

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Isaiah Chapter 42 — The Servant of the Lord

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Isaiah Chapter 42 introduces one of the most important figures in the second half of Isaiah:

The Servant of the Lord.

The chapter opens with God saying:

“Behold My Servant.”

This Servant is:

Chosen.

Upheld.

Delighting the heart of God.

Anointed by the Spirit.

Commissioned to bring justice to:

The nations.

Unlike proud earthly rulers, He does not advance through:

Boasting.

Noise.

Self-promotion.

Crushing the weak.

Instead:

A bruised reed He does not break.

A smoldering wick He does not extinguish.

Yet His gentleness should never be confused with:

Weakness.

He will not:

Falter.

Be discouraged.

Fail.

His mission reaches:

The earth.

The coastlands.

The nations.

The New Testament directly applies Isaiah 42:1–4 to:

Jesus Christ.

Matthew quotes this passage in connection with Christ's ministry and identifies Jesus as the Servant in whom God delights.

The Father's words at Jesus' baptism also echo Isaiah's language:

“My chosen one in whom My soul delights.”

The Spirit rests upon Him.

He brings:

Justice.

Light.

Freedom.

Sight.

Release.

The chapter therefore gives a remarkable picture of the Messiah.

He is:

Gentle with the broken.

Faithful in His mission.

Universal in His reach.

Spirit-anointed.

A covenant for the people.

A light to the Gentiles.

One who opens:

Blind eyes.

One who releases:

Prisoners.

Isaiah 42 also contains an important distinction.

At the beginning of the chapter, the Servant is:

Faithful.

Spirit-filled.

Successful.

Later in the chapter, Israel is also called:

God's servant.

But Israel is described as:

Blind.

Deaf.

Disobedient.

This contrast is crucial.

Israel had been called to serve God.

Yet Israel failed in that calling.

The ideal Servant fulfills what Israel failed to fulfill.

This prepares the way for the later Servant passages where the Servant's identity and redemptive mission become even clearer.

Isaiah 42 also emphasizes:

God's glory.

The Lord says:

"I will not give My glory to another."

This directly condemns:

Idolatry.

False worship.

Human substitutes.

The chapter then breaks into:

A new song.

The ends of the earth are called to praise.

Wilderness settlements.

Coastlands.

Mountains.

All proclaim:

The Lord's glory.

Then the imagery changes again.

The gentle Servant does not shout in the streets.

But the Lord Himself marches like:

A warrior.

God's patience has endured.

Now:

He acts.

The chapter then returns to:

Blindness.

But not physical blindness.

Spiritual blindness.

Israel sees many things but:

Does not pay attention.

Its ears are open but:

It does not listen.

The people have suffered:

Plunder.

Captivity.

War.

Yet the tragedy is:

They still do not understand.

The chapter ends with judgment that has not yet produced:

Repentance.

That prepares for the great promise of the next chapter.

The central truth of Isaiah 42 is:

God presents His Spirit-anointed Servant, fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who gently yet faithfully brings justice, becomes a covenant for the people and light for the nations, opens blind eyes and frees captives; while Israel, God's servant by calling, is exposed as spiritually blind and disobedient, showing humanity's need for the faithful Servant who accomplishes the mission God's people could not fulfill.

I. “BEHOLD MY SERVANT”

Isaiah 42:1 — The Chosen, Spirit-Anointed Servant

“Behold My Servant, whom I uphold, My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring justice to the nations.”

God begins:

Not with Israel's failure.

But with:

His Servant.

Four things are said.

He is:

God's Servant.

God's chosen One.

God's delight.

Spirit-anointed.

His mission reaches:

The nations.

Cross References

Matthew 12:18

Matthew directly quotes this passage and applies it to Jesus, identifying Him as God's chosen Servant upon whom the Spirit rests and through whom justice reaches the nations.

Matthew 3:17

At Jesus' baptism, the Father declares His pleasure in the Son, echoing Isaiah's description of the One in whom God delights.

Luke 3:22

The Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus and the Father publicly identifies Him as the beloved Son in whom He is pleased.

Spiritual Principle

The Messiah's ministry begins with:

The Father's choice.

The Spirit's anointing.

The Father's delight.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus did not invent His mission.

He came as the Servant chosen, upheld, and sent by the Father.

II. THE SERVANT DOES NOT SEEK ATTENTION

Isaiah 42:2 — Quiet Strength

“He will not shout or cry out, or raise His voice in the streets.”

The Servant does not build His kingdom through:

Self-advertisement.

Political spectacle.

Shouting.

Aggressive promotion.

His authority does not depend upon:

Noise.

Cross References

Matthew 12:19

Matthew applies this verse directly to Christ's quiet and non-combative manner.

Matthew 11:29

Jesus describes Himself as gentle and humble in heart and invites the weary to learn from Him.

1 Peter 2:23

When insulted, Jesus did not retaliate with insults but entrusted Himself to the One who judges justly.

Spiritual Principle

True authority does not need:

Constant self-promotion.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A loud voice can attract attention.

A faithful life reveals authority.

III. THE SERVANT DOES NOT CRUSH THE WEAK

Isaiah 42:3 — The Bruised Reed and Smoldering Wick

“A bruised reed He will not break, and a smoldering wick He will not snuff out. In faithfulness He will bring forth justice.”

A bruised reed is:

Bent.

Damaged.

Fragile.

A smoldering wick has:

Almost no flame.

The Servant does not:

Discard.

Crush.

Extinguish.

He restores.

Yet notice:

Gentleness and justice exist together.

Cross References

Matthew 12:20

Matthew directly applies this compassionate description to Jesus.

2 Timothy 2:25

God's servant is instructed to correct opponents gently, hoping God may lead them to repentance.

John 8:11

Jesus refuses to crush the woman caught in sin, while still calling her away from sin.

Spiritual Principle

The Messiah does not treat weakness as:

Worthlessness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Christ knows the difference between rebellion that must be confronted and bruised weakness that needs to be restored.

IV. THE SERVANT WILL NOT FAIL

Isaiah 42:4 — Justice to the Ends of the Earth

“He will not falter or be discouraged until He establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for His teaching.”

The bruised reed may be weak.

The Servant is not.

He will not:

Falter.

Be crushed.

Give up.

His mission continues until:

Justice is established.

His teaching reaches:

The coastlands.

Cross References

Matthew 12:21

Matthew says the nations will place their hope in the Servant's name.

Isaiah 51:5

God's righteousness and salvation go out, and distant peoples wait for His rule.

Psalm 72:8

The righteous king's dominion is pictured extending widely across the earth.

Spiritual Principle

The Servant is:

Gentle toward the weak.

Unyielding toward the mission.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The One who refuses to break the bruised reed cannot Himself be broken by opposition.

V. THE CREATOR COMMISSIONS THE SERVANT

Isaiah 42:5 — The God Who Gives Breath

“This is what God the Lord says—the One who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that grows from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it:”

Before announcing the Servant's mission, God identifies Himself as:

Creator.

The One who made:

Heavens.

Earth.

Life.

Human breath.

Cross References

Genesis 1:1

God is the Creator of the heavens and the earth.

Psalm 33:6

The heavens were made by the Word of the Lord and their host by His breath.

Jeremiah 10:12

God made the earth by His power and established the world through His wisdom.

Spiritual Principle

The Servant's mission rests upon the authority of:

The Creator.

VI. A COVENANT AND A LIGHT

Isaiah 42:6 — The Servant's Universal Mission

“I, the Lord, have called You in righteousness; I will take hold of Your hand. I will keep You and make You to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles,”

This verse expands the Servant's work.

He becomes:

A covenant.

A light.

His mission concerns:

Israel.

Gentiles.

The nations.

Cross References

Luke 2:32

Simeon identifies Jesus as a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory for Israel.

Isaiah 49:6

The Servant is commissioned to bring God's salvation to the ends of the earth.

Acts 13:47

Paul and Barnabas quote Isaiah's servant language concerning light and mission to the Gentiles.

Spiritual Principle

The Messiah is not merely a local Savior.

His mission is:

Global.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's covenant purpose was never meant to terminate on one nation; through the Servant, blessing reaches the nations.

VII. THE SERVANT OPENS BLIND EYES

Isaiah 42:7 — Freedom from Darkness

“To open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison, and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.”

The language includes:

Physical.

Spiritual.

Redemptive.

Liberating themes.

Blindness:

Sight.

Captivity:

Freedom.

Darkness:

Light.

Cross References

Luke 4:18

Jesus announces His mission using Isaiah's language of good news, freedom, recovery of sight, and liberation.

Isaiah 61:1

The Spirit-anointed Servant proclaims liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners.

Zechariah 9:11

God promises release from a waterless pit on the basis of covenant.

Spiritual Principle

The Messiah comes where people cannot:

Free themselves.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Christ does not merely improve the prison.

He opens the door.

VIII. GOD WILL NOT GIVE HIS GLORY TO IDOLS

Isaiah 42:8 — The Exclusive Glory of God

“I am the Lord; that is My name! I will not give My glory to another or My praise to idols.”

God’s glory is:

His.

Not:

Transferable.

Not:

Shared with idols.

Cross References

Isaiah 48:11

God acts for His own name and refuses to surrender His glory to another.

Exodus 20:3

Israel is commanded to have no other gods before the Lord.

Isaiah 45:5

The Lord declares that He alone is God and there is no other.

Spiritual Principle

True worship is:

Exclusive.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can share blessings.

He does not share deity.

IX. GOD DECLARES NEW THINGS BEFORE THEY COME

Isaiah 42:9 — Prophecy Reveals Sovereignty

“See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you.”

God points backward:

Fulfilled prophecy.

Then forward:

Future prophecy.

He knows:

Both.

Cross References

Isaiah 43:19

God announces that He is doing a new thing and calls His people to perceive it.

Revelation 21:5

God declares that He makes all things new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

In Christ, the believer becomes a new creation; the old passes and new life begins.

Spiritual Principle

God is never:

Surprised by tomorrow.

X. SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG

Isaiah 42:10 — Worldwide Praise

“Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you coastlands and all who live in them.”

New revelation of God’s work produces:

New praise.

The geography is:

Global.

Cross References

Psalm 96:1

All the earth is called to sing a new song to the Lord.

Revelation 5:9

Heaven sings a new song to the Lamb because His redemptive work gathers people from every tribe, language, people, and nation.

Psalm 98:1

A new song is offered because the Lord has performed marvelous acts of salvation.

Spiritual Principle

Fresh grace should create:

Fresh praise.

XI. THE WILDERNESS JOINS THE SONG

Isaiah 42:11 — Kedar and Sela Rejoice

**“Let the wilderness and its towns raise their voices; let the villages of Kedar rejoice.
Let the people of Sela sing for joy; let them shout from the mountaintops.”**

Even distant:

Desert peoples.

Villages.

Mountains.

Join the praise.

Cross References

Psalm 98:4

All the earth is called to shout joyfully to the Lord and break into praise.

Isaiah 44:23

Heavens, earth, mountains, forests, and trees are later called to sing because the Lord redeems His people.

Psalm 65:13

Creation is poetically pictured shouting and singing together under God's blessing.

Spiritual Principle

God's salvation is too great to remain:

Quiet.

XII. GIVE GLORY TO THE LORD

Isaiah 42:12 — Praise in the Islands

“Let them give glory to the Lord and proclaim His praise in the islands.”

The glory belongs to:

God.

Not:

Idols.

Not:

Kings.

Not:

Servants.

Cross References

Psalms 96:3

God's glory is to be declared among the nations and His wonders among all peoples.

Revelation 14:7

The world is called to fear God, give Him glory, and worship the Creator.

Psalms 145:11

God's people speak of the glory of His kingdom and proclaim His mighty power.

Spiritual Principle

The proper response to divine salvation is:

Divine glory.

XIII. THE LORD MARCHES LIKE A WARRIOR

Isaiah 42:13 — God Triumphs Over His Enemies

“The Lord will march out like a warrior, like a man of war He will stir up His zeal. With a shout He will raise the battle cry and will triumph over His enemies.”

The tone changes.

The Servant was:

Gentle.

The Lord now acts:

Powerfully.

God is not:

Passive toward evil.

Cross References

Exodus 15:3

After the deliverance at the Red Sea, the Lord is praised as a warrior who defeats His enemies.

Zephaniah 3:17

The mighty God is present among His people to save them.

Revelation 19:11

Christ is pictured as the righteous heavenly Warrior who judges and makes war in perfect justice.

Spiritual Principle

God’s gentleness toward His people does not mean:

Weakness toward evil.

XIV. GOD’S SILENCE ENDS

Isaiah 42:14 — “Now I Cry Out”

“For a long time I have kept silent, I have been quiet and held Myself back. But now, like a woman in labor, I cry out, I gasp and pant.”

God’s apparent silence had lasted:

A long time.

But silence is not:

Inactivity.

Now:

Action.

Cross References

Isaiah 26:17

Labor pains illustrate intense pressure before a decisive outcome.

John 16:21

Jesus uses childbirth to show how anguish can precede joy.

Psalms 50:21

God warns that His silence should not be mistaken for approval.

Spiritual Principle

Divine patience should never be interpreted as:

Divine indifference.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's silence has an end point.

XV. GOD REMOVES OBSTACLES

Isaiah 42:15 — Mountains and Waters Changed

“I will lay waste the mountains and hills and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn rivers into islands and dry up the pools.”

The Creator controls:

Mountains.

Vegetation.

Rivers.

Pools.

The imagery expresses:

Sovereign intervention.

Cross References

Nahum 1:4

God rebukes seas and rivers and causes fertile lands to wither.

Isaiah 50:2

God reminds His people that His power can dry seas and rivers.

Joel 1:12

Judgment can cause vines, trees, and vegetation to wither.

Spiritual Principle

Creation itself remains subject to:

God's purposes.

XVI. GOD LEADS THE BLIND

Isaiah 42:16 — Darkness Becomes Light

“I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them. I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.”

One of the chapter's most comforting promises.

The blind cannot:

See the road.

God says:

I will lead.

The path is:

Unknown.

God says:

I will guide.

The darkness is:

Real.

God says:

I will turn it to light.

Cross References

Isaiah 35:5

The blind receive sight as part of God's restoration.

John 9:39

Jesus speaks of His coming in terms of sight and blindness, revealing spiritual realities.

Acts 26:18

Paul is commissioned to open eyes and turn people from darkness to light and from Satan's power to God.

Spiritual Principle

God does not require you to see the entire path before:

Following Him.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When you cannot see the road, trust the One holding your hand.

XVII. "I WILL NOT FORSAKE THEM"

This promise is:

Personal.

Covenantal.

Strong.

Spiritual Principle

Unfamiliar paths do not mean:

Absent God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God may lead you somewhere you have never been without ever leaving you alone there.

XVIII. IDOL WORSHIPERS TURN BACK IN SHAME

Isaiah 42:17 — False Trust Exposed

“But those who trust in idols, who say to images, ‘You are our gods,’ will be turned back in shame.”

The issue is:

Trust.

Idolatry is not merely:

Owning an image.

It is giving created things:

The confidence that belongs to God.

Cross References

Psalms 97:7

Those serving carved images are put to shame when the true Lord reveals His supremacy.

Psalms 115:8

Those who make and trust idols become spiritually like the lifeless things they worship.

Habakkuk 2:19

A person is condemned for calling dead wood or silent stone to awaken and guide.

Spiritual Principle

Every false god eventually:

Fails its worshiper.

XIX. “HEAR, YOU DEAF”

Isaiah 42:18 — Spiritual Blindness Exposed

“Hear, you deaf; look, you blind, and see!”

Now the chapter turns toward:

Israel.

The blindness is:

Spiritual.

They possess:

Revelation.

But do not respond.

Cross References

Isaiah 6:9

Isaiah's ministry had already confronted people who heard but failed to understand and saw but failed to perceive.

Mark 8:18

Jesus asks His disciples whether, despite having eyes and ears, they still fail to perceive and understand.

Matthew 13:16

Jesus blesses those whose eyes truly see and whose ears truly hear.

Spiritual Principle

Physical senses do not guarantee:

Spiritual perception.

XX. GOD'S SERVANT IS BLIND

Isaiah 42:19 — Israel's Failure

“Who is blind but My servant, or deaf like My messenger whom I send? Who is blind like the one in covenant with Me, blind like the servant of the Lord?”

This verse creates an intentional contrast.

Verses 1–4:

The faithful Servant.

Here:

Israel as unfaithful servant.

Israel was called to:

See.

Hear.

Witness.

Teach.

But became:

Blind.

Deaf.

Cross References

Isaiah 43:8

God later calls forth a people who have eyes yet are blind and ears yet are deaf.

Matthew 15:14

Jesus warns that blind guides can lead others into disaster.

Romans 2:19

Paul addresses those who confidently regard themselves as guides to the blind while needing to examine their own obedience.

Spiritual Principle

Calling does not guarantee:

Faithfulness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A person can possess a mission from God while failing to perceive the God of the mission.

XXI. SEEING WITHOUT PAYING ATTENTION

Isaiah 42:20 — Open Ears That Do Not Listen

“You see many things but pay no attention; your ears are open, but you do not listen.”

The problem is not lack of:

Information.

It is lack of:

Response.

Cross References

Matthew 13:13

Jesus describes people who see without truly perceiving and hear without understanding.

Mark 4:12

Jesus uses Isaiah's language concerning people who encounter truth yet remain resistant to its meaning.

Jeremiah 5:21

God addresses a foolish people who have eyes but do not see and ears but do not hear.

Spiritual Principle

Exposure to truth is not the same as:

Obedience to truth.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A Bible can be open while the heart remains closed.

XXII. GOD MAKES HIS LAW GREAT

Isaiah 42:21 — God's Righteousness Is Magnified

"The Lord was pleased, for the sake of His righteousness, to make His law great and glorious."

God's law reveals:

His righteousness.

Its failure does not come from:

The law.

It comes from:

The people who refuse to obey.

Cross References

Matthew 5:17

Jesus says He did not come to abolish the Law and Prophets but to fulfill them.

Romans 3:31

Faith does not overthrow God's law but establishes its rightful place.

Psalms 40:8

The righteous servant delights to do God's will and carries His instruction within the heart.

Spiritual Principle

God's standards are not:

Defective.

Our obedience is.

XXIII. THE PEOPLE ARE PLUNDERED

Isaiah 42:22 — Captivity and Helplessness

“But this is a people plundered and looted, all trapped in pits or hidden away in prisons. They have become prey, with no one to rescue them; they have been made loot, with no one to say, ‘Restore them!’”

The servant people are:

Captive.

Plundered.

Helpless.

This is the consequence of:

Persistent disobedience.

Cross References

Jeremiah 30:16

God promises that those who devoured His people will themselves face judgment and that plunderers will be plundered.

Lamentations 1:3

Judah is pictured going into exile under severe affliction and finding no rest.

2 Kings 17:6

The northern kingdom was conquered and its people carried away by Assyria.

Spiritual Principle

Sin promises freedom and can end in:

Captivity.

XXIV. WHO WILL LISTEN?

Isaiah 42:23 — A Call to Learn

“Which of you will listen to this or pay attention in time to come?”

God wants more than:

Pain.

He wants:

Learning.

Repentance.

Wisdom.

Cross References

Isaiah 1:2

Heaven and earth are called to listen as God confronts His rebellious children.

Deuteronomy 32:1

Moses calls heaven and earth to hear the covenant message he speaks.

Psalms 78:1

God's people are commanded to listen carefully to instruction and learn from history.

Spiritual Principle

Suffering without reflection can be:

Wasted.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The question is not merely:

“What happened?”

It is:

“What will you learn?”

XXV. WHO GAVE JACOB TO THE PLUNDERERS?

Isaiah 42:24 — Sin and Divine Discipline

“Who handed Jacob over to become loot, and Israel to the plunderers? Was it not the Lord, against whom we have sinned? For they would not walk in His ways, they were not obedient to His law.”

The answer is:

God allowed judgment.

Why?

Not because Assyria or Babylon was:

Ultimately sovereign.

Because:

Israel sinned.

Refused God's ways.

Rejected His law.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 28:15

Israel had been warned that persistent disobedience to God's covenant would bring serious consequences.

Isaiah 64:5

The people acknowledge that sin and persistent rebellion have brought them under divine displeasure.

Judges 2:14

When Israel repeatedly abandoned the Lord, God allowed oppressors to overcome them.

Spiritual Principle

God's sovereignty over judgment does not erase:

Human responsibility.

XXVI. JUDGMENT FAILS TO WAKE THEM

Isaiah 42:25 — Surrounded by Fire Yet Unmoved

“So He poured out on them His burning anger, the violence of war. It enveloped them in flames, yet they did not understand; it consumed them, yet they did not take it to heart.”

This is the tragedy.

Judgment:

Surrounds.

Consumes.

Hurts.

Yet the heart remains:

Unchanged.

Cross References

2 Kings 17:14

Israel refused to listen and hardened itself despite repeated warning.

Isaiah 9:13

Even after judgment, the people did not return to the Lord who struck them.

Hosea 7:9

Strength was consumed and signs of decline appeared, yet the people failed to recognize what was happening.

Spiritual Principle

Pain does not automatically produce:

Repentance.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Suffering becomes spiritually fruitful only when we allow it to teach us.

XXVII. THE FAITHFUL SERVANT AND THE BLIND SERVANT

This is one of the chapter's most important theological contrasts.

The Servant of Verses 1–4

Chosen.

Spirit-filled.

Gentle.

Faithful.

Just.

Unfailing.

Worldwide in mission.

Israel the Servant in Verses 18–25

Blind.

Deaf.

Disobedient.

Plundered.

Unresponsive.

Key Truth

Israel's failure creates the need for the faithful Servant who perfectly carries out God's mission.

XXVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 42 TEACHES ABOUT CHRIST

The New Testament explicitly identifies:

Jesus.

As the Servant of Isaiah 42.

He is:

Chosen.

Beloved.

Spirit-anointed.

Gentle.

Faithful.

Hope of the nations.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Isaiah 42 does not merely provide similarities to Jesus.

Matthew directly tells us:

Jesus fulfills this Servant prophecy.

XXIX. WHAT ISAIAH 42 TEACHES ABOUT THE SPIRIT

The Servant says:

"I have put My Spirit upon Him."

Jesus ministers in:

The power of the Holy Spirit.

Spiritual Principle

The Servant's mission is:

Spirit-anointed.

XXX. WHAT ISAIAH 42 TEACHES ABOUT GENTLENESS

The bruised reed is:

Not broken.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Messianic gentleness is strength under perfect control.

XXXI. WHAT ISAIAH 42 TEACHES ABOUT JUSTICE

Justice appears repeatedly.

The Servant will:

Bring justice.

Faithfully establish justice.

Continue until justice reaches:

The earth.

Spiritual Principle

Christ's gentleness does not mean:

Moral indifference.

XXXII. WHAT ISAIAH 42 TEACHES ABOUT THE NATIONS

The mission reaches:

Gentiles.

Coastlands.

Islands.

Ends of the earth.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Servant's kingdom was always intended to extend beyond Israel's national borders.

XXXIII. WHAT ISAIAH 42 TEACHES ABOUT COVENANT

The Servant Himself becomes:

A covenant for the people.

Spiritual Principle

God's saving promise becomes personally embodied in:

The Servant.

XXXIV. WHAT ISAIAH 42 TEACHES ABOUT LIGHT

The Servant is:

Light to the Gentiles.

He opens:

Blind eyes.

Turns:

Darkness into light.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Messiah does not merely tell people light exists.

He brings them into it.

XXXV. WHAT ISAIAH 42 TEACHES ABOUT CAPTIVITY

Prison.

Dungeon.

Darkness.

All describe:

Human bondage.

Spiritual Principle

Redemption means:

Release.

XXXVI. WHAT ISAIAH 42 TEACHES ABOUT GOD'S GLORY

God says:

"I will not give My glory to another."

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Anything that steals worship from God eventually competes with the purpose for which we were created.

XXXVII. WHAT ISAIAH 42 TEACHES ABOUT PROPHECY

God announces:

New things.

Before:

They happen.

Spiritual Principle

The future is unknown to us.

Not:

To God.

XXXVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 42 TEACHES ABOUT WORSHIP

The response to God's saving work is:

A new song.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

New mercy deserves remembered gratitude and renewed praise.

XXXIX. WHAT ISAIAH 42 TEACHES ABOUT GOD AS WARRIOR

God:

Waits.

Then:

Acts.

Spiritual Principle

Divine patience is not:

Divine weakness.

XL. WHAT ISAIAH 42 TEACHES ABOUT GUIDANCE

God leads:

Blind people.

On:

Unknown roads.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Guidance does not require you to know the road.

It requires you to trust the Guide.

XLI. WHAT ISAIAH 42 TEACHES ABOUT SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

Israel:

Sees.

Does not perceive.

Hears.

Does not listen.

Spiritual Principle

Spiritual blindness can exist alongside:

Religious privilege.

XLII. WHAT ISAIAH 42 TEACHES ABOUT DISOBEDIENCE

Judgment came because:

Israel would not walk.

Would not obey.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The servant who refuses the Master's way eventually loses the blessing of faithful service.

XLIII. A BRUISED REED

Some people are:

Bent.

Wounded.

Fragile.

Spiritual Principle

Christ does not measure human worth by:

Present strength.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not throw away what Jesus is willing to restore.

XLIV. A SMOLDERING WICK

The flame appears:

Almost gone.

Jesus does not:

Extinguish it.

Spiritual Principle

A weak flame is still something the Servant can:

Restore.

XLV. GENTLENESS AND JUSTICE

Modern thinking can separate:

Compassion.

Truth.

Jesus does not.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Biblical gentleness does not abandon justice, and biblical justice does not require cruelty.

XLVI. “HE WILL NOT FALTER”

The Servant experiences opposition.

Yet:

No failure.

Spiritual Principle

Human weakness does not become:

Messianic failure.

XLVII. THE COASTLANDS WAIT FOR HIS TEACHING

Distant nations desire:

Instruction.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The teaching of the Messiah belongs to the world, not merely one geographic region.

XLVIII. CREATOR AND REDEEMER

Verse 5:

Creation.

Verses 6–7:

Redemption.

Spiritual Principle

The God who gives physical breath can also give:

Spiritual freedom.

XLIX. “I WILL TAKE HOLD OF YOUR HAND”

God says this to:

The Servant.

Earlier in Isaiah 41 He said similar words to:

Israel.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The mission of God advances under God’s sustaining hand.

L. A LIGHT TO THE GENTILES

Light does not:

Remain hidden.

Spiritual Principle

God's saving purpose moves outward.

LI. OPEN BLIND EYES

Jesus did this:

Physically.

And:

Spiritually.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Every opened eye in Jesus' ministry pointed beyond itself toward the larger work of bringing people from darkness into truth.

LII. RELEASE FROM THE DUNGEON

God's salvation breaks:

Bondage.

Spiritual Principle

The Servant came not merely to advise captives but to:

Liberate them.

LIII. "I AM THE LORD"

The name establishes:

Identity.

Authority.

Exclusivity.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Everything in the chapter rests on who God is.

LIV. NEW THINGS DECLARED

God does not repeat:

Human predictions.

He declares:

His purpose.

Spiritual Principle

The One who controls history can announce history.

LV. THE NEW SONG

A new act of salvation produces:

New expression of praise.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not let yesterday's worship become the only language you have for today's mercy.

LVI. KEDAR SINGS

Desert peoples participate.

Spiritual Principle

No region is too distant for:

God's praise.

LVII. THE ISLANDS PRAISE

The geographical language keeps widening.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's glory refuses to remain provincial.

LVIII. THE LORD AS WARRIOR

God is not:

Passive.

Spiritual Principle

The same Lord who gently carries lambs can decisively defeat evil.

LIX. THE LONG SILENCE

God says:

For a long time.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Divine silence is not evidence that God has:

Forgotten.

LX. THE LABOR-PAIN IMAGE

Action is now:

Irreversible.

Urgent.

Spiritual Principle

God's appointed time eventually:

Arrives.

LXI. MOUNTAINS LAID WASTE

Obstacles appear:

Permanent.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can alter what looked immovable.

LXII. THE BLIND LED ON UNKNOWN ROADS

They cannot:

Map it.

God can:

Lead it.

Spiritual Principle

Faith often means following before:

Understanding.

LXIII. DARKNESS BECOMES LIGHT

God does not merely:

Give a flashlight.

He changes:

Darkness.

To:

Light.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Lord can transform the condition, not merely help you cope with it.

LXIV. ROUGH PLACES MADE SMOOTH

Not every road remains:

Hard forever.

Spiritual Principle

God can remove obstacles as well as strengthen travelers.

LXV. “I WILL NOT FORSAKE THEM”

A promise worth:

Remembering.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Unknown path.

Known Guide.

That is enough.

LXVI. IDOLS TURN WORSHIPERS BACKWARD

The idol promises:

Progress.

Produces:

Shame.

Spiritual Principle

False worship always eventually reverses the worshiper's hope.

LXVII. DEAF SERVANTS

Israel possessed:

God's Word.

Yet failed to hear.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Spiritual privilege increases responsibility.

LXVIII. BLIND MESSENGERS

A messenger must:

See.

Know.

Speak.

Israel fails at:

Perception.

Spiritual Principle

You cannot guide others faithfully while refusing to see truth yourself.

LXIX. MANY THINGS SEEN, NOTHING LEARNED

Experience alone does not create:

Wisdom.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

You can live through many acts of God and still miss what God is teaching if the heart remains inattentive.

LXX. THE LAW MADE GLORIOUS

The problem was never:

God's righteousness.

Spiritual Principle

Human failure does not diminish the goodness of God's standard.

LXXI. PLUNDERED PEOPLE

Israel becomes:

Loot.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Disobedience can reduce a servant from testimony to tragedy.

LXXII. "WHO WILL LISTEN?"

God still calls for:

Response.

Spiritual Principle

Even after failure, the Word still says:

Listen.

LXXIII. THE LORD HANDED THEM OVER

This is difficult but important.

The invading powers were:

Responsible.

Israel was:

Responsible.

God remained:

Sovereign.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can use historical judgment without approving the wicked motives of the human agents involved.

LXXIV. WAR AS DISCIPLINE

The chapter does not glorify:

War.

It presents war as:

Judgment.

Spiritual Principle

Violence is never transformed into virtue merely because God remains sovereign over history.

LXXV. FIRE WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING

The saddest words:

“They did not take it to heart.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The greatest tragedy is not merely suffering.

It is suffering without learning.

LXXVI. ISAIAH 41 AND ISAIAH 42

Isaiah 41

Israel is:

God's servant.

Weak.

Chosen.

Helped.

Isaiah 42

The ideal Servant appears:

Spirit-filled.

Faithful.

Universal.

Unfailing.

Later:

Israel's blindness is exposed.

Key Truth

The contrast prepares readers to distinguish Israel's calling as servant from the faithful Messianic Servant who fulfills God's purpose perfectly.

LXXVII. JESUS AND MATTHEW 12

Matthew does not leave the interpretation:

Uncertain.

He directly quotes Isaiah 42:1–4 regarding:

Jesus.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The safest Christological interpretation is the one Scripture itself explicitly gives us.

LXXVIII. JESUS AND THE BRUISED REED

Consider how Jesus treated:

The sick.

Outcasts.

Sinners.

Children.

The poor.

The ashamed.

Spiritual Principle

Isaiah's Servant is recognizable in the compassionate ministry of:

Christ.

LXXIX. JESUS AND THE NATIONS

The coastlands wait:

For His teaching.

Matthew says:

The nations hope in His name.

Spiritual Principle

The gospel's global mission is rooted in:

The Servant's mission.

LXXX. JESUS AND LIGHT

Simeon recognized:

Jesus.

As light to:

Gentiles.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Christ did not come merely to illuminate Israel's history but to bring revelation to the nations.

LXXXI. JESUS AND RELEASE

Christ brings:

Freedom from sin.

Darkness.

Bondage.

Condemnation.

Spiritual Principle

The deepest prison is not always made of:

Bars.

LXXXII. THE SERVANT AND THE SPIRIT

The Spirit rests upon:

Him.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Messiah's public ministry is inseparable from the Spirit's anointing.

LXXXIII. GOD'S DELIGHT IN THE SERVANT

God says:

"In whom My soul delights."

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' ministry flows out of:

The Father's pleasure.

Not:

Human approval.

LXXXIV. THE SERVANT'S QUIETNESS

He does not:

Shout for status.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Kingdom authority does not require theatrical self-importance.

LXXXV. THE SERVANT'S PERSEVERANCE

He will not:

Be discouraged.

Spiritual Principle

The Messiah finishes:

What He begins.

LXXXVI. THE SERVANT'S JUSTICE

Justice will reach:

The earth.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The mission of Christ is personal enough to restore a bruised reed and global enough to establish justice among nations.

LXXXVII. THE NEW SONG OF THE REDEEMED

The appropriate response is:

Praise.

Spiritual Principle

Salvation that reaches the nations deserves praise from:

The nations.

LXXXVIII. THE WARRIOR LORD AND THE GENTLE SERVANT

At first this can look like:

Contrast.

But together they reveal:

The fullness of God's saving work.

Gentleness toward:

The broken.

Judgment toward:

Evil.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Grace toward the bruised and judgment against wickedness are not contradictions.

Both flow from holy love.

LXXXIX. EIGHT GREAT LESSONS FROM ISAIAH 42

1. Jesus Is the Promised Servant

Principle:

The New Testament directly identifies Christ with Isaiah's Spirit-anointed Servant.

2. The Servant Is Gentle with the Weak

Principle:

Christ restores what others might discard.

3. The Servant Will Complete His Mission

Principle:

He will not fail or become discouraged.

4. The Servant Brings Light to the Nations

Principle:

The Messiah's saving mission is global.

5. God Alone Deserves Glory

Principle:

Idols must never receive the worship belonging to the Creator.

6. God Turns Darkness into Light

Principle:

He guides people who cannot see the road ahead.

7. Religious Privilege Does Not Prevent Spiritual Blindness

Principle:

Israel saw and heard much yet failed to respond.

8. Judgment Should Produce Repentance

Principle:

Suffering without spiritual response becomes a missed lesson.

XC. TWELVE GREAT CONTRASTS IN ISAIAH 42

- 1. Faithful Servant → Blind Servant**
- 2. Gentleness → Violence of Judgment**
- 3. Bruised Reed → Unbroken Messiah**
- 4. Smoldering Wick → Faithful Justice**
- 5. Blindness → Opened Eyes**
- 6. Captivity → Freedom**
- 7. Darkness → Light**
- 8. Idols → Exclusive Glory of God**
- 9. Silence → New Song**
- 10. Divine Patience → Divine Action**
- 11. Unknown Paths → Divine Guidance**
- 12. Hearing Words → Refusing to Listen**

Key Truth

Isaiah 42 contrasts the perfect faithfulness of the Servant with the spiritual failure of servant Israel and reveals why God's people need the Servant who sees, hears, obeys, liberates, and completes the mission without failure.

XCI. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Who is introduced at the beginning of Isaiah 42?

The Servant of the Lord.

Question 2

Who does the New Testament identify as this Servant?

Jesus Christ.

Question 3

What rests upon the Servant?

The Spirit of God.

Question 4

What does the Servant bring to the nations?

Justice.

Question 5

How does the Servant carry out His work?

With gentleness rather than noisy self-promotion.

Question 6

What does the bruised reed represent?

Something or someone damaged, weak, and easily broken.

Question 7

What does the Servant do with the bruised reed?

He does not break it.

Question 8

What does He do with the smoldering wick?

He does not extinguish it.

Question 9

Will the Servant fail?

No.

He will not falter or be discouraged.

Question 10

How far does His teaching reach?

To the coastlands and nations.

Question 11

Who commissioned the Servant?

The Creator of heaven and earth.

Question 12

What does the Servant become for the people?

A covenant.

Question 13

What does He become for the Gentiles?

A light.

Question 14

What does He do for the blind and captives?

He opens eyes and releases prisoners from darkness.

Question 15

Whose glory will God not give to another?

His own.

Question 16

Why can God declare future things?

Because He knows and governs history.

Question 17

What response is called for in verses 10–12?

A new song of worldwide praise.

Question 18

How is the Lord pictured in verse 13?

As a warrior who triumphs over enemies.

Question 19

What does God promise the blind in verse 16?

Guidance on unknown paths, light in darkness, smooth roads, and His continuing presence.

Question 20

What happens to idol worshipers?

They are turned back in shame.

Question 21

Who is called blind later in the chapter?

Israel, God's servant by covenant calling.

Question 22

What is Israel's problem?

It sees but does not pay attention and hears but does not listen.

Question 23

Why was Israel plundered?

Because of persistent sin and disobedience.

Question 24

Did judgment automatically produce repentance?

No.

The people still failed to understand and take it to heart.

Question 25

What major contrast does the chapter establish?

The faithful Messianic Servant succeeds where servant Israel failed.

XCII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 42 asks several searching questions.

Am I Bruised?

Do I believe Christ treats:

Weakness.

Wounds.

Failure.

With:

Gentleness?

Is My Flame Barely Burning?

Do I believe Jesus can:

Restore.

Rather than:

Extinguish?

Am I Confusing Gentleness with Weakness?

Do I understand that Christ is:

Tender.

And:

Unfailing?

Is God's Mission Bigger Than My Personal World?

Do I care about:

The nations?

The lost?

Those still in:

Darkness?

What Prison Do I Need Christ to Open?

Sin?

Fear?

Guilt?

Bitterness?

Bondage?

What Competes with God for Glory in My Life?

Am I Singing a new song because of fresh mercy?

Am I on an unfamiliar path?

Can I trust God to:

Lead?

Am I spiritually seeing but not:

Paying attention?

Am I hearing Scripture but not:

Listening?

Has God been trying to teach me through:

Correction?

Circumstances?

Discipline?

Am I taking it:

To heart?

XCIII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

**“The Servant Who Will Not Break the Bruised Reed Cannot Be
Broken by the Mission”**

Christ is:

Gentle enough to preserve:

The weakest.

Strong enough to complete:

The greatest assignment.

Principle:

The tenderness of Jesus is not the absence of strength; it is the perfect use of strength for the restoration of the weak and the establishment of righteousness.

XCIV. THE SERVANT GOD DELIGHTS IN

Human approval:

Changes.

God's delight:

Defines the Servant.

Spiritual Principle

The truest measure of ministry is not:

Popularity.

But:

Faithfulness to the Father.

XCV. THE SPIRIT UPON HIM

The Servant's mission is:

Empowered.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's work must be accomplished in God's power.

XCVI. JUSTICE FOR THE NATIONS

Justice is not:

Merely private morality.

It reaches:

Nations.

Spiritual Principle

The Messiah's reign concerns every dimension of righteousness.

XCVII. NO STREET SHOUTING

His kingdom does not depend upon:

Public spectacle.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Truth does not become stronger merely because it becomes louder.

XCVIII. THE BRUISED REED MINISTRY

Some ministries are built around:

Impressing the strong.

Jesus notices:

The bruised.

Spiritual Principle

The kingdom gives special attention to people the world easily overlooks.

XCIX. THE SMOLDERING WICK MINISTRY

Almost out.

Still:

Valuable.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not call finished what Christ is still willing to revive.

C. FAITHFUL JUSTICE

The Servant does not choose between:

Truth.

Compassion.

Spiritual Principle

Perfect justice and perfect mercy meet in:

Christ.

CI. THE SERVANT DOES NOT GET DISCOURAGED

People:

Reject.

Oppose.

Misunderstand.

Still:

He continues.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Messiah's mission does not depend upon human cooperation for final success.

CII. THE NATIONS WAIT

The coastlands wait for:

His teaching.

Spiritual Principle

The world's deepest need is not more:

Human theory.

It is:

Divine truth.

CIII. BREATH FROM GOD

Human beings live because:

God gives life.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The One who gives breath has authority to define how that breath should be used.

CIV. COVENANT EMBODIED

The Servant is not merely:

A messenger about covenant.

He is given as:

A covenant.

Spiritual Principle

God's salvation becomes personal in:

The Servant Himself.

CV. LIGHT ENTERS DARKNESS

Darkness cannot:

Illuminate itself.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Spiritual blindness is not cured by trying harder to see.

It requires light from God.

CVI. PRISONERS RELEASED

Captives cannot:

Unlock themselves.

Spiritual Principle

Grace does for prisoners what prisoners cannot do for themselves.

CVII. GLORY BELONGS TO GOD

Any ministry, church, leader, or believer that seeks:

God's glory.

And:

Personal glory.

Must remember:

God does not surrender what belongs uniquely to Him.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The safest place for a servant is where the Master receives the glory.

CVIII. FORMER THINGS AND NEW THINGS

God's past faithfulness supports:

Future confidence.

Spiritual Principle

Remembered fulfillment strengthens trust in promised fulfillment.

CIX. THE NEW SONG FROM THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

The worship circle becomes:

Global.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The mission of the Servant creates a worshiping people from places far beyond Jerusalem.

CX. GOD'S ZEAL AWAKENS

The long silence ends.

Spiritual Principle

God is patient.

Not:

Passive.

CXI. THE GUIDE OF THE BLIND

Blind people need:

More than instructions.

They need:

A guide.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not merely shout directions from a distance.

He leads.

CXII. UNKNOWN WAYS

God says:

Paths they have not known.

Spiritual Principle

God's faithfulness is not limited to:

Familiar territory.

CXIII. DARKNESS MADE LIGHT

Not merely:

Less dark.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God specializes in transformations that human beings can only describe as reversal.

CXIV. "I WILL NOT FORSAKE THEM"

The path may change.

The Guide does not.

Spiritual Principle

God's presence is more dependable than familiar surroundings.

CXV. THE BLIND SERVANT ISRAEL

Israel was called to:

Reveal God.

Yet became:

Unable to perceive.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

It is possible to be surrounded by revelation and still become spiritually numb to it.

CXVI. THE OPEN EAR THAT DOES NOT LISTEN

This is not:

Physical deafness.

It is:

Moral refusal.

Spiritual Principle

Listening is more than hearing words.

It involves:

Response.

CXVII. THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS LAW

God's Word remained:

Good.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When Scripture exposes us, the solution is not to lower Scripture but to let God correct us.

CXVIII. THE PLUNDERED SERVANT

Calling did not remove:

Consequences.

Spiritual Principle

Privilege does not cancel accountability.

CXIX. THE QUESTION FOR THE FUTURE

“Which of you will listen?”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The wisest response to past failure is future attentiveness.

CXX. SIN AND CAPTIVITY

The chapter answers:

Who gave them over?

God.

Why?

They sinned.

Spiritual Principle

Judgment makes sense only when we take:

Sin.

Seriously.

CXXI. FLAMES WITHOUT REPENTANCE

Judgment came.

Still:

No understanding.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not merely survive correction.

Learn from it.

CXXII. TEN GREAT MOVEMENTS IN ISAIAH 42

1. The Servant Is Presented

Chosen, upheld, Spirit-filled, and pleasing to God.

2. The Servant's Character Is Revealed

Gentle, faithful, and unwavering.

3. The Servant's Mission Is Commissioned

Covenant, light, sight, and freedom.

4. God Claims Exclusive Glory

Idolatry is rejected.

5. The World Is Called to Sing

The nations respond with praise.

6. The Lord Rises as Warrior

Divine patience gives way to decisive action.

7. The Blind Are Guided

Darkness becomes light and rough places become smooth.

8. Idol Worshipers Are Shamed

False trust collapses.

9. Israel's Blindness Is Exposed

God's servant nation sees and hears without responding.

10. Judgment Is Explained

Israel's suffering came through persistent disobedience, yet even discipline had not awakened the people.

Key Truth

Isaiah 42 moves from the perfect Servant to the failed servant, showing that Jesus fulfills the Spirit-anointed mission of justice, light, covenant, healing, and liberation that sinful Israel could not accomplish in its own strength.

CXXIII. FINAL APPLICATION

Isaiah Chapter 42 begins with:

“Behold My Servant.”

That command matters.

Look at:

Him.

Not first:

Your weakness.

Not first:

Israel’s failure.

Not first:

The darkness.

Look at:

The Servant.

He is:

Chosen.

Spirit-filled.

Loved by the Father.

Faithful.

Gentle.

Strong.

Then look at how He treats:

Weak people.

“A bruised reed He will not break.”

Maybe that describes:

You.

Bruised.

Bent.

Damaged.

Not what you once were.

Not as strong as you want to be.

Jesus does not say:

Throw it away.

He restores:

Bruised reeds.

Then:

“A smoldering wick He will not snuff out.”

Maybe your flame feels:

Small.

Prayer life:

Weak.

Hope:

Faint.

Strength:

Low.

The Servant does not come to extinguish what little remains.

He comes to:

Restore.

But do not mistake:

Gentleness.

For:

Weakness.

Verse 4 says:

He will not falter.

He will not be discouraged.

Until:

Justice is established.

Jesus is tender enough for:

The weakest sinner.

Strong enough for:

The mission of redeeming the nations.

Then God says the Servant becomes:

Light.

Covenant.

Freedom.

Sight.

What a Savior.

He opens:

Blind eyes.

He releases:

Captives.

He brings people from:

Darkness.

Then God says:

“I will not give My glory to another.”

That means every part of salvation should return:

Glory.

To:

God.

Then the entire world begins:

Singing.

That is where redemption should lead.

Not merely:

Relief.

Worship.

Then God says:

He has been silent.

But now:

He acts.

If you have ever wondered whether God's delay means:

God does not care—

Isaiah says:

No.

He has appointed:

A time.

Then comes another beautiful promise:

“I will lead the blind by ways they have not known.”

Maybe you do not know:

What comes next.

You cannot see:

The road.

You do not recognize:

The terrain.

That does not mean:

You are lost.

If God is leading:

The road does not need to be familiar.

Then:

Darkness becomes:

Light.

Rough places:

Smooth.

And God says:

“I will not forsake them.”

That may be the promise you need most.

Unknown road:

Known God.

Dark path:

Present God.

Weak sight:

Faithful Guide.

But then the chapter turns.

Israel is:

Blind.

Deaf.

God's servant people had revelation.

History.

Law.

Prophets.

Yet:

They would not listen.

That should warn every religious person.

You can:

Hear sermons.

Read Scripture.

Know theology.

Attend worship.

See God work.

And still:

Fail to pay attention.

The final tragedy is not merely:

Israel suffered.

It is:

Israel suffered and still did not take it to heart.

Do not let that become:

Your story.

When God teaches:

Listen.

When God corrects:

Learn.

When God reveals sin:

Repent.

When God points toward Christ:

Look.

When you are bruised:

Come.

When the flame is weak:

Come.

When you are blind:

Let Him lead.

When you are captive:

Let Him free.

And above everything:

Behold:

The Servant.

Jesus Christ.

The One who does not break the bruised reed.

The One who does not extinguish the smoldering wick.

The One who will not fail.

And the One in whom:

The nations hope.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for:

Your Servant.

Your chosen One.

Your beloved Son.

Jesus Christ.

Thank You that Your Spirit rested upon Him.

Thank You that He came to bring:

Justice.

Light.

Freedom.

Truth.

Salvation.

Father, when we are:

Bruised.

Do not let us believe we are:

Useless.

When our faith feels like:

A smoldering wick.

Breathe fresh life into:

Our hearts.

Thank You that Jesus is:

Gentle.

Yet never weak.

Compassionate.

Yet never compromising.

Faithful.

Never discouraged.

Never failing.

Father, thank You that Christ is:

Light to the nations.

Open:

Blind eyes.

Release:

Captives.

Bring people from:

Darkness.

Into:

Light.

Protect us from:

Idolatry.

Keep us from giving:

Your glory.

To:

People.

Possessions.

Institutions.

Anything created.

You alone are:

God.

Father, give us:

A new song.

May Your praise reach:

Every people.

Every nation.

Every place.

When You seem:

Silent.

Teach us to:

Trust.

When You rise to act:

Teach us to:

Worship.

Father, we are sometimes:

Blind.

Lead us.

We sometimes walk:

Unknown paths.

Guide us.

Turn:

Darkness into light.

Make:

Rough places smooth.

And remind us:

You will not forsake us.

Father, deliver us from:

Spiritual blindness.

Do not let us:

See without noticing.

Hear without listening.

Read without obeying.

Experience correction without learning.

Give us:

Open eyes.

Open ears.

Soft hearts.

Father, where we have sinned:

Correct us.

Where we have wandered:

Restore us.

Where we have become blind:

Give sight.

Where we have become deaf:

Teach us to hear.

And above all:

Keep our eyes fixed upon:

Jesus Christ.

The faithful Servant.

The Light of the nations.

The Liberator of captives.

The Hope of the world.

In His name,

Amen.

Key Verse

“Behold My Servant, whom I uphold, My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring justice to the nations.” — Isaiah 42:1

Central Truth

God reveals His perfect Servant, fulfilled in Jesus Christ, as the Spirit-anointed, gentle, faithful, and unfailing Messiah who brings justice to the nations, becomes covenant and light, opens blind eyes, frees captives, and leads people from darkness into light; in contrast, Israel’s spiritual blindness and disobedience expose humanity’s need for the faithful Servant who accomplishes what sinful servants could not.

Isaiah 42 in One Sentence

Isaiah presents the Spirit-anointed Servant fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who gently restores the bruised, faithfully establishes justice, becomes a covenant and light for the nations, opens blind eyes and frees captives, while the Lord claims exclusive glory, calls the world to a new song, rises to defeat evil, guides the blind through unknown paths, and finally exposes Israel’s tragic blindness and disobedience as proof of humanity’s need for the faithful Servant.