

Isaiah 42 appears in the section often called the “Servant Songs” within the Book of Isaiah, written during a period spanning the late Assyrian threat and the Babylonian exile. The prophet speaks to Israel’s discouragement, announcing hope through God’s chosen Servant. This figure embodies Israel’s calling yet also transcends it, bringing justice, restoration, and light to the nations. The passage contrasts God’s faithfulness with Israel’s spiritual blindness, emphasizing God as Creator and Redeemer. For Jewish readers, the Servant is linked to Israel’s mission; Christians see its ultimate fulfilment in Jesus’ ministry of compassion, justice, and salvation.

*When have you been encouraged in times of despair? Who encouraged you and what did they do?*

**Read Isaiah 42:1-7**

1. In v1 What do you observe about the Servant’s relationship with God? What might it mean that God “delights” in Him? Read also: Matthew 3:16–17; Colossians 1:13–20; Ephesians 1:4–6
2. Why is the Spirit’s presence emphasized? How does the Spirit empower the Servant’s mission?
3. What stands out about the global scope of the Servant’s mission? How should this influence how we think about God’s concern for the world? How can we share in God’s concern for global affairs? Psalm 67; Matthew 28:19–20.
4. In v2, what does it mean that the Servant does not cry out or draws attention to Himself? How does this contrast with current political leadership styles?
5. V3 - what do the metaphors “bruised reed” and “smouldering wick” communicate? How does this reveal God’s heart toward fragile or struggling people? Who might this describe today? Psalm 34:18; Matthew 12:20; Romans 15:1
6. How are gentleness and faithfulness held together? Why is truth essential even in compassion? How can we reflect both grace and truth? Ephesians 4:15; Micah 6:8
7. V4 - what do you observe about the Servant’s endurance? How does His persistence encourage believers facing discouragement or slow progress?
8. V6 - what does it mean that God calls and holds the Servant’s hand? What reassurance does this give about divine guidance and support? Psalm 37:23–24; John 10:28–29; Isaiah 41:10.
9. V6 - how can a person be described as a covenant? How is this fulfilled in Christ? What does this teach about salvation and relationship with God? Luke 22:20; Hebrews 8:6–13; 2 Corinthians 5:17–21
10. V7 - how are believers called to continue this mission? Matthew 5:14–16. What does this look like to the people you meet?
11. What kinds of blindness might this include (spiritual, moral, emotional)? Where do people today need God’s light and freedom? How can the church participate in this healing work?

## Prayer Points

As we move into the season of Lent, what can you fast from that leads you into prayer? What can you give up that creates a prompt to pray? (tea, coffee, breakfast)

A BMS relief project helped welcome Afghan refugees forced to return from Iran. Pray these returnees would settle well in a difficult context.

## Sermon Notes



# BIBLE STUDY

February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2026

## Isaiah 42

### The Mission Begins

The Book of Isaiah presents powerful prophetic visions that have helped to shape theology, especially regarding God's holiness, judgment, and redemption. Written in a time of political turmoil, Isaiah foretells both near and distant events. Many prophecies have been fulfilled in history and in the life of Jesus Christ. Isaiah predicted the fall of Babylon, the return of Israel from exile, and the rise of Cyrus of Persia by name. Most notably, Isaiah 53 describes a suffering servant whose rejection, suffering, and redemptive death closely parallel the New Testament accounts of Jesus, reinforcing Isaiah's enduring significance.

This series will help us to be faithful as we renew our focus upon the Lord, and fruitful as He fulfils His word.

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001