

He who chooses you is an abomination.”

²⁵ I stirred up one from the north, and he has come,
and from the rising of the sun, he will call on My name,
and he will come on rulers as on mortar
and as the potter tramples clay.

²⁶ Who declared it from the beginning, that we might know?
Or beforehand, that we might say, “He is righteous?”

Yea, there are none who declare,
yea, there are none who announce,
yea, there are none who hear your sayings.

²⁷ First for Zion, behold, here they are,
and I will give to Jerusalem one who brings good tidings.

²⁸ And I looked, and there is no one;
and among them [the false gods], there is no counselor,
whom I asked, that could answer a word.

²⁹ Behold, they are all chaos,
their works are nothing,
their molten images are wind and emptiness.

A PROPHECY OF JESUS CHRIST’S MISSION AND MINISTRY (42:1-9)

The LORD **42** Behold, My servant, whom I uphold,
My chosen, in whom my soul delights.
I have put My spirit upon him;
he will bring justice to the nations.

² He will not cry out or lift up his voice,
nor make it heard outside.

³ He will not break a crushed reed,
and He will not quench a faltering wick;
He will bring forth justice in truth.

⁴ He will not falter
nor be discouraged
until He has established justice in the earth,
and the islands will wait for His law.

Isaiah ⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
Creator of the heavens, and He stretches them out,
He spreads forth the earth and that which comes from it,

He gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk on it.

The LORD ⁶“I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness;
I grasp your hand and I keep you,
and I give you for a covenant of the people,
for a light to the nations,
⁷to open blind eyes,
to bring out the prisoner from prison
and those who sit in darkness from the dungeon.
⁸I am the LORD, that is My name,
and I will not give My glory to another,
neither My praise to graven images.
⁹Behold, the former things have come to pass,
and I declare new things:
I tell you of them before they spring forth.”

A HYMN TO JEHOVAH, THE REDEEMER (42:10-17)

Isaiah ¹⁰Sing a new song to the LORD,
His praise from the end of the earth,
you who go down to the sea and all that is in it,
the islands and their dwellers.
¹¹Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voices,
the villages that Kedar inhabits;
let the inhabitants of Sela sing gladly,
let them shout from the top of the mountains.
¹²Let them give glory to the LORD
and declare His praise in the islands.
¹³The LORD goes forth like a warrior;
He stirs up fury, like a man of war.
He cries out, yea, He roars;
He prevails over His enemies.

The LORD ¹⁴I have kept silent a long time;
I keep still,
I restrain myself;
like a woman in labor, I will cry out;
I will gasp,
and I will pant at the same time.

¹⁵ I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and I will dry up all their vegetation;
and I will turn rivers into islands,
and I will dry up pools.

¹⁶ And I will lead the blind in a way that they have not known;
I will guide them in paths that they have not known;
I will turn darkness into light before them
and rough places into level ground.

These are the things I will do,
and I will not forsake them.

¹⁷ They have turned backward;
they are certainly ashamed,
who trust in an idol,
who say to molten images,

Idolaters “You are our gods.”

THE SERVANT TO THE BLIND (42:18-25)

The LORD ¹⁸ O deaf ones, hear!
And O blind ones, look, that you may see!

¹⁹ [For I will send My servant unto you]¹⁵¹ who [are] blind, [yea, a messenger to open the eyes of the blind and unstop the ears of the] deaf; [and they shall be made] perfect [notwithstanding their blindness, if they will hearken unto the messenger], the Lord’s servant.

Isaiah ²⁰ [You are a people] who have seen many things, but you do not observe,
opening the ears [to hear], but [you] will not hear.

²¹ The LORD is [not] pleased [with such a people, but] for His righteousness’ sake, He will magnify the law and make it glorious.

²² [You are] a plundered and looted people;
[your enemies], all of them, [have] snared [you] in holes,
and [they have hid you] in prison houses.
[They have taken you]

for a plunder, but none delivers,
for a spoil, and none says, “Restore.”

151. Bracketed words in verses 19–25 are from JST.

²³ Who among [them] gives ear to [you],
[or] will hearken and hear [you], for the time to come?

²⁴ [And] who gave Jacob for a spoil
and Israel to the plunderers?

Did not the LORD,
He against whom they have sinned?

For they were not willing to walk in His ways
and did not heed His law;

²⁵ therefore, He has poured fury upon them,
His anger, and the strength of battle;

and [they have] set [them] on fire round about, yet [they
know] not;
and it burned [them], yet [they] laid it not to heart.

PROPHECY OF THE SAVIOR AND REDEMPTION (43:1-7)

Isaiah **43** And now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob,
And your Fashioner, O Israel:

The LORD “Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are Mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I am with you;
and through the rivers, they will not overwhelm you.

When you walk through fire, you will not be scorched,
and the flames will not burn you.

³ For I am the LORD, your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior!

I give Egypt for your ransom,¹⁵²
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴ Because you are precious in My eyes,
you are honored, and I love you;

I give a human in return for you,
people in exchange for your life.

152. “Ransom” (Hebrew *kofer*) can also be translated “redemption payment.” The Lord pays a ransom or redemption payment to free Israel from the nations, just as He freed ancient Israel from the dominance of Egypt, but instead of money, He exchanges three countries—Egypt, Cush, and Seba—for Israel.