

**The Worldwide Work of the Lord's
Servant: Isaiah 42:1-7**

THERE IS A STRIKING CONTRAST between the end of chapter 41 and the beginning of chapter 42. Isaiah 41 ends with a strong condemnation of the idols. The false gods are nothing: they are merely wind and confusion. In contrast, chapter 42 begins with a picture of One who will exert power to a greater extent than any of the earth's great conquerors. His authority will be worldwide. "He will bring forth justice to the nations" (v. 1). He will "establish justice in the earth, and the isles will wait for his law" (v. 4). The entire passage reads:

(1) See my servant, whom I uphold; my chosen one, in whom my soul delights: I have put my spirit upon him; he shall bring forth justice to the nations. (2) He shall not cry out or raise his voice or cause his voice to be heard in the street. (3) He will not break a bruised reed nor will he extinguish a dimly burning wick. But he will make justice come forth in accordance with truth. (4) He will not fail nor be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands will wait for his law. (5) Thus says God the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what it produces, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who traverse it. (6) I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness: I will hold you by the hand and guard you; I will make you as a covenant to a people, as a light to nations, (7) to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon and those who sit in darkness from the prison.