

Isaiah 41:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen,
the seed of Abraham my friend.

Analysis

In stark contrast to fearful nations making idols, God addresses Israel as 'my servant' and 'Jacob whom I have chosen.' The title 'servant' ('eved') becomes increasingly important in Isaiah (appearing 20+ times in chapters 40-66), ultimately pointing to Messiah, the perfect Servant. God's choice of Israel is rooted in grace, not merit.

Historical Context

Though Israel is in exile appearing defeated, God reasserts their unique covenant status. Their calling as God's servant contrasts with nations serving false gods—Israel serves the living God who chose them.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does your identity as God's chosen servant shape your response to difficult circumstances?
2. What does it mean to be chosen by God for service rather than achievement?

Interlinear Text

וְאַתָּה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל עַבְדִּי יַעֲקֹב אֲשֶׁר בָּחַרְתִּי יָךְ
H859 But thou Israel art my servant Jacob H834 whom I have chosen
H3478 H5650 H3290 H977

אֱהָבִי: אֲבִרְכֶה מִן הַרְע
the seed of Abraham my friend
H2233 H85 H157

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 14:2 (Parallel theme): For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.

James 2:23 (References Abraham): And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

2 Chronicles 20:7 (References Abraham): Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?

Isaiah 44:21 (References Israel): Remember these, O Jacob and Israel; for thou art my servant: I have formed thee; thou art my servant: O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me.

Isaiah 51:2 (References Abraham): Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him.

Isaiah 29:22 (References Abraham): Therefore thus saith the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob, Jacob shall not now be ashamed, neither shall his face now wax pale.

Psalms 33:12 (Parallel theme): Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

Isaiah 43:1 (References Israel): But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

Psalms 135:4 (References Israel): For the LORD hath chosen Jacob unto himself, and Israel for his peculiar treasure.

Isaiah 48:12 (References Israel): Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last.

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