

# To Be or Not to Be: The People of God Have a Choice to be Prophetic by Chaplain Frank Wm Nagy

In Isaiah 42:18 and the verses following God calls men to a new level of response to him. Unfortunately, the majority refuse God's generous offer:

Isaiah 42:18 Hear, you *deaf* and look, you *blind*, so you may see. 19 Who is *blind*, but my servant? or *deaf*, as my messenger that I sent? who is *blind* as he who is *perfect*, and *blind* as the LORD's servant? 20 *Seeing many things, you do not observe them.* Opening your ears, but *not hearing*.

Isaiah 42:18 Hear, you *deaf* and look, you *blind*, so you may see.

What a startling set of seemingly unreasonable commands.

We hope you will notice God did not say, "Hear, you *blind*. See you *deaf*." The Lord was not suggesting they make up for a handicap by striving to develop higher acuity with their other senses. God was giving himself the opportunity for more glory, as his strength was shown perfect where they had their greatest weakness. God planned to make up for their lack. He was not about to leave them limited, just making do. He shows himself ready to provide what they could not have any other way but miraculously.

Hear, you *deaf* and look, you *blind*, so you may see (Isaiah 42:18).

As God utters these commands, He imparts his creative power. The same power unleashed when He spoke most of creation into being is at work here. As the Lord commands it, his people are granted the power to do what they could not before the command was issued.

Hear, you *deaf* and look, you *blind*, so you may see (Isaiah 42:18).

If they, if we, will but press in to obey, God will give them power to do the impossible. We *deaf* will hear. We *blind*, will look and see.

God uses his servants, messengers and perfected ones as encouragement. He says these were no more able to hear or see than the rest of you. They merely believed God's promise in his commands and tenaciously grabbed on to the promised grace, which is likewise available to all. God promises to transform insensitive and unresponsive people, who will submit to him.

:19 Who is *blind*, but my servant? or *deaf*, as my messenger that I sent? who is *blind* as he who is *perfect*, and *blind* as the LORD's servant?

Yet, if those who refuse to budge, He will judge. He will come down hard on those He empowered to see, who then refuse to pay the proper attention, those given the message, who refuse to heed his word with obedience:

20 *Seeing many things, you do not observe them.* Opening your ears, but *not hearing*....

:22 But this is a people robbed and spoiled. They are all of them snared in holes and hid in prison houses. They are a prey, and none delivers; a spoil, and none says, "Restore."

Why are they in this condition? Because they have refused to hear:

:23 **Who among you will give ear to this?** who will **pay attention and hear** for the time to come?

So God gives them over to destroyers, since they continually refuse to listen to him and turn from their sinful ways:

:24 Who gave Jacob for a spoil, and Israel to the robbers? did not the LORD, against whom we have sinned? for they would not walk in his ways, neither were they obedient to his law.

:25 So He has poured upon him the fury of his anger, and the strength of battle. It has set him on fire round about, yet he did not know it. It burned him, yet he did not lay it to heart.

Why do we not receive God's call to live the Life He has for us?

### **God Commands and He Enables**

Isaiah 42:18 Hear, you *deaf* and look, you *blind*, so you may see.

### **God Proves His Commands are His Enablings**

:19 Who is blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger that I sent? who is blind as he that is perfect, and blind as the LORD's servant?

### **Yet, Many are Disobedient, Refusing to Answer God's Call**

:20 Seeing many things, **you do not observe** them. Opening your ears, but **not hearing**....

:23 Who among you will give ear to this? who will pay attention and hear for the time to come?

Those, who refuse to become prophetic, become pathetic.

### **So God Gives Them [Us] Over to destroyers**

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### **Isaiah 42: Broken Down into its Basic Elements**

18-19 God Reveals a Truth

- 20 People lack response
- 21 God Judges
- 22 People are at a loss
- 23 People still do not heed God's Word
- 24-25 God gives the People up to the effects a hardened Heart brings
- 25 People remain hardened to it all

God continually acts in this pattern. Here in Isaiah 42 He makes a command that gives people both power and opportunity to obey, but if they will not then do as He says, a judgment will fall upon them.

This can even be seen in the passage that speaks of faith: "The just shall live by faith, but if any draw back my Soul shall have no pleasure in him (Heb 10:38)."

God gives all men opportunities to hear and see, but these opportunities often go unappreciated and unused.

Isaiah 42:18 Hear, you *deaf* and look, you *blind*, so you may see.

Isaiah 43:8 Bring forth the *blind* that have eyes, and the *deaf* that have ears.

"Many are called, but few are chosen," said Jesus.