



God's Handpicked Champion

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"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations." Isaiah 42:1

Cameron walked onto the playground, excited for field day kickball. As a team captain, he got to pick his team. He looked around and thought, "Who runs fast? Who kicks hard? Who catches the ball?" He wanted the very best team. But picking was hard. What if he chose the wrong person?

Cameron kept wondering, "Did I pick the right teammate?" Only time would tell.

Waiting a few months can feel long. Now imagine waiting 700 years! That's longer than your great-great-great-great-grandparents ago. That's a really, really long time. If we had to choose a champion 700 years ahead of time, we would get nervous and change our minds.

But God is different.

The prophet Isaiah wrote these words 700 years before Jesus was born: "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight." God was saying, "This is the one I choose." God didn't guess. He didn't worry. He already knew the perfect champion.

God had been talking about this champion for a very long time. He promised Adam and Eve a Savior. He promised Abraham a Savior. He promised through Isaiah. And then he sent his Son, Jesus. Jesus is God's forever choice. His name "Christ" means "the Chosen (Anointed) One."

Jesus did what no one else could do. He obeyed God perfectly. He died on the cross for our sins. And he rose from the dead. That means Jesus defeated sin, the devil, and death—for us! God picked the perfect champion, so we never have to wonder if we are safe. God's choice is good. And Jesus is our champion.

Questions for Consideration

- How many champions did God need to pick to save us from our sins?
- What did Jesus do to become the champion over sin and the devil?
- Was God ever worried that Jesus wouldn't win? Why or why not?
- Why did God wait thousands of years to send our Savior from sin if he already knew who the Savior would be? (Hint: Galatians 4:4-5)
- Why is it good that God chose Jesus instead of letting us choose?
- Can you think of times in the Old Testament when God reminded his people that he was going to send a Savior.