

Part II, Lesson 7

# Isaiah

The Lord is Salvation

A New  
Song  
And A  
Warning

Isaiah  
42:8-25

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex  
Curriculum*

# Isaiah Part II, Lesson 7

## A New Song and A Warning

### Isaiah 42:8-25

It is not certain that Isaiah preached the two sermons we study today one right after the other. If he did, there is a quick change. But, when one thinks about it, it is not bad that they are put together in the gathering of Isaiah's sermons. The first sermon is poetry and Isaiah said, sing a new song. Read Isaiah 42:8-17.

First, God said that He refused to share His glory and His praise with fake gods. The people had been worshipping other gods. Some of the captives in Babylon had begun worshipping the gods of the Babylonians. The Babylonians were a very religious people and had many gods. Near the end of the old Babylonian kingdom, King Nabonidus led the people to worship even more gods than they had previously. Here God is clarifying His uniqueness. He was and is the true God.

He wants the captives in Babylon to know that "the past is the past." New things are just ahead. He said, I am going to give you a preview of what lies ahead, "before they spring into being."

He said that everyone should be included in singing the new song. It is a song to the Lord. The sea should join in, the people who live on the coast and those who live in the desert. He said that the villages of Kedar should sing. Kedar was a small nation southeast of Israel. They were known for their flocks and villages in the desert. He said the people of Sela should sing for joy, shouting from the top of the mountains. Sela was one of the cities of the Edomites. II Chronicles 25 and II Kings 14, tell of the time when King Amaziah of Judah, after having slain nearly 10,000 Edomites in battle near the southern end of the Dead Sea, is said to have thrown another 10,000 captives from the top of nearby Sela, where they were "dashed to pieces." The word Sela, in Hebrew, means rock. Their fortress was on top of a flat rocky hill surrounded by deep valleys on all four sides.

So what we have is God's instruction that even those who have no reason to cheer for Israel, are to shout for joy. They are to "give glory to the Lord, and proclaim his praise in the islands."

Then God said that He had kept quiet long enough. He was going to act. He uses two pictures that describe what God is going to do. First, God comes on like a fearsome warrior. This is the kind of warrior that we might see in one of those action, superhero kind of movies. He is big; He is strong. He has weapons that kill. He jumps over things; He cannot be stopped. He is like a mighty man. He will win!

He will no longer be quiet. He is going to sound like someone in great pain. His sound will be like the sounds made by a mother giving birth. Then He lists all the things He is going to do when He marches across the earth. He will make molehills out of mountains. He will kill all plant life. The river beds will be dry and the pools of water will be gone.

The people are seen by God as blind. They see no hope for the future. They are not willing to go out on

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their own. So, God will lead them. The idol worshipers, on the other hand, will be put to shame.

The next sermon changes the tone from approval and comfort, to one of disapproval and condemnation. In this sermon God condemns the Babylonian captives for their spiritual laziness. Read Isaiah 42:18-25.

This may be God's response to a complaint from the exiles saying that God did not hear them and God did not see them. God turns it around and calls them deaf and blind. He said that they weren't hearing what God was saying, and they weren't seeing what God was doing. As such, they were of no use to God. God had intended to use Israel as His spokespersons to the world.

They didn't see the obvious. God had expected Israel to bless the world by making "His law great and glorious." If the people had only had an eye to see and an ear to hear, they would have told the world about His covenant with the people. They would have been God's voice to the nations. They would have shouted and sung His praises to all who would hear.

Instead they had become prisoners and slaves to whom no one pays attention. No one was willing to say "Send them back" home to Judah. The people have sinned. We have talked about their sin and Isaiah will continue to talk about their sin throughout the rest of the book. They took what was not theirs, they robbed the poor and ignored the cries of those who were hurting. Now, they found themselves in a very sad situation...hopelessness. They were no longer making decisions for themselves. Their Babylonian masters told them what to do, where to go, and how to live. There was no mercy for them.

He puts two questions to them. (Verses 23 and 24) First, He asks, "is anyone going to listen? Will they ever listen?" Then, He asks, "does anyone realize that they are in the situation they are in because God surrendered them to their enemy and they are suffering the consequences of their sins?" They were not captives of the Babylonians because of the power of the Babylonians, they were captives because God gave them up. They were like a person standing in the middle of a fire and not feeling heat. They didn't see or feel God's anger. The heat didn't reach their heart. Seeing and hearing God is a heart thing.

There are many lessons we can learn from these verses, but one stands out. God has a plan and purpose for all of us, just like He did for Israel. It is our responsibility to open our eyes and our ears to see and hear God's purpose for our lives. When we do that, God can bless us and use us.

\*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

### Page Three

**Scripture Memory:** "Let them give glory to the Lord and proclaim His praise in the islands." Isaiah 42:12

**Lesson Goal:** To help students see that God wants to bless us, and use us, but He cannot when we are disobedient. He has a plan for us, but we must see and hear His Words and see His work in the world.

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### Student Worksheet

Listen during the lesson for this information:

1. With whom did God refuse to share His glory?
2. God said, I am going to give you a \_\_\_\_\_ of what lies ahead, “before they \_\_\_\_\_ into being.”
3. Who should be included in the singing of the new song?
4. How did God expect Israel to bless the world?
5. Why was Israel in the situation as slaves in Babylon?
6. What lesson, from these verses, stands out for us today?

#### Page Four

**Scripture Memory:** “Let them give glory to the Lord and proclaim His praise in the islands. Isaiah 42:12

**How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:**

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.