

happens to love Israel. Because they are His pet? Is it because they are the ones whom He just loves, and therefore ones He brings forth, and that's all there is to it? We have a new idea, injected here. "But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend." 9.

Now Jacob whom God has chosen or elected, that is the standard Biblical idea. And Abraham the friend of God is the standard Biblical idea. But here is a new idea. Israel my servant. Israel is not receiving God's favor simply because God happens to like Israel but because God has something to be worked out through Israel. He has a purpose to Israel to perform. Israel is His servant. Now we find this phrase, my servant, or the servant of the Lord, repeated and recurring from here up to chapter 53 many times. And then stops. And we never have it again. After that we have the servants (plural) of the Lord, but not the servant. But here we have many times in these 15 chapters, the servant of the Lord. My servant. But who is the Lord's servant? Anybody know? Israel. My servant. Israel is the Lord's servant. That is explicit in this verse here. Thou, ~~and~~ O Israel, art my servant. I would have thought there was a moral to it. You would have seen that. It was just one man and he wouldn't have needed to come so far. But I'm glad he saw. It says explicitly, Israel my servant. So that is clear here. Now does anybody ask you who is the servant of the Lord in Isaiah 41 to 55, you are going to refer to this verse and find a little difficulty in giving an answer. Israel is the servant of the Lord is what this verse says.

Now He goes on to talk to His servant. "Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant. I have chosen thee, and not cast thee out." Now there are people who say that Cyrus is the servant of the Lord. Not in this verse. In this verse it is very clear that it is Israel. Verse 9. "Fear thou not for I am with thee." See the note of comfort. Israel can be comforted, because Israel is God's servant. God has raised Israel up for a purpose, and until that purpose is completed, no one can destroy Israel. Once I was on a hill side. I walked along that hill side, all day and looked for water and found ~~in~~ none but I had a quart of water in my canteen. It was part of the water that I had secured a few days earlier. I had seen no one for over a week. All that day I looked for water, and I found none. I knew of no place where, if I should walk in