

chapter 42. But how is Israel going to be able to do such a work as this?

(Question: Chapter 42:1,2 "Behold my servant, whom I uphold."- see Bible. And then verse 42:4. It is to take God's message and bring it to the whole world. Bring His law to the nations. That is the work of His servant. Verse 6 makes it particularly clear. See verse 7. He is to be a light to the Gentiles. He is to bring God's word to the nations. He will not fail nor be discouraged when he has done this. A steady forward progress in accomplishing this great work. And here in exile, in the captivity they are weak. How can they do it? But this is the work that God says is going to be done. He stresses it over and over again. Thou O Israel art my servant. My power is great. The work will be done.

(Question: Not on the basis of this. On the basis of Paul's teaching, but not on the basis of Isaiah, at least not on this passage. Maybe later on. It's interesting that from Isaiah 41 up until 53, He constantly speaks of my servant. He never speaks of anyone else. After you have the picture of the wicked's plight, then it is my servant, but the servant is Israel. And ~~these~~<sup>we</sup> are the servants rather than the servant. I don't think that you can consider that the church is specifically referred to here. I think this work describes beyond what any man can do.

44 then continues, in verse 21, Israel is my servant, but 22, "I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and as a cloud, thy sins, return unto me: for I have redeemed thee." Surely there the mighty power of God is expressed in the strongest language. I have blotted out thy transgressions. Return unto me. For I have redeemed thee. The redemption is God's work. God redeems us. We are to convert, to return. We are to return to Him who has redeemed us. We could not redeem ourselves. But we are to return to Him, who has redeemed us. Somebody has said, that conversion is the first act, of a new nature, the first act of a redeemed nature. To turn to God, to turn to Him.

"Sing O ye heavens, for the Lord has done it." Wonderful praise here, for the Lord is going to do. The Lord has redeemed Jacob and glorified himself in Israel. Spoken of that which is past, but predicting that which is a short distance ahead for them when He speaks. "Thus saith the Lord, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb." God's omnipotence. How can God do ~~him~~ all these things? Well, look what He has done in