

## **A A servant people. Isaiah 41**

- ❖ This servant undoubtedly represents the people of God (at that time, Israel and Judah).
- ❖ We might well conclude that the next references to the servant in Isaiah also represent Israel.
- ❖ However, the other mentions refer to an anonymous messiah who would free Israel and would die as a sacrifice (Isaiah 49:6-7; 52:13-53:12).
- ❖ So there are two servants in Isaiah. The first one is the people of God who are saved and redeemed. The second one is anonymous, and He is the Redeeming Messiah.

## **B A servant Messiah. Isaiah 42:1-7**

- ❖ Who is this anonymous servant? What is His mission?
  - Isaiah 42:1. He brings justice to the Gentiles
  - Isaiah 42:2-4. He fulfills His goals with silence and meekness
  - Isaiah 42:5-6. He acts as a covenant between God and His people
  - Isaiah 42:7. He brings light and hope to heal the blindness and to free the prisoners
- ❖ Therefore, this servant is the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth (Matthew 12:15-21).

## **C A liberator messiah. Isaiah 44:26-45:6**

- ❖ In Israel, two types of people were anointed: priests and kings (Exodus 28:41; 1 Kings 1:34). In addition, prophets were also sometimes anointed (1 Kings 19:16).
- ❖ Cyrus was anointed to fulfill only one of those roles. He is an anointed king called by God to carry out a specific mission: to free His people.
- ❖ Both the Bible and archaeology confirm the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecies about Cyrus (1 Chronicles 36:22-23; Ezra 1; Daniel 6:28).
- ❖ Cyrus dried up the Euphrates to conquer the city of Babylon (Isaiah 44:27). He also authorized the return of the Jews to Jerusalem, and gave them everything they needed to rebuild the temple (Isaiah 44:28).
- ❖ All this was foretold 150 years before it happened! This has led some people to deny that these chapters were written by Isaiah.
- ❖ Nevertheless, the Dead Sea Scrolls confirm that the book of Isaiah has only one author: Isaiah, the prophet who was inspired by God and lived in the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC.

## **D A difficult mission for the servant. Isaiah 49:1-12**

- ❖ It is relatively easy to identify this servant:
  - v. 1: He was called from the womb. Lk. 1:31
  - v. 2: He has a sharp sword in His mouth. Rev. 1:16
  - v. 3: God would be glorified in Him. Lk. 3:22
  - v. 4: His message would not be accepted. Lk. 9:22
  - v. 5: He would gather the tribes of Israel. Jn. 12:32
  - v. 6: He would be a light to the Gentiles. Jn. 8:12; 9:5
  - v. 7: He would be despised and abhorred. Mt. 26:67
- ❖ Despite His difficult mission and the rejection, Jesus didn't give up. Thanks to His perseverance, He can give us everlasting Redemption today.