

Yahweh's Servant, Yeshua

I was reading my Bible (HCSB) the other day and noticed some parallels between the books of Isaiah, Matthew, and Luke.

The phrases that jumped out at me in Isaiah 42 were "My Chosen One," "I delight in Him," and "I have put My Spirit on Him." I immediately turned the pages in my Bible over to the Gospel of Matthew.

In Isaiah 42, Yahweh says "I put My Spirit on My Servant," and "I delight in My Servant." In Matthew 3, Yahweh's Spirit descends and comes down upon Yeshua, and Yahweh says of Yeshua, "I delight in Him!" I don't think it could be any clearer that Yeshua is Yahweh's Servant prophesied about in Isaiah 42. Next I turned to Luke.

In Isaiah 42, Yahweh said, "My Servant is My Chosen One." In Luke 9, Yahweh said, "My Son, the Chosen One." Clearly, Yeshua is the Servant Yahweh spoke of in Isaiah 42.¹ Here are the parallels, all together, and color coded.

Isaiah 42:1	Matthew 3:16-17	Luke 9:34-35
This is My Servant; I strengthen Him, [this is] My Chosen One ; I delight in Him . I have put My Spirit on Him .	After Yeshua was baptized, He went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on Him . And there came a voice from heaven: This is My beloved Son. I take delight in Him!	While he was saying this, a cloud appeared and overshadowed them. They became afraid as they entered the cloud. Then a voice came from the cloud, saying: This is My Son, the Chosen One ; listen to Him!

Yahweh's Servant is not Yahweh Himself; the Servant is someone other than Yahweh. He is the Servant *of* Yahweh. Servant carries the meaning of "one who serves," and if we know Scripture, we know that there was no man who served Yahweh like Yeshua served Yahweh.

My mind then went to the book of Acts where Yeshua is identified as the Servant of Yahweh. If you read the King James Version of the Bible, these texts call Yeshua "Son," and "holy child." I have no problem with those translations, they are legitimate. However, the title "Servant" may be a better way to translate these texts from the Greek New Testament, especially when one has Hebrew Scriptures like Isaiah 42, 52, and 53 in mind.

Acts 3:13

The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His Servant Yeshua, whom you handed over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him.

Here Peter is preaching his second salvation sermon to the men of Israel (Acts 2:22; 3:12). He speaks of the God of our fathers, that's Yahweh. Then he speaks of Yahweh glorifying His Servant; that's Yeshua, the man who was delivered up to die on a cross. Yeshua (Yahweh's Son) is the Servant of Yahweh. He served Yahweh completely. We see this again in Acts 4.

Acts 4:27, 30

For, in fact, in this city both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, assembled together against Your holy Servant Yeshua, whom You anointed... while You stretch out Your hand for healing, signs, and wonders to be performed through the name of Your holy Servant Yeshua.

This is an account of an early church prayer for boldness, to speak the message about Yeshua, in spite of persecution from the religious leaders (Acts 4:13-22, 29). Some of the men joining in prayer here were the direct disciples of Yeshua. Peter and John (and the disciples) knew Yeshua more closely than anyone else upon the earth. They spent approximately 3 and 1/2 years with Yeshua during his ministry. He was their personal teacher. Yet, when you study the prayer of Acts 4:24-30, these direct disciples of Yeshua, and the early church, were not praying to Yeshua, they were praying to Yahweh. In verse 24 they directed their prayer to the One who made heaven, earth, the sea, and everything in them. They raised their voices to "God, the Lord" (KJV). As you saw above in verses 27 and 30, they mention that this One who made everything has a holy Servant, Yeshua. The One they were praying to (Yahweh) had anointed His holy Servant Yeshua.

Yeshua is the Servant of Yahweh.ⁱⁱ He is to be exalted, praised, honored, loved, and submitted to, but not as Yahweh. He is to be honored as Yahweh's Servant of Isaiah 42. Yeshua brings justice to the nations (Isaiah 42:1). Yahweh called him for a righteous purpose, holds Yeshua by his hand, and makes him a covenant for the people (Isaiah 42:6).

It is difficult to exalt Yeshua too much, unless you put him in the place of Father Yahweh. Yahweh deserves sole honor, praise, love, and submission as our Almighty, the Most High, the Creator. Yeshua is not to be given the praise that only Father Yahweh deserves, but Yeshua *is* to be honored as Yahweh's Servant (Isaiah 42:1), Yahweh's Son (Matthew 3:16-17), and the Chosen One (Luke 9:35). He is the One Yahweh called in order to open blind eyes and bring out prisoners from the dungeon (Isaiah 42:6). Yahweh takes delight in him, and Yahweh has placed His Spirit upon him. We are to *listen* to Yeshua, just as Yahweh told us to do in Luke 9:35. He is the prophet like Moses, raised up from among the brothers in Israel (Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19; Acts 3:20-26). If we don't listen to the Servant that Yahweh chose, we will be destroyed. Yahweh told us to listen to Yeshua, so if we listen to Yeshua, we are obeying Yahweh.

ⁱ In Matthew 12:15-21 we read the following: "Yeshua became aware of this, He withdrew from there. Huge crowds followed Him, and He healed them all. He warned them no to make him known, so that what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: Here is My Servant whom I have chosen, My beloved in whom My soul delights; I will put My Spirit on Him, and He will proclaim justice to the nations. He will not argue or shout, and no one will hear His voice in the streets. He will not break a bruised reed, and He will not put out a smoldering wick, until He has led justice to victory. The nations will put their hope in His name." Matthew quotes Isaiah 42:1-4, and proclaims Yeshua as the fulfillment of the Servant of Yahweh.

ⁱⁱ I believe that Yeshua is the fulfillment of Yahweh's Servant in Isaiah 49:1-6 as well. In 49:1 we see that Yahweh called His Servant before he was born, and named him in his mother's womb. We see this of Yeshua in both Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-38. 49:2 goes on to say that Yahweh made His Servant's words like a sharp sword, and the Servant was like a sharpened arrow in Yahweh's quiver. In Luke 2:25-35 the prophet Simeon said of Yeshua, "This child is destined to cause the fall and rise of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed - and a sword will pierce your own soul - that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." In 49:3 it seems to say that the Servant is Israel, but in 49:5 we see that "Israel" the Servant of Yahweh is chosen to bring back Jacob-Israel. Yahweh will use His Servant to restore the tribes of Israel, gathering them to Himself. The understanding is that the Servant "Israel" in 49:3 is a singular man *from* Israel, which Yeshua was (of the tribe of Judah; Hebrews 7:14). Twice (49:4, 5) the Servant refers to Yahweh as "my God," and to top it all off, in Luke 2:28-32 and Acts 13:47 both the prophet Simeon and the apostle Paul quote Isaiah 49:6 in reference to Yeshua.