 and calling both the people of God and the nations to BEHOLD THE NOTHINGNESS AND VANITY OF THE IDOLS in chapter 41, now calls the people of the Lord in chapter 42 to BEHOLD THE SERVANT OF THE LORD. But WHO IS this servant of the Lord that God's people are called to behold? That it is not Israel, nor Cyrus, that Isaiah is speaking of here, but that Isaiah is passing over all time between himself and Christ, and that it is Christ particularly who is in view here, is confirmed to us by Christ Himself in his quoting of these words of Isaiah in the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew's Gospel, and there applying these words of Isaiah to Himself. In Matthew 12:16-21 we read,

**“AND CHARGED THEM THAT THEY SHOULD NOT MAKE HIM KNOWN:**

**THAT IT MIGHT BE FULFILLED WHICH WAS SPOKEN BY ESAIAS THE PROPHET, SAYING,**

**BEHOLD MY SERVANT, WHOM I HAVE CHOSEN; MY BELOVED, IN WHOM MY SOUL IS WELL PLEASED: I WILL PUT MY SPIRIT UPON HIM, AND HE SHALL SHEW JUDGEMENT TO THE GENTILES.**

**HE SHALL NOT STRIVE, NOR CRY; NEITHER SHALL ANY MAN HEAR HIS VOICE IN THE STREETS.**

**A BRUISED REED SHALL HE NOT BREAK, AND SMOKING FLAX SHALL HE NOT QUENCH, TILL HE SEND FORTH JUDGEMENT UNTO VICTORY.**

**AND IN HIS NAME SHALL THE GENTILES TRUST.”**

Having identified who this SERVANT OF THE LORD IS what exactly are the people of the Lord to BEHOLD concerning HIM?

We have noted in our previous studies that Isaiah in these opening words of chapter 42 tells us THREE THINGS about the SERVANT OF THE LORD. And it is these things that the people of God are to BEHOLD concerning HIM. In verse 1 he tells us WHO HE IS, in verses 2-4 he tells us WHAT HE IS LIKE, and finally, in verses 5-9, he tells us WHAT HE WILL DO.

This morning we continue our consideration of verses 2-4 concerning WHAT CHRIST as the SERVANT OF THE LORD IS LIKE. Our text is the concluding words of verse three.

## TEXT

**"...HE SHALL BRING FORTH JUDGEMENT UNTO TRUTH."**

These words of Isaiah comprise the **THIRD THING** we are told concerning Christ as the **SERVANT OF THE LORD** in verse three. In this verse Isaiah has spoken of Him as the one who, **"A BRUISED REED SHALL HE NOT BREAK,"** and as the one who, **"THE SMOKING FLAX SHALL HE NOT QUENCH."** Now the prophet adds to this description the words, **"HE SHALL BRING FORTH JUDGEMENT UNTO TRUTH."**

Isaiah is saying that just as Christ will not break the **BROKEN REED**, and will not quench **THE SMOKING FLAX**, He will **"BRING FORTH JUDGEMENT UNTO TRUTH"** in those who are broken reeds and smoking flax.

And what a **GLORIOUS THING** is being declared here. Again, not only will Christ not break the broken reed or quench the smoking flax, **BUT HE WILL ALSO**, with them and in them, bring forth judgement unto truth!!!

IT IS IMPORTANT that we understand exactly what the prophet saying in these words, what precisely he means. This is a very **SPECIAL WORK** that is being spoken of here and it is important that we understand what it is. Sadly, time only allows us to speak in part concerning this, but **TRULY**, what is spoken of here is **SPECIAL** and **GLORIOUS**?

To understand it let us consider first what is meant by the words, **"JUDGEMENT UNTO TRUTH."**

The term **"JUDGEMENT"** refers to the FACULTIES OF THE SOUL, and the OPERATION and EXERCISE of them. The FACULTIES OF THE SOUL we typically recognize as APPREHENSION (understanding), AFFECTION (likes, dislikes, desires), and ACTION (our choices, decisions, acts). **"JUDGEMENT"** is referring to our thinking, reasoning, understanding, liking, disliking, choosing, and acting.

The term **"TRUTH,"** as used here by Isaiah refers to that which is the **TRUTH, WISDOM, RIGHTEOUSNESS, WILL, REALITY OF GOD, AND THE ORDERING OF REALITY BY GOD.**

The word, **"UNTO,"** speaks of THE ESTABLISHING, THE SETTING UP WITHIN US OF **JUDGEMENT - UNTO**, or **IN ACCORD WITH TRUTH.**

Thus, **"JUDGEMENT UNTO TRUTH,"** means the setting up in us, the establishing within us, of RIGHT JUDGEMENT, meaning - RIGHT APPREHENSION (thinking, reasoning, understanding), RIGHT AFFECTION (likes, dislikes, desires), AND RIGHT ACTION (choices, decisions, discipline, acting). The consequence of this is the essence of **SALVATION IN US - TRUE GOOD BEING RIGHTLY DISCERNED, DESIRED AND DONE AND SIN BEING RECOGNIZED, REJECTED, AND RELINQUISHED.**

In this the **WRITTEN LAW OF GOD** is actually **WRITTEN IN OUR HEARTS**. As one older divine wrote, 'the gracious frame of holiness *is* set up in our hearts by the Spirit of Christ, *and* SHALL GO FORWARD until all contrary power be brought under.' In his words, **THE GRACIOUS FRAME OF HOLINESS**, he means an altering of the taste of the soul whereby the soul savors the things of the **SPIRIT OF GOD** and does, so deeply, that all other things are now out of taste.

Let's now consider the import of the words, "**HE SHALL BRING FORTH.**" These words speak of the SUCCESS of this work of Christ of bringing forth "**JUDGEMENT UNTO TRUTH**" in us. Christ will be successful, victorious in this work in us. But these words also IMPORTANTLY IMPLY that He will be SUCCESSFUL AND VICTORIOUS in this work in the CHURCH at large. His work will be successful IN US PERSONALLY, and IN THE CHURCH GENERALLY!!! This I believe to be the meaning of Paul's words in Ephesians 4:13, "**TILL WE ALL COME IN THE UNITY OF THE FAITH, AND OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON OF GOD, UNTO A PERFECT MAN, UNTO THE MEASURE OF THE STATURE OF THE FULNESS OF CHRIST.**"

STILL FURTHER, may we recognize that Isaiah in these words is speaking of Christ as BOTH, our SAVIOR and our SANCTIFIER!

### **USE AND TEACHING OF THE TEXT**

Having considered the meaning of the prophet's words let us now consider how these words are USEFUL TO US, HOW THEY MAY BE RIGHTLY APPLIED BY US IN OUR LIFE AND WALK WITH GOD.

There are SEVERAL OBSERVATIONS in this regard that we may draw from our text and that are of IMPORTANCE TO US in our SPIRITUAL LIFE.

FIRST, may we observe, that ALL those who are BRUISED REEDS that He does not break, and ALL those who are SMOKING FLAX that He does not quench, HE DOES IN THEM THIS WORK OF BRINGING JUDGEMENT UNTO TRUTH. The text does not allow for an exception. These matters are joined in our verse. All those He is bringing to glory He does in them and with them - "**BRING JUDGEMENT UNTO TRUTH.**" This is the idea the apostle Paul is expressing on II Corinthians 5:17, "**THEREFORE IF ANY MAN BE IN CHRIST HE IS A NEW CREATURE: OLD THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY; BEHOLD, ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW.**"

This is the work of God and the work of Christ in all who are Christ's.

Let us observe SECONDLY, that CHRIST'S GOVERNMENT OF AND IN HIS CHURCH IS A WISE GOVERNMENT AND A WELL-ORDERED GOVERNMENT. This is seen in our text in the word, "**JUDGEMENT.**" Again, "**JUDGEMENT**" means right thinking, reasoning, discernment, determination, desire, discipline- and this is the heart and soul of wisdom. WISDOM is TRUE KNOWLEDGE, THINKING, REASONING, UNDERSTANDING, DISCERNMENT, AND DETERMINATION DIGESTED INTO THE SOUL, DIGESTED INTO THE INCLINATION AND THE OPERATION OF THE FACULTIES OF THE SOUL. This is what Isaiah is speaking of in our text. Christ sets up IN HIS PEOPLE AND HIS CHURCH - "**JUDGEMENT,**" - WISDOM, - A RIGHT UNDERSTANDING, A RIGHT REASONING, A RIGHT ORDERING OF THINGS, AND A RIGHT PERFORMING OF THINGS IN LIFE. This is what Christ is referring to in Luke 7:35, "**BUT WISDOM IS JUSTIFIED (VINDICATED, SHOWN TO BE RIGHT) OF ALL HER CHILDREN [BY THE LIFESTYLE, MORAL CHARACTER, GOOD DEEDS, RELATIONSHIPS, AND RIGHT ORDERING OF THINGS IN THEIR LIVES AND IN THE CHURCH]**. This is also what Paul is saying in I Corinthians 2:15, "**BUT HE THAT IS SPIRITUAL JUDGETH (discerns, determines, orders ACCORDING TO TRUTH) ALL THINGS, YET HE HIMSELF IS JUDGED OF NO MAN.**"

Let's briefly consider the substance of this with respect to us. Or what this looks like in us in life.

This means in the first place that He will work in us that we might RECOGNIZE THAT WHICH IS MOST IMPORTANT IN LIFE, that which matters above all else. Our Lord expresses this in the Gospel of Matthew chapter 16 and verse 26, **"FOR WHAT IS A MAN PROFITED, IF HE SHALL GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD, AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL? OR WHAT SHALL A MAN GIVE IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS SOUL?"**

This is also what Christ is expressing in Luke 10:41-42, **"AND JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO HER, MARTHA, MARTHA, THOU ART CAREFUL AND TROUBLED ABOUT MANY THINGS: BUT ONE THING IS NEEDFUL: AND MARY HATH CHOSEN THAT GOOD PART, WHICH SHALL NOT BE TAKEN AWAY FROM HER."**

Those who are Christ's will be brought to RECONIZE and REALIZE what is TRULY MOST IMPORTANT IN LIFE.

Secondly, in this, Christ gives a person A RIGHT VIEW OF REALITY, OF CREATION, that there is both a SPIRITUAL AND A PHYSICAL REALM. That reality is more than the material and the physical. There is an unseen, invisible, spiritual realm in which exists angels, demons, heaven, hell, and where all who have died, both the righteous and the wicked now exist. In II Kings 6:17 this is clearly seen. There we read, **"AND ELISHA PRAYED, AND SAID, LORD, OPEN HIS EYES, THAT HE MAY SEE. AND THE LORD OPENED THE EYES OF THE YOUNG MAN; AND HE SAW: AND, BEHOLD, THE MOUNTAIN WAS FULL OF HORSES AND CHARIOTS OF FIRE ROUND ABOUT ELISHA."** And this is also what our Lord speaks to in Luke 16:19-31 concerning the rich man and Lazarus. Lazarus had died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man had died, and he finds himself in the torments of hell. We see in this story that there is LIFE AFTER DEATH, AND THERE IS A SPIRITUAL REALM WHERE THIS IS EXPERIENCED. And this is also what Paul is speaking concerning in respect to the person who he says was caught up into the **"THIRD HEAVEN"** in II Corinthians 12:1-4. There is indeed a spiritual realm, and this reality is taken into consideration in the understanding, reasoning, and the ordering of affairs of all who are Christ's.

Thirdly, in this, Christ is continually REFORMING AND BRINGING TO PERFECTION A PERSON'S UNDERSTANDING AND PRACTICE OF BIBLICAL TRUTH AND SPIRITUAL MATTERS. This is what Paul is speaking of in Ephesians 4:11-16. And those who are Christ's observe in themselves this growth process and progress. The saints in whom this work is occurring are conscious of how they are growing in both knowledge and understanding, information and the correct meaning of it, and it's governing and controlling of their lives. They can never again be who they were before. The understanding, knowledge, wisdom that Christ has brought to them and wrought in them has forever changed them. And may I add, the truly growing, maturing saints are those who are CONTINUALLY HUMBLING themselves before the Lord, acknowledging their LACK OF PERFECTION, and GIVING THANKS that God is graciously and increasingly revealing His truth to them, forming it in them and bringing it to expression in their lives. This a pastor watches for in his flock.

All this and more are a part of what it means for Christ to bring forth judgement unto truth in those who are His.

Moving forward quickly and briefly, let us note THIRDLY, from the words of our text, the CERTAINTY of this work in those who are Christ's. **"HE SHALL BRING FORTH..."** The words **"HE SHALL"** speak of the

certainty of this work. Paul writes similarly to the Philippians in Philippians 1:6, **“BEING CONFIDENT OF THIS VERY THING, THAT HE WHICH HATH BEGUN A GOOD WORK IN YOU WILL PERFORM IT UNTIL THE DAY OF JESUS CHRIST.”** In ALL who are TRULY HIS, Christ is going to ACCOMPLISH THIS PARTICULAR WORK.

FOURTHLY, let us observe from the words of our text, that this work of Christ will be a VISIBLE, OBSERVEABLE WORK. This is indicated by the words, **“HE SHALL BRING FORTH.”** The words **“BRING FORTH”** speak of the VISIBILITY, MANIFESTATION, AND OPENNESS of this work, that it is OBSERVABLE in those in whom it is performed. This is the idea Christ is conveying concerning the work of the Holy Spirit in John 3:8 when He says, **“THE WIND BLOWETH WHERE IT LISTETH (WILLETH), AND THOU HEAREST THE SOUND THEREOF.”** There is ALWAYS the evidence of where the Spirit of the Lord has worked and so it is with the work of Christ. Once again, II Corinthians 5:17, **“THEREFORE IF ANY MAN *BE* IN CHRIST, HE IS A NEW CREATURE: OLD THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY; BEHOLD, ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW.”**

FIFTHLY, let us note that this is not our work but CHRIST’S WORK!!! This is made clear in our text at the very beginning, **“HE SHALL BRING FORTH.”** This is something Christ is doing in those who are His. And this is why this work cannot fail. The success of it is guaranteed because of the one who is performing it. Hence, if this is not taking place in one who professes Christ it indicates that something is AMISS. It may be that one may be not a TRUE BELIEVER, or in God’s providence is being allowed for a season to QUENCH THE SPIRIT, or is being allowed for a season to be negligent as those Hebrews to whom the epistle of Hebrews was written. Whereupon it is the pastor’s responsibility to inquire, determine and minister accordingly. For in those who are Christ’s **“HE SHALL BRING FORTH TRUTH UNTO JUDGEMENT.”**

SIXTHLY, these words IMPLY this work will not be accomplished WITHOUT A CONFLICT. There can be no victory where there has not first been a contest. And nowhere is this truer than in the VICTORY WHICH CHRIST ACCOMPLISHES FOR AND IN HIS SAINTS. No one was ever more opposed by satan and the demons of hell than our Lord. And there is nothing the demons fight against more than this work of Christ in those who are His. This work of Christ will be opposed by all the forces of hell, and they will employ the world, and they will seek to stir up the corruption that remains in us, in our flesh, in their fight against Christ and His work in us. But CHRIST WILL BE VICTORIOUS!!! Matthew 16:18, **“AND I SAY ALSO UNTO THEE, THAT THOU ART PETER, AND UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH; AND THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT.”**

FINALLY, may we be ENCOURAGED, COMFORTED, AND FIND SECURITY in these words. This work is not subject to our weaknesses, frailties, and failures. THIS IS HIS WORK AND FOR THAT REASON IT WILL BE A VICTORIOUS WORK IN US. AND ARE WE NOT, SHOULD WE NOT, BE EXCITED FOR THAT WHICH IS YET TO COME FROM HIM TO US? WHAT NEW UNDERSTANDINGS HAS HE YET TO BRING TO US? WHAT NEW SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES AWAIT US!!!

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion this morning, I ask all who are present who PROFESS CHRIST, IS THIS A WORK YOU OBSERVE OCCURRING IN YOURSELF? ARE YOU CONSCIOUS OF GROWING IN THE GRACE AND TRUTH OF CHRIST JESUS? WHAT TRUTHS CAN YOU POINT TO THIS PAST YEAR, MONTH, WEEK THAT HAVE BEEN FRESHLY REVEALED TO YOU, THAT YOU HAVE LEARNED, THAT YOU HAVE RETAINED, THAT YOU MARVEL CONCERNING? THAT YOU LONG AND LOOK FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE WITH OTHERS? WHAT GAINS HAVE YOU MADE IN WISDOM, IN UNDERSTANDING, IN SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE? AGAIN, WHAT CAN YOU POINT TO IN YOUR WALK WITH THE LORD CONCERNING WHICH YOU HAVE GROWN, EXPERIENCED, AND IN WHICH YOU REJOICE AND MARVEL? IS THEIR SUCH WITH YOU? IF NOT, YOU HAVE CAUSE TO BE CONCERNED. EITHER YOU ARE NOT HIS, YOU ARE QUENCHING THE SPIRIT, OR YOU ARE SINFULLY NEGLIGENT IN YOUR SPIRITUAL DUTIES BEFORE CHRIST AND THE FATHER!!!

AND YOU AMONG US WHO HAVE YET TO PROFESS CHRIST, DO YOU SEE ANY EVIDENCE OF CHRIST DEALING WITH YOU? THOUGH NOT A PROFESSING BELIEVER YET HAVE YOU GAINED IN SOME MEASURE IN KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING, AND IN CONVICTION CONCERNING THE THINGS OF THE LORD? IS OUR LORD SO NOW, AT THIS TIME, DEALING WITH YOU? DO YOU HAVE AN AWARENESS, A CONSCIOUSNESS, OF HIS PRESENCE, OF HIS HAND IN SOME MANNER UPON YOU, HIS VOICE CALLING YOU, HIS SPIRIT INTERNALLY MOVING YOU? IF SO DO NOT RESIST THIS PRESENCE AND WORK OF GOD, YIELD TO IT, COME TO HIM IN REPENTANCE OF SIN AND FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. BELIEVE IN GOD'S SAVING WORK IN CHIRST AND CRY OUT TO HIM IN YOUR HEART OR WITH YOUR VOICE THAT HE IN CHRIST WOULD SAVE YOU!!! NO MATTER YOUR AGE, YOUR TIME IS SHORT, YOU HAVE NO PROMISE, EVEN OF ANOTHER HOUR, WAIT NO LONGER TO COME TO HIM WHO SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE!!! WHY WOULD YOU PERISH? REPENT AND BELIEVE, AND BE SAVED. FLEE THAT WRATH WHICH IS TO COME!!! **LET US PRAY.**