

caps → The Servant of the Lord in Isaiah (continued)  
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In the previous article we noticed that the wonderful prophecy of the sufferings of Christ in Isaiah 53 comes at the climax of a long series of references to "the servant of the Lord," in many of which <sup>the</sup> "the servant" is explicitly declared to be Israel. Facing the question, how can "the servant" be the nation of Israel in some passages but be the Lord ~~Jesse~~ Jesus Christ in others, we say <sup>no</sup> that the <sup>apparent</sup> contradiction <sup>can be explained by</sup> answer is probably to be sought in the fact that the passages teach that the responsibility for the work of the servant of the Lord rests upon the entire nation of Israel, <sup>while</sup> ~~yet~~ the actual doing of the task could ~~not~~ hardly be performed by an entire nation, <sup>since the</sup> ~~which~~ <sup>nation</sup> included wicked people as well as good people; it must be done by a portion of the nation, perhaps even by a single individual, who would be the true "servant of the Lord." ¶ We saw that the wonderful prophecy in Isaiah 42:1-7 gives the impression of ~~it~~ describing an individual. Yet we <sup>found</sup> ~~noticed~~ that it describes the servant's task as one of bringing light and justice to the Gentile nations, ~~while~~ <sup>while</sup> ~~saying~~ nothing about his doing anything specifically for Israel. Thus it left the question still open, whether ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> servant is to be considered as a personification of an entire nation, or as a single individual. At the end of the article we noticed the <sup>contrast</sup> ~~apparent contradiction~~ between Isaiah 42:19, which emphatically rebukes God's servant for his blindness, and the early part of the same chapter, which describes the servant as one who moves forward with absolute confidence to perform the world-shaking task to which God has called him. <sup>We saw that this apparent contradiction is solved if we recognize that the early part of the</sup>

② We did not have space at that time to look fully into the context of Isaiah 42:19,

a context possessing a far greater importance for our  
① chapter describes the ~~one~~ <sup>one</sup> who <sup>is to</sup> perform the task, while verse 19 points out the inability of the nation as a whole to fulfill the responsibility for which it has been called.