

Isaiah 42

§ In this chapter the thought moves forward very considerably. The chapter naturally divides into four parts. The first part is made up of verses 1 to 7. It may be called, The Servant of the Lord Described.

The idea of the servant of the Lord has already been introduced in chapter 41, verse 8 to 9, where we learn that God had chosen Israel in order that a work could be done by Israel. Therefore Israel is called the servant of the Lord. It is for the accomplishment of this work that Israel has been preserved through the ages, and the responsibility is upon Israel that this work shall be completed.

We now learn what the work is. The picture given us might be called a blueprint for the task that has been laid upon Israel. It is not a picture of Israel in the past, nor a picture of Israel in the future. It is a picture of the work that Israel has responsibility to perform.

Whether the work is to be done by Israel as a unit or by a portion of the nation or by an individual out of the nation is not considered as yet. We have here simply a picture of the ideal servant, a picture of the task which Israel is responsible to fulfil.

The chapter begins with the declaration that God has selected this servant, that he is his elected one, God has chosen him out and God upholds him. It can be sure that the work will be accomplished because God has chosen him for the purpose and promised to ^{give} care-for him strength and guidance for it.

God declares that he will put his Spirit upon the servant. This certainly will insure fulfillment of the task. Now the last sentence in the verse summarizes the task: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

We must not misunderstand this word judgment. It is a very common word in Hebrew: (4 3/4) mishpat.* It does not mean judgment in the sense of condemnation or destruction. It is judgment in the sense of correct decision. It is in the sense of the establishment of justice and righteousness. It is often used where a man speaks of desiring his judgment, meaning that he desires to have the truth shown about himself that would be free from un-