



SEEING OURSELVES IN

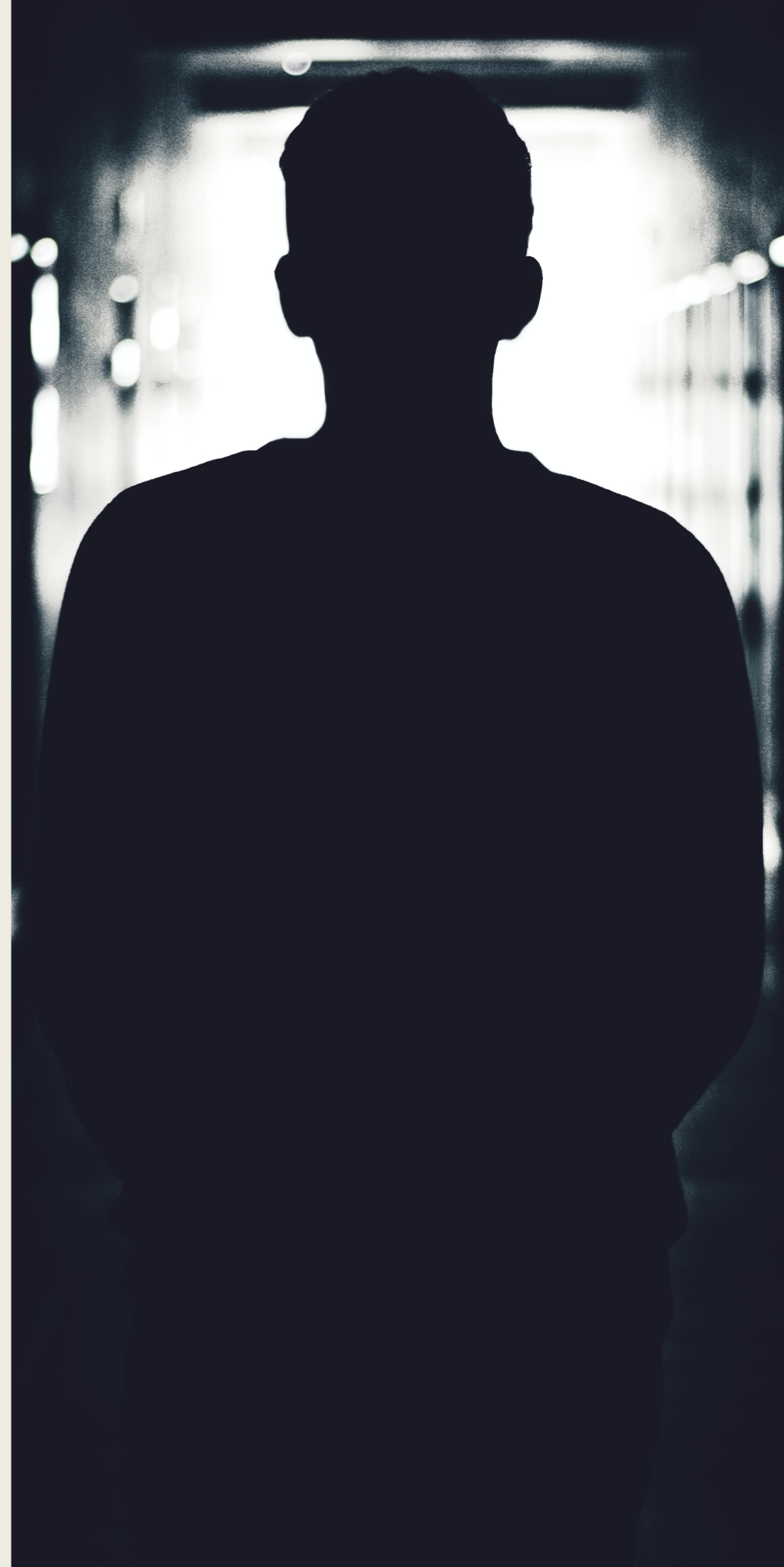
THE

SERVANT

SONGS

5 "Servant Songs" of Isaiah

- 42:1-9; 49:1-13; 50:4-11;
52:13-53:12; 61:1-3
- Common themes, progressive unveiling of both mission and means
- Basic mission is "to bring forth justice to the nations" (42:1-4) and to glorify the LORD (49:3)



Context of Isaiah: A New Exodus

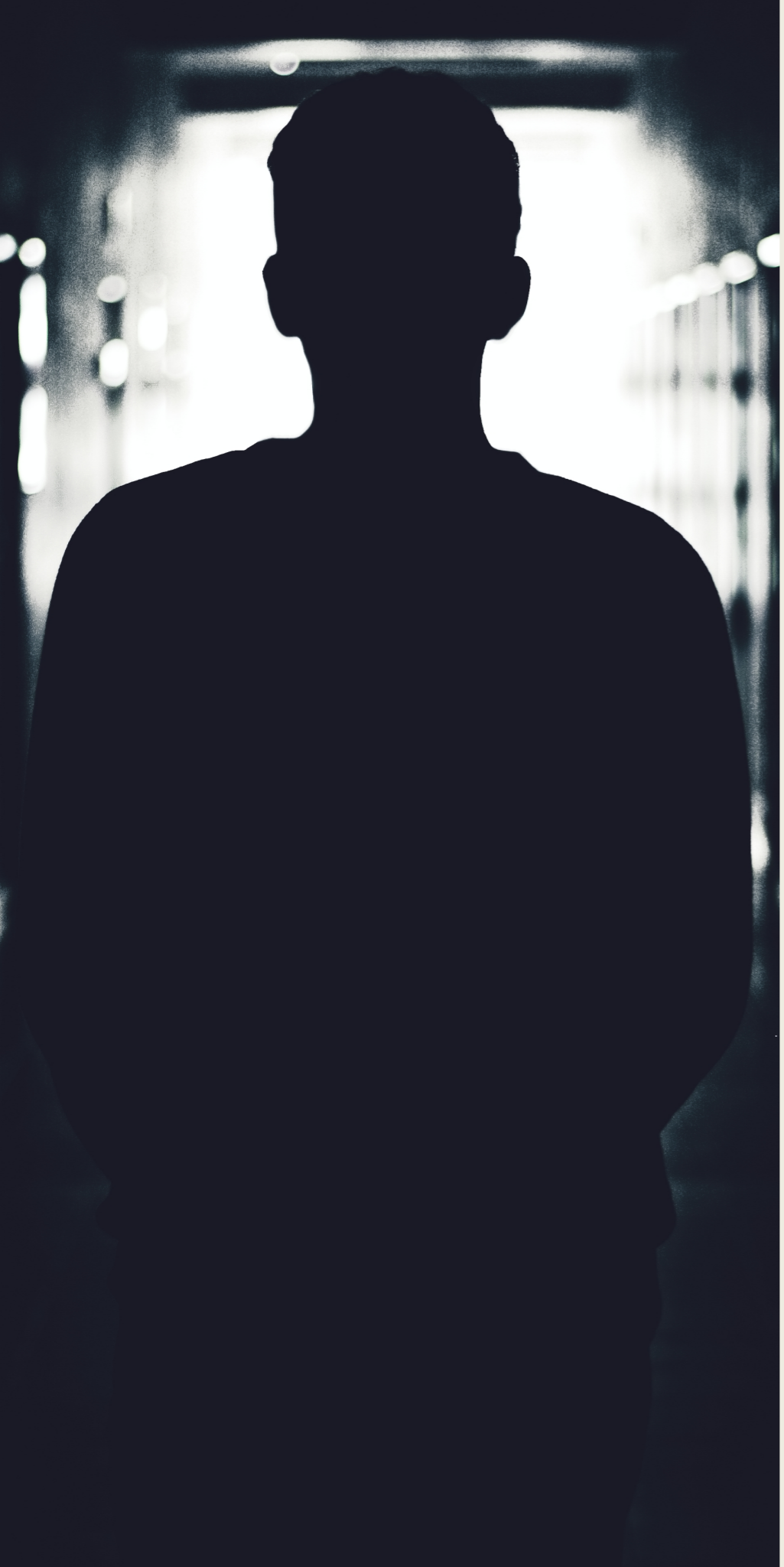
Place of Slavery	Enslaver	Deliverer
Egypt	Pharaoh	Moses
Babylon	Babylonian kings	Cyrus

When is this new exodus/redemption of Israel accomplished?

- God kept his promises to the physical nation
 - 537 BC - Cyrus' decree to return & rebuild (~70 years after captivity began, Jer. 29:10; Ezra 1:1-4)
 - 515 BC - Temple completed, worship restored (Ezra 6:13-22)
 - 444 BC - City walls completed (Neh. 6:15)
- But, the heights of 60:1-3, 10-12, 17-22 are never truly reached in physical Israel's history... Did God fail?

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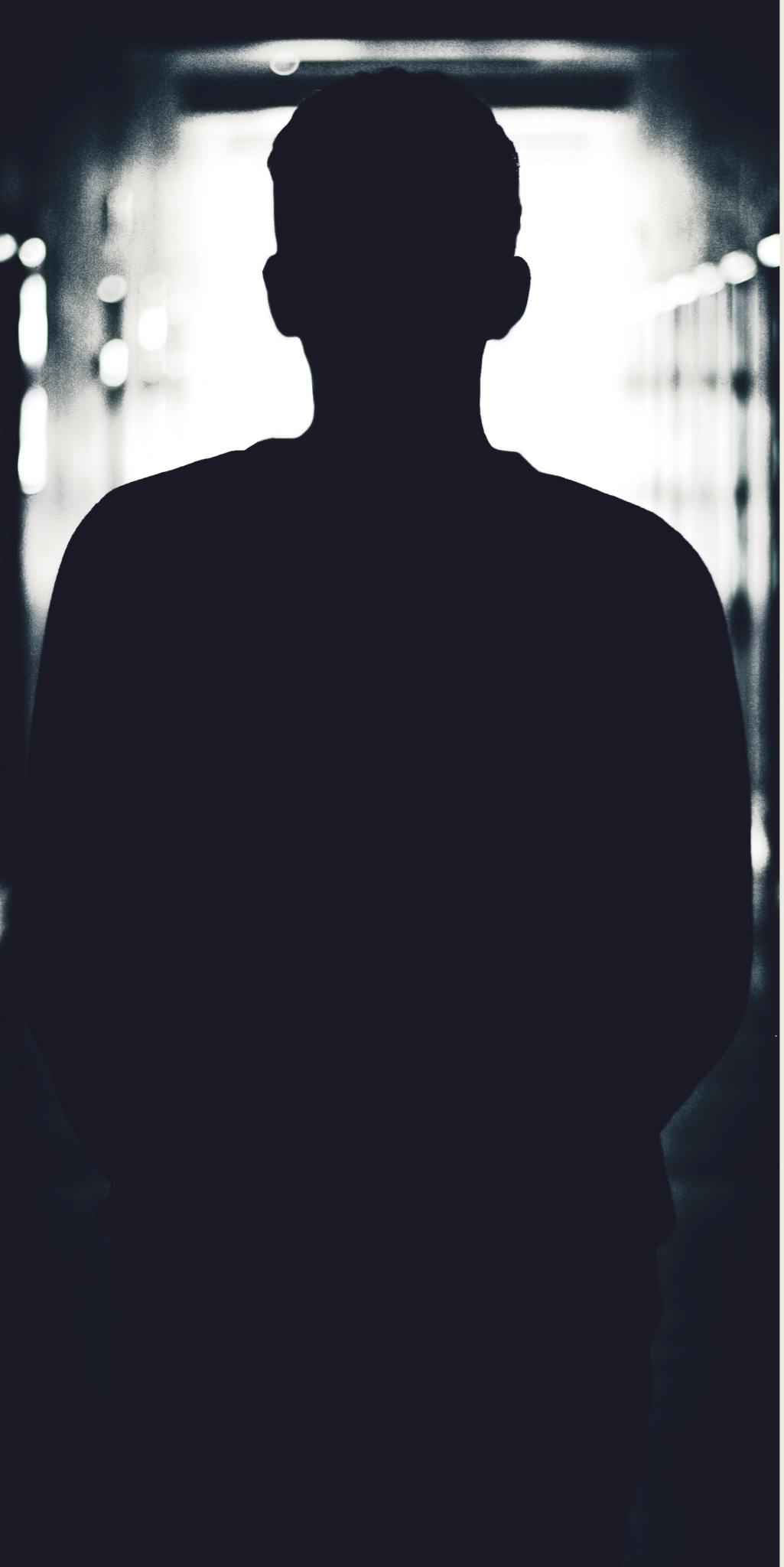
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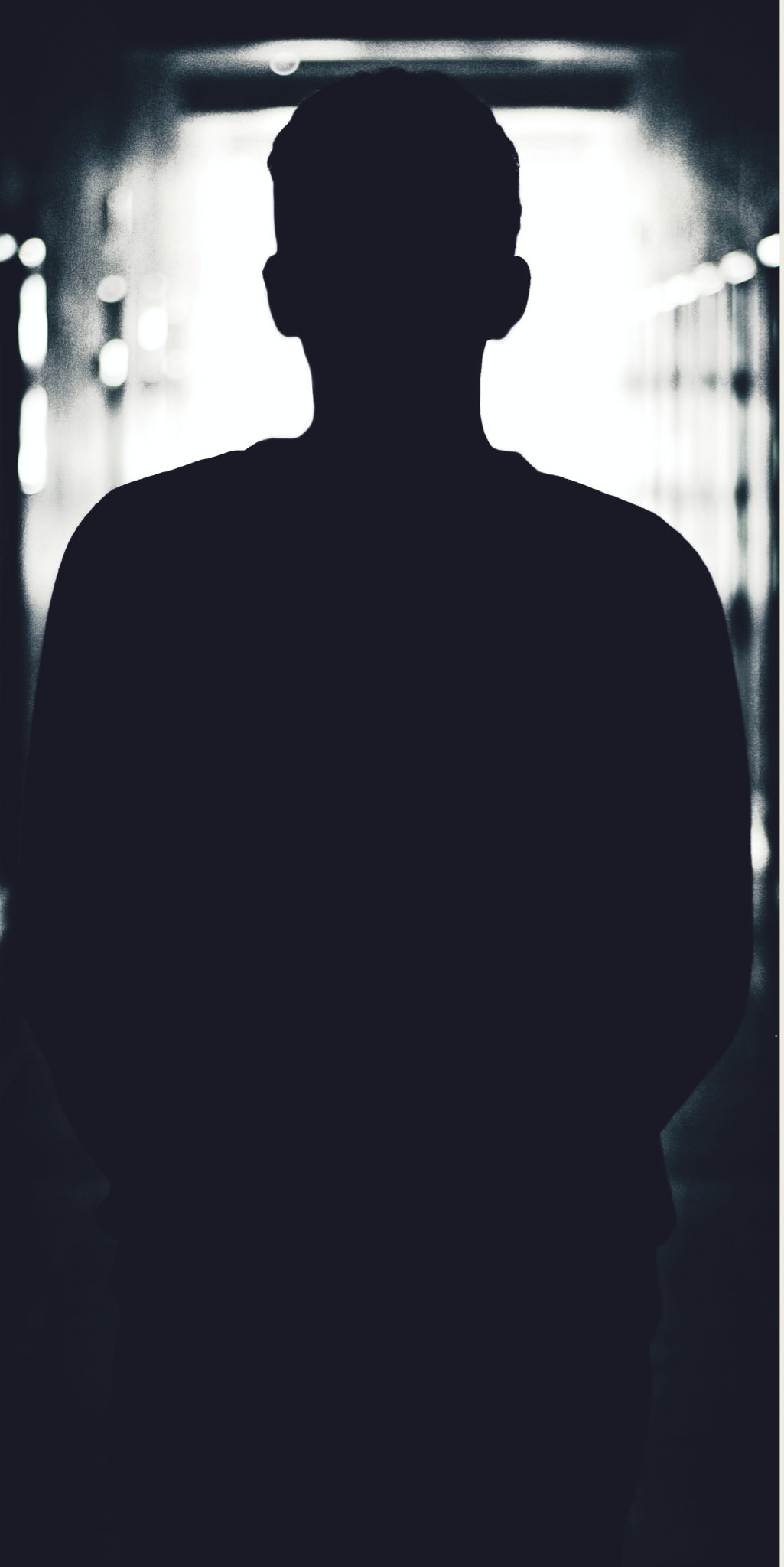
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- Is this Isaiah or some other man? (Acts 8:32-34)
- NT clearly attests to this ultimately being about Jesus Christ (Acts 8:35; Acts 3:13; Luke 4:16-21).

The New Covenant is a New Exodus

- Paul
 - Identifies "Israel" of the new covenant (Gal. 3:7-9, 16; Rom. 4:13-18; Rom. 9:6-8)
 - Quotes captivity language from Hosea (Rom. 9:24-26) and Isaiah (Rom. 9:27-29)
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Sin	Satan	Jesus



THE SERVANT SONGS

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- Statements of action: covenant for the people, light for the nations, opening eyes of blind, freeing prisoners from the dungeon

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- Weapon is his words (Heb. 4:12; Rev. 1:16)
- “You are my servant, **Israel**, in whom I will be glorified” (49:3)
 - “Israel” used as a parallel to “servant”
 - Function (not identity) being emphasized
 - Servant will bring glory to God that the physical nation failed to

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- How God fulfills his promise to "comfort [his] people" (49:13; 40:1)

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- "Those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind" (John 9:39; Isa. 50:10, 11)

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- Describes how 51:22 is possible
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- Vicarious suffering (53:4-6)

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- The resulting righteousness of others introduced (53:10-12; cf. Heb. 2:10)
 - “He shall see his **offspring**” (53:10)
 - “By his knowledge shall the righteous **one**, my servant make **many** to be accounted righteous” (53:11)
 - “He shall divide the spoil with the strong (or numerous)” (53:12)

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- “This is the heritage of the **servants** of the LORD”
- From 41:8 until 54:17, servanthood of Israel presented with singular term (42:19; 43:10; 44:1, 2, 21; 45:4; 48:20)
- Beginning here and throughout remainder of Isaiah, the term is plural (“servants_s”)

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- The mission of the Servant has become the mission of the servants!

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- We are the new Israel, servants of the LORD, kingdom of priests, representing and bringing people to God (2 Cor. 5:20; Gal. 3:7-9; 1 Pet. 2:9-12; Rev. 5:9, 10)

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- Our mission must be the same as Jesus’ mission (to bless all nations and glorify God).
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- Acts 13:47; Isaiah 49:6

