

ISAIAH 42

Lesson 32: "The Gentle King Establishes Justice on Earth"

MAIN IDEA: The servant of the Lord, Jesus Christ, will patiently and gently build his kingdom with broken sinners, even as far as the distant islands. Chapter 42 is a song of praise to Jesus Christ who came as a servant to rescue mankind from God's wrath.

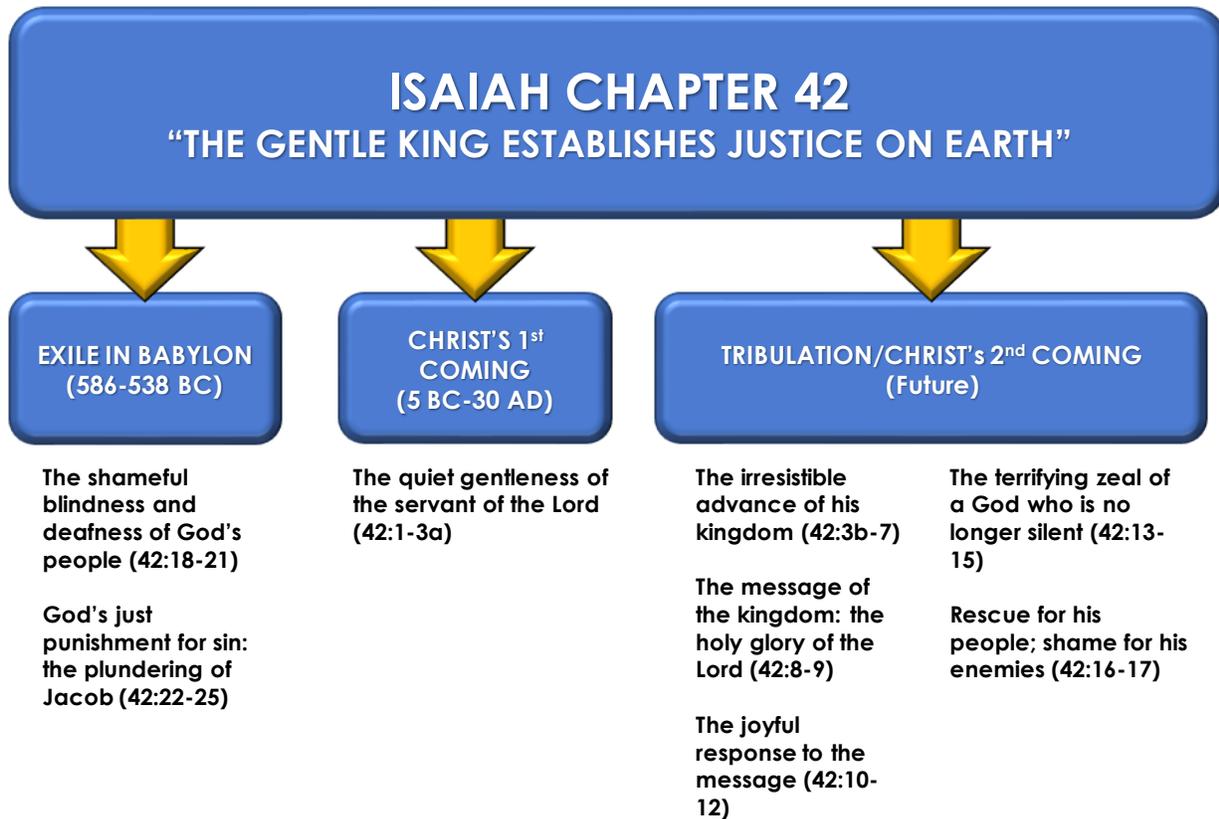


Figure 1: Possible placements for the events in Isaiah 42

I. THE GENTLE KING AND HIS IRRESISTIBLY ADVANCING KINGDOM (42:1-7)

A. The quiet gentleness of the servant of the Lord (42:1-3a)

- Jesus Christ's 1st Coming was with the humility of a servant (Phil. 2:6-8).
- Jesus sympathized with humans in their frailty described as "broken reeds" (Matt. 12:20).

B. The irresistible advance of his kingdom (42:3b-7)

- At Jesus Christ's 2nd Coming he will establish justice (2 Thess. 1:6-10).
- He will advance his kingdom on earth (Rev. 11:15).

II. THE MESSAGE OF THE KINGDOM RESULTING IN JOYFUL PRAISE (42:8-12)

A. The message of the kingdom: the holy glory of the Lord (42:8-9)

- During the future Tribulation Period, just like those living in Isaiah's day, many will cling to idols rather than worship God (Isa. 41:22; Rev. 9:20).
- "Former things" are prophecies already fulfilled (e.g. the defeat of the Assyrians; Isa. 31:8-9; 2 Kings 19:35).
- "New things are future accomplishments of the Lord through Jesus Christ when he comes (Rev. 21:2, 5).

B. The joyful response to the message (42:10-12)

- Those in heaven, just before the return of Jesus Christ, will sing a new song of praise to him (Rev. 5:9; 14:3).

III. THE ZEAL OF THE WARRIOR GOD RESCUING HIS CAPTIVE PEOPLE (42:13-17)

A. The terrifying zeal of a God who is no longer silent (42:13-15)

- God has remained silent against his enemies until the appointed time.
- However, at the appointed time his Servant will wreak havoc on the earth (cf. Tribulation Period, Rev. 6-19).

B. Rescue for his people; shame for his enemies (42:16-17)

- God will rescue his people as he guides the spiritually blind to see the way (42:7; cf. Eph. 5:8).
- God will repudiate those who shamefully worship idols (Isa. 41:21-29; cf. Rev. 9:20).

IV. THE SHAMEFUL CONDITION OF GOD'S SINFUL PEOPLE (42:18-25)

A. The shameful blindness and deafness of God's people (42:18-21)

- The Lord charged Israel, his servant, with unfaithfulness.
- Notice the comparison between the positive qualities of the Messiah-servant (42:1-7) and the nation of Israel, referred to as "the servant" (42:18, 19, 22-24).

B. God's just punishment for sin: the plundering of Jacob (42:22-25)

- The Kingdom of Israel was conquered by Assyria (722 BC) and the Kingdom of Judah went into Babylonian exile (586 BC). Both Kingdoms went into worldwide Dispersion as punishment by God for their rebellion against him (30:15; 57:17; 65:2).