**The Glories of the Messiah – Isa. 42:14 -25**

**Focal Truth: God called on Israel to see & hear the promise of the coming of the Messiah but they were spiritually blind & deaf**

**Observations**

1. **God calls for Israel to Look! To See! The glorious coming Messiah!**
2. 40:4 -5 – *let every valley be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; and let the rough ground become a plain, and the rugged terrain a broad valley; then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it*
3. 40:9 -10 – *here is your God! Behold, the Lord God will come with might, with his arm ruling for Him…*
4. 42:1 – *behold My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights.*
5. **God promises through Jesus Christ to open spiritually blind eyes – 42:14 – 16**
6. God will lead the blind by a way they do not know
7. God will guide them in paths they do not know
8. God will make the darkness light before them
9. God will make the rugged places into plains for them

Isa. 29:18 – *on that day the deaf will hear words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see*

Lk. 1:78 -79 – *because of the tender mercy of our God, with which the Sunrise from on high will visit us, to shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace*

Lk. 4:18 – *the Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed*

Eph. 5:8 -9 – *for you were formerly darkness but now you are Light in the Lord walk as children of the Light*

1. **God calls on Israel to recognize their spiritual blindness & deafness – 42:18 – 22**
2. God calls for spiritual self -examination of their condition of spiritual blindness & deafness

*Hear, you deaf! And look, you blind, that you may see…*

1. Spiritual blindness sees things happening around them but does not see God’s work in the daily events & circumstances of their life – 20
2. Spiritual deafness hears God speaking through his word, others & life circumstances but does not hear God speaking – 20
3. God describes the condition of the spiritually blind & deaf
* God gave the Law of God to be seen & heard
* The people were robbed of the glory of the Law of God
* The people were in bondage in caves & prisons
* The people were attacked by the enemy with no protector

 ***Seeing many things, he gives no heed; with ears open, he hears nothing 42:20 Targum***

 **Consider**

1. Spiritual blindness & deafness does not see or hear the word of God
2. Spiritual blindness & deafness defiles & corrupts
3. Spiritual blindness & deafness produces bondage
4. Spiritual blindness & deafness leads to domination by the evil one
5. **Isaiah reminds Israel of the consequences of spiritual blindness & deafness – 42:23 -25**
6. Isaiah reminds Israel that all were spiritually blind & deaf -23
7. Isaiah reminds Israel that spiritual blindness & deafness leads to sinfulness - 24
8. Isaiah reminds Israel that spiritual blindness & deafness cause hardness 25

***So He poured out on him the heat of his anger and the fierceness of battle; and it set him aflame all around, yet he did not recognize it; and it burned him, but he paid no attention***

**Things to Remember & Do**

1. Like Israel sinners are spiritually blind & deaf to the Word & Ways of God

*Therefore I speak to them in parables, because while seeing they do not see, and while hearting they do not hear, nor do they understand Matt. 13:13*

*The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God 2 Cor. 4:4*

1. Like Israel hypocrites pretend to spiritually see & hear but are blind & deaf

*This people draw near with their words, and honor Me with their lip service, but they remove their hearts far from Me, and their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote – Isa. 29:13*

1. Like Israel spiritual blindness & deafness leads to a life of hardness toward God

*Ephraim mixes himself with the nations; Ephraim has become a cake not turned. Strangers devour his strength, yet he does not know it; gray hairs also sprinkle on him, yet he does not know it…so Ephraim has become like a silly dove, without sense… Hos.7:8*

1. The Holy Spirit gives us the ability to see & hear spiritual truth – 1 Cor. 2:7 – 12

*We speak God’s wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; but just as it is written, things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him. For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God…no we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God*

1. Believer’s fix their eyes on Jesus & experience the enlightening of the eyes of their heart, so that they will know what is the hope of his calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. Eph. 1:18 – 19
2. Believer’s see by faith & hear by faith

Heb. 11:1 – *faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen*

2 Cor. 5:7 – *we walk by faith not by sight*

Rom. 11:17 – *faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God*

1. Believers hear by obeying

James 1:22 – *prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves*

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**

**(HYMN)**

**I heard the voice of Jesus Say – Horatius Bonar**

1I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Come unto Me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon My breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting place,
and He has made me glad.

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down, and drink, and live.”
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in Him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am this dark world’s Light;
look unto Me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in Him my Star, my Sun;
and in that Light of life I’ll walk,
till trav'ling days are done.