



GRAFTED IN FELLOWSHIP

KING GEORGE

Lesson
Breisheet

“In the beginning”

Genesis 1:1 – 6:8

Isaiah 42:1 – 43:10; 1 Samuel 20:18-24

John 1:1-18

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All scripture references are Young’s Literal Translation (YLT) unless otherwise indicated.

1 Samuel 20:18-24, replaces the Isaiah readings when Shabbat falls on Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan.

My Notes:

Your Notes:

Background:

- Yesha’yahu (Isaiah) = Salvation of YHVH
- Isaiah 1:1 - The Visions of Isaiah son of Amoz, that he hath seen concerning Judah and Jerusalem, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, kings of Judah. [Tradition says Isaiah lived into the days of King Manasseh.]
- Royal blood: Isaiah’s father was Amoz, who was brother of Amaziah (King of Judah prior to Uzziah)
- Began prophesying: c. 740 BCE, the year King Uzziah died
 - o Isaiah 6:1 - In the year of the death of king Uzziah—I see the Lord, sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and His train is filling the temple.
- According to *Martyrdom and Ascension of Isaiah*, King Manasseh ordered Isaiah cut in half with a wood saw.
 - o Hebrews 11:37 - they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, they were tried; in the killing of the sword they died; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins—being destitute, afflicted, injuriously treated,
 - o Talmud also agrees
- Overall, Isaiah condemned the religious disloyalty and warned of the exile
- However, in Chapter 40, Isaiah changes from rebukes to consolations – offering hope and renewal for the faithful remnant
 - o Chapter 40 begins what is called *Deutero-Isaiah* (The second Isaiah)
 - o There is debate that Isaiah was written by two different authors
 - o The apostolic community did not make a distinction between 1-39 & 40-66 – they considered it one writing by Isaiah
- These writings were prophetic of the Messianic future
- Isaiah predicted the Babylonian exile that took place

more than 100 years after his death

- He also foresaw the return from Babylon and the rebuilding of the Temple in the days of King Cyrus
 - o **Isaiah 44:28** - Who is saying of Cyrus, My shepherd, And all my delight He doth perfect, So as to say of Jerusalem, Thou art built, And of the temple, Thou art founded.

Overview: Haftarah B'reisheet

- Message of hope and deliverance to those in the Babylonian exile and living in the diaspora
- Also included for the first time all of humanity, not just Israel
- Introduced the term "Servant of the LORD"
 - o This Servant was to bring the enlightening truth of monotheism and the religion of Israel to all nations

Messianic Implications:

Isaiah 42:1 - Lo, My servant, I take hold on him, My chosen one—My soul hath accepted, I have put My Spirit upon him, Judgment to nations he bringeth forth.

- Who is the Servant of the LORD?
 - o Targum Yonatan (the Aramaic paraphrase of Isaiah) identifies the Servant as the Messiah
 - o Behold, **My Servant the Messiah**, whom I bring, My chosen in whom one delights: as for My Word, I will put My Holy Spirit upon Him, He shall reveal My judgment unto the nations. (*Targum Yonatan* on Isaiah 42:1)
- Point of contention
 - o Christianity: Messiah
 - o Judaism: Israel
- Both have merit
 - o **Isaiah 49:6** - And He saith, 'It hath been a light thing That thou art to Me for a servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And the preserved of Israel to bring back, And I have given thee for a light of nations, To be My salvation unto the end of the earth.'
 - o This shows the Servant of the LORD working on behalf of Israel
 - o **Isaiah 41:8-10** - —And thou, O Israel, My servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, Seed of Abraham, My lover, Whom I have taken hold of, from the ends of the earth, And from its near places I have called thee, And I say to thee, My servant Thou art, I have chosen thee, and not rejected thee. Be not afraid, for with thee I am, Look not around, for I am thy God, I have strengthened thee, Yea, I have helped thee, yea, I upheld thee, With the right hand of My righteousness.
 - o This shows the Servant of the LORD as Israel

- Even more controversy with Isaiah 52-53, the Suffering Servant!
 - o Isaiah 53:4-7 - Surely our **sicknesses he hath borne**, And our pains—he hath carried them, And we—we have esteemed him plagued, Smitten of God, and afflicted. And **he is pierced** for our transgressions, **Bruised for our iniquities**, The chastisement of our peace is on him, And by his bruise there is healing to us. All of us like sheep have wandered, Each to his own way we have turned, And Jehovah hath caused to meet on him, The punishment of us all. It hath been exacted, and he hath answered, And he openeth not his mouth, **As a lamb to the slaughter** he is brought, And as a sheep before its shearers is dumb, And he openeth not his mouth.
 - o Since the days of the Apostles, this verse has been seen as referring to Yeshua
 - o And yet, Judaism sees the verse as referring to Israel – what other nation has suffered as much as Israel?
- What do the “pre-Church” Jewish writings show us?
 - o Targum Yonatan Isaiah 52:13 - Behold, My Servant the Messiah shall prosper, He shall be exalted and extolled ...
 - o This shows that even Ancient interpretations indicate the Servant is the Messiah!
- So which is it?
 - o BOTH!
 - o As the quintessential Israelite, the promised seed of Abraham, and the fulfillment of the Israel's divine purpose, Messiah represents all Israel.
 - o We need to keep the double meaning in mind
- “I have put my Spirit on him” alludes to Isaiah 11:2 - Rested on him hath the Spirit of Jehovah, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and might, The spirit of knowledge and fear of Jehovah.
- Matthew 3:17 - And having been baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water, and lo, opened to him were the heavens, and he saw **the Spirit of God descending as a dove**, and coming upon him, and lo, a voice out of the heavens, saying, **‘This is My Son—the Beloved, in whom I did delight.’**
 - o When we look at the Greek of Mt 3:17 and compare to the LXX of Is 42:1, they are very similar!

Mt 3:17	Is 42:1
My Son	My Servant
Beloved	Chosen One
In whom I am well-pleased	In whom My soul delights

The Manner of the Master:

Isaiah 42:2 - He doth not cry, nor lift up, Nor cause his voice to be heard, in the street.

Matthew 12:17-21 - that it might be fulfilled that was spoken through Isaiah the prophet, saying, 'Lo, My servant, whom I did choose, My beloved, in whom My soul did delight, I will put My Spirit upon him, and judgment to the nations he shall declare, he shall not strive nor cry, nor shall any hear in the broad places his voice, a bruised reed he shall not break, and smoking flax he shall not quench, till he may put forth judgment to victory, and in his name shall nations hope.'

- This is quoting Is 42:1-4, and is the longest quote of the Tanakh within Matthew
- Yeshua fulfilled the prophecy with His behavior not just as He was being tried prior to crucifixion, but His everyday behavior as well!
- If we are to be more "Christ-like", how much more should we should behave like Him?
 - o How do we act when we disagree with others?
 - o Do we argue our theology to others?
 - o Are we "Torah Terrorists"?
 - o Or do we have a gentle nature: stand firm in the truth, but with a low profile and humble disposition?

Torah for the Nations:

Isaiah 42:4 - He doth not become weak nor bruised, Till he setteth judgment in the earth, And for his law isles wait with hope.

- This is the mission of the Servant of the LORD!
- He is bringing the Torah to the world!
- The nations (isles) are waiting with hope!
- Isaiah 2:3 - And gone have many peoples and said, 'Come, and we go up unto the mount of Jehovah, Unto the house of the God of Jacob, And He doth teach us of His ways, And we walk in His paths, **For from Zion goeth forth a law**, And a word of Jehovah from Jerusalem.
 - o On what basis will the Lord judge between the nations? On how He *feels* on that day?
 - o How is it possible to read Paul as one who discarded the Law in favor of grace when Isaiah tells us that the Millennial Kingdom will be governed by Torah?
 - o When Yeshua returns, He will be the judge presiding over all humanity!
 - o He will legislate according to the Torah!
- Matthew 12:21 - and in his name shall nations hope.' (YLT)
And in His name Gentiles will trust." (NKJV)
 - o Hoping in His name and trusting in Torah are the same thing!

- By placing faith in Him, we also receive His teaching [Torah]!
- When He comes again, He will rule by Torah!

Creator of the Heavens and the Earth:

Isaiah 42:5 - Thus said God, Jehovah, preparing The heavens, and stretching them out, Spreading out the earth and its productions, Giving breath to the people on it, And spirit to those walking in it.

- It is this verse that ties the haftarah portion to B'reisheet
- Remember, in Is 42:4, the nations are looking for hope, and the hope is in the God who created ALL humanity!

Light of the Nations:

Isaiah 42:6 - I, Jehovah, did call thee in righteousness, **And I lay hold on thy hand**, and keep thee, And I give thee for a covenant of a people, And a light of nations.

- Can you see that God I talking directly to Yeshua?
- God is telling Yeshua He is the Chosen One, the Appointed One
- Yeshua has God's divine protection
- Here is the mission: To be a light to the nations!
- This is the covenant!
 - His sacrificial death and triumphant resurrection are the grounds for the new covenant
 - Jeremiah 31:31 - Lo, days are coming, an affirmation of Jehovah, And I have made with the house of Israel And with the house of Judah a new covenant,
 - Yeshua called the cup of Passover, His spilled blood, the cup of the new covenant
 - Luke 22:20 - In like manner, also, the cup after the supping, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, that for you is being poured forth.
 - 1 Cor 11:25 - In like manner also the cup after the supping, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; this do ye, as often as ye may drink it—to the remembrance of me;'
 - His apostles are called "servants of a new covenant"
 - 2 Cor 3:5-6 - not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything, as of ourselves, but our sufficiency is of God. Who also made us sufficient to be ministrants of a new covenant, not of letter, but of spirit; for the letter doth kill, and the spirit doth make alive.

- Yeshua is called the “mediator of the new covenant”
 - Heb 9:15 - And because of this, of a new covenant he is mediator, that, death having come, for redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, those called may receive the promise of the age-during inheritance,
 - Heb 12:24 - and to a mediator of a new covenant— Jesus, and to blood of sprinkling, speaking better things than that of Abel!
- How is Yeshua a “light to the nations”?
 - Within Him is the life that is the light
 - John 1:4-5 - In him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light in the darkness did shine, and the darkness did not perceive it.
 - Yeshua’s teachings of the good news
 - 2 Cor 4:4 - in whom the god of this age did blind the minds of the unbelieving, that there doth not shine forth to them the enlightening of the good news of the glory of the Christ, who is the image of God;
 - Yeshua declared He is the light
 - John 8:12 - Again, therefore, Jesus spake to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world; he who is following me shall not walk in the darkness, but he shall have the light of the life.’
 - John 9:5 - when I am in the world, I am a light of the world.’
 - John 12:46 - I a light to the world have come, that every one who is believing in me—in the darkness may not remain;
 - In the world to come, He is the lamp of New Jeruslaem
 - Rev 21:23-24 - and the city hath no need of the sun, nor of the moon, that they may shine in it; for the glory of God did lighten it, and the lamp of it is the Lamb; and the nations of the saved in its light shall walk, and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it,
- The writings of the apostles used the concept of Messiah as the light of the world that was introduced by Isaiah

Sets the Prisoner Free:

Isaiah 42:7 - To open the eyes of the blind, To bring forth from prison the bound one, From the house of restraint those sitting in darkness.

- Who is the “prisoner”?
 - In his day, the Assyrian had taken captives
 - Prophetically, speaking of the Babylonian and Roman exiles
- What is meant by “blind eyes”?
 - Metaphor about spiritual condition

- One who does not comprehend spiritual truth or acknowledge God is spiritually blind
 - Is 6:9-10 - And He saith, ‘Go, and thou hast said to this people, Hear ye—to hear, and ye do not understand, And see ye—to see, and ye do not know. Declare fat the heart of this people, And its ears declare heavy, And its eyes declare dazzled, Lest it see with its eyes, And with its ears hear, and its heart consider, And it hath turned back, and hath health.’
 - Targum Yonatan Isaiah 42:7 - "To open the eyes of Israel who are blind to the Torah, to bring back their captivity ... "
- Blindness can also be understood as Gentile idolators and pagans
 - Eph 2:12 - that ye were at that time apart from Christ, having been alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of the promise, having no hope, and without God, in the world;
- Yeshua healed the blind
 - This bespoke His greater mission of opening the spiritual eyes
 - He is enlightening the people, and the nations, with the knowledge of God and salvation
- What is darkness?
 - The absence of light!

The Blind and the Deaf:

Isaiah 42:18 - Ye deaf, hear; and ye blind, look to see.

- We have covered blindness (spiritual blindness to Torah)
- What is “deafness”?
 - Also a spiritual handicap
 - Those who don’t listen to the prophets
 - Turning a deaf ear to the Torah
- Going further, the Apostles the blind included those who did not recognize Yeshua as Messiah
 - John 12:40 - ‘He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart, that they might not see with the eyes, and understand with the heart, and turn back, and I might heal them;’
 - Rom 11:8-10, 25 - according as it hath been written, ‘God gave to them a spirit of deep sleep, eyes not to see, and ears not to hear,’—unto this very day, and David saith, ‘Let their table become for a snare, and for a trap, and for a stumbling-block, and for a recompense to them; let their eyes be darkened—not to behold, and their back do Thou always bow down.’
For I do not wish you to be ignorant, brethren, of this secret—that

ye may not be wise in your own conceits—that hardness in part to Israel hath happened till the fulness of the nations may come in;

- **However, God will lead them to the light!**
 - o **Isaiah 42:16** - And I have caused the blind to go, In a way they have not known, In paths they have not known I cause them to tread, I make a dark place before them become light, And unlevelled places become a plain, These are the things I have done to them, And I have not forsaken them.

The New Song:

Isaiah 42:10 - Sing to Jehovah a new song, His praise from the end of the earth, Ye who are going down to the sea, and its fulness, Isles, and their inhabitants.

- ***Mekhilta*** (Ancient collection of commentary on the book of Exodus)
- **Nine (9) songs Israel sang in Biblical history:**
 - o **1st: recited in Egypt (Isaiah 30:29** - Singing is to you as in a night sanctified for a festival, And joy of heart as he who is going with a pipe, To go in to the mountain of Jehovah, Unto the rock of Israel.)
 - o **2nd: recited at the Red Sea (Exodus 15:1** - Then singeth Moses and the sons of Israel this song to Jehovah, and they speak, saying:—‘I sing to Jehovah, For triumphing He hath triumphed; The horse and its rider He hath thrown into the sea.)
 - o **3rd: recited at the well (Numbers 21:17** - Then singeth Israel this song, concerning the well—they have answered to it:)
 - o **4th: recited by Moses (Deut 31:30** - And Moses speaketh in the ears of all the assembly of Israel the words of this song, till their completion:—)
 - o **5th: recited by Joshua (Josh 10:12** - **Then speaketh Joshua to Jehovah** in the day of Jehovah’s giving up the Amorites before the sons of Israel, and he saith, before the eyes of Israel, ‘Sun—in Gibeon stand still; and moon—in the valley of Ajalon;’)
 - o **6th: recited by Deborah and Barak (Judges 5:1** - And Deborah singeth—also Barak son of Abinoam—on that day, saying:—)
 - o **7th: recited by David (2 Sam 22:1** - And David speaketh to Jehovah the words of this song in the day Jehovah hath delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul.)
 - o **8th: recited by Solomon when dedicating the Temple (Psalm 30:1** - A Psalm.—A song of the dedication of the house of David. I exalt Thee, O Jehovah, For Thou hast drawn me up, and hast not let mine enemies rejoice over me.)
 - o **9th: recited by Jehoshaphat (2 Chron 20:21** -

And he taketh counsel with the people, and appointeth singers to Jehovah, and those giving praise to the honour of holiness, in the going out before the armed men, and saying, ‘Give ye thanks to Jehovah, for to the age is His kindness.’)

- The 10th song is the “new song” of Is 42:10
 - o A time will come when every nation, every tongue, will sing this song!

Resources used:

First Fruits of Zion, Torah Club Volume 3, Voice of the Prophets

Dr. Skip Moen, www.skipmoen.com