

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

Title:

Speaking of Salvation

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Isaiah 41:21-42:17

**Theme:** Listen closely because our confidence grows as we hear God speak.

**Introduction:** The Lord wants his people to be confident in him, and the way he accomplishes this is by speaking to us. Unlike idols (false gods), the living God both speaks and assigns meaning to history. He tells us what everything means, and his voice orients us to truth and life.

We can understand these themes under 3 points:

### 1. Take note of the silence of idols (41:21-29)

The Lord calls all the idols of the nations to a courtroom: he is putting them on trial. He challenges them to give the meaning of recent events.

Then the Lord gives that meaning: Israel was being punished for their idolatry. Their history was painful, but it was not meaningless.

The Lord also challenges the idols to tell the future. And then *he* does it: he will raise up Cyrus, King of Persia, to overthrow Babylon and to return his people to their land. One implication: we need to recognize that the voices we listen to represent a moral decision on our part. We are responsible for who we listen to; and most importantly, we must listen to the Lord above all.

### 2. Take in the revelation of God (42:1-9)

The Lord then begins to speak to his people of a Savior. This is the first of 4 Servant Songs in Isaiah. And while some of these themes may be understood as applying to Israel, others are most obviously pointing to the Messiah.

Several aspects of the Savior's character come through: he comes quietly, he does not crush the weary and hurting, yet he is not weak in any way.

He will complete his work of saving his people.

### 3. Take up a song of praise (42:10-17)

When we hear from the Lord, we grow in confidence. And when we grow in confidence, we respond in praise.

Our praise responds to what the Lord has done for us: he delivers his people. He accomplishes all that we need for salvation. False gods, however, always fail. Those who trust in them will be "turned back and utterly put to shame" (v. 17).

**Questions:**

1. What voices have influence in your life? Where do you get information and interpretation about what is going on in your world?

2. How well do you know God and his word? How confident are you in him?