

Servant Song Responsive Reading

Based on Isaiah 42:1-9, a Servant Song

ALL: This is what God the LORD says—He who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, Who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it:

LEADER: Here is my servant, my chosen One . . . (v. 1)

GROUP A: I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness (v. 6);

LEADER: Whom I uphold . . . in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him . . . (v. 1).

GROUP B: I will take hold of your hand (v. 6).

LEADER: He will bring justice to the nations (v. 1).

GROUP A: I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles (v. 6).

GROUP B: You will open eyes that are blind, free captives from prison and release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness (v. 7).

LEADER: He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets (v. 2).

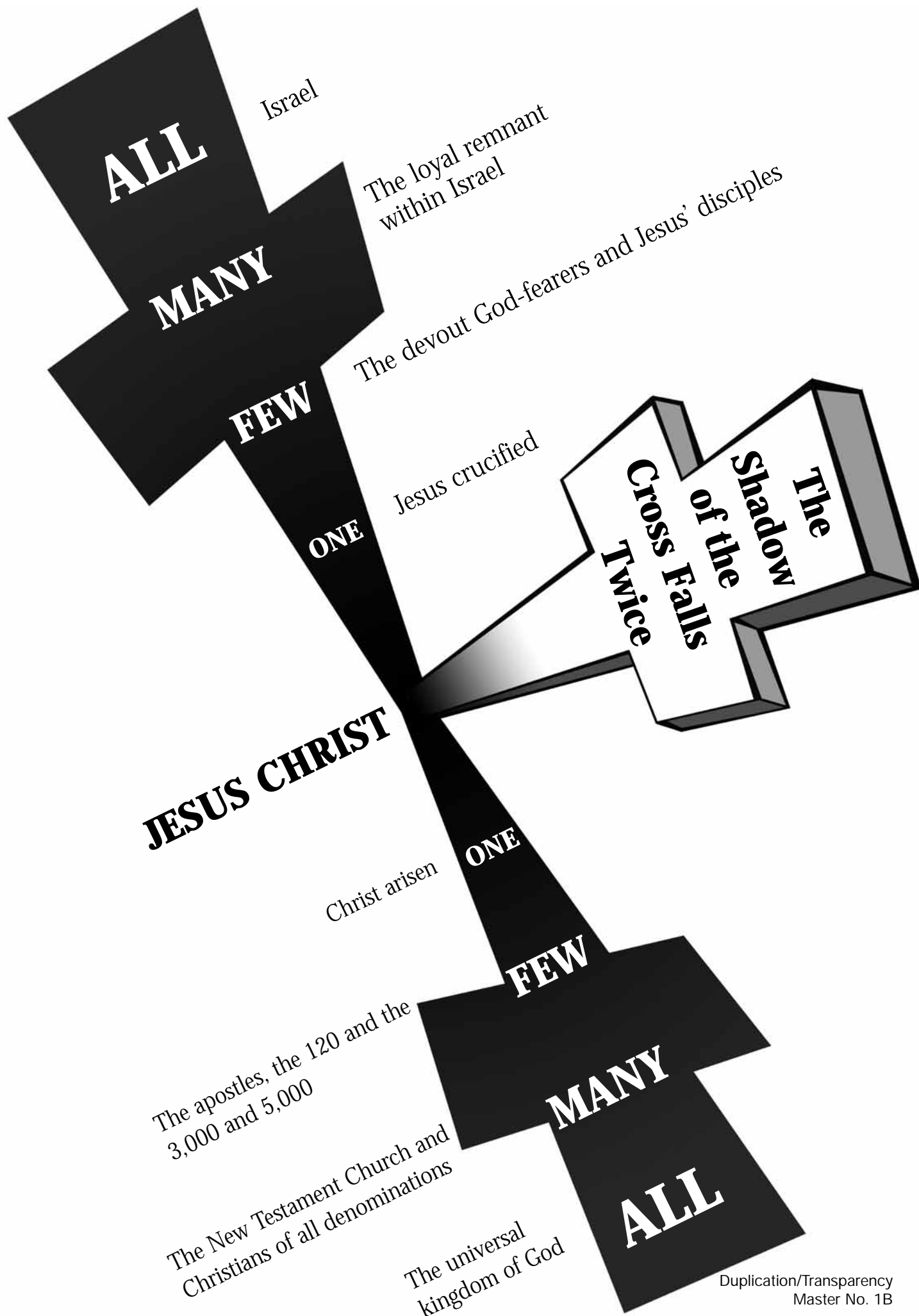
GROUP A: A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out (v. 3).

LEADER: In faithfulness he will bring forth justice (v. 3);

GROUP B: He will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth (v. 4).

LEADER: In his law the islands put their hope (v. 4).

ALL: I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols. See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you (vv. 8-9).



John Wesley and Isaiah 53

God imputes our sins, or the guilt of them, to Christ. He consented to be responsible for them, to suffer the punishment due for them. . . .

“He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows.” [Isaiah 53:4]

The word “borne” signifies, (1) **To take up** somewhat, as on one’s shoulders: (2) **To bear** or **carry** something weighty, as a porter does a burden: (3) **To take away**: And in all these senses it is here applied to the Son of God. He **carried**, as a strong man does a heavy burden, our sorrows; the suffering of various kinds which were due to our sins.

“He was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities.” Wounds and bruises are put for the whole of His sufferings; as His death and blood frequently are. He was wounded and bruised, not for sins of His own; not merely to show God’s hatred of sin; not chiefly to give us a pattern of patience; but for our sins, as the proper impulsive cause.

Our sins were the procuring cause of all His sufferings. His sufferings were the penal effects of our sins. “The chastisement of our peace,” the punishment necessary to procure it, “was” laid “on him” freely submitting thereto: “And by his stripes” (a part of his sufferings again put for the whole) “we are healed”; pardon, sanctification, and final salvation are all purchased and bestowed upon us. Every chastisement is for some fault. That laid on Christ was not for His own, but ours; and was needful to reconcile an offended Lawgiver, and offending guilty creatures, to each other. So “the Lord laid on him the iniquity of us all”; that is, “the punishment due to our iniquity”

John Wesley, *The Works of John Wesley* 3rd ed. Complete and Unabridged, vol. IX: Letters and Essays (Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 1978), 412.