A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide. It features several thin, dark green lines representing reeds or grass, curving upwards and to the right. An orange arrow points to the right, partially overlapping the reeds.

A Bruised reed and Smoking flax

Matthew 12:20

- 14 Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him.
- 15 But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all; 16 And charged them that they should not make him known:
- 17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying,
- 18 Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles.
- 19 He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets.
- 20 A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory.
- 21 And in his name shall the Gentiles trust..

Isaiah 42:1

- Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.
- 2 He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street.
- 3 A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth.
- 4 He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.

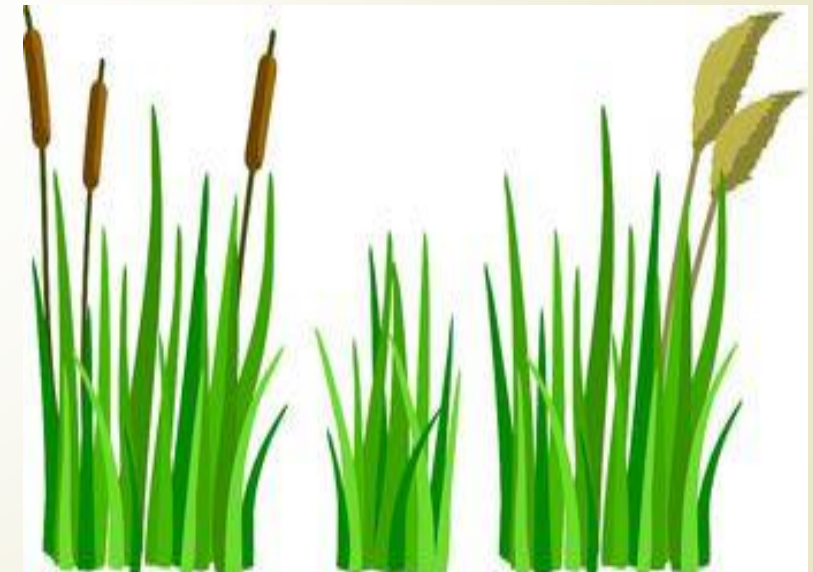
Flax what is it?

Reed what is it?

Textile made from Flax is
Linen

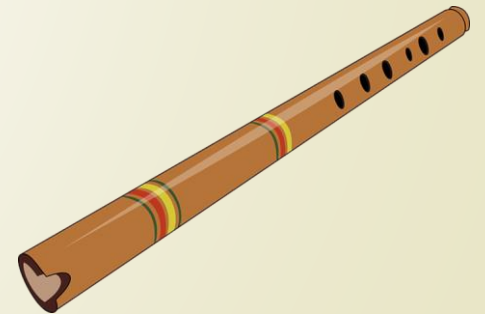


Reed is a common name
for several tall, grass-like
plants of wetlands.



Different commentaries

- **<http://www.chaimbentorah.com>**
- double meaning in the word for reed (qaneh).
 - Shepherds used reeds to make a flute
 - Bind two reeds together and put holes in it
 - Simple to make but fragile
 - If broken throw away make a new one like in our society?
 - If attached to it might repair
- Why call it a qaneh rather than a flute (uwgab)
 - It has double meaning qaneh also means redeem.
 - So God will not toss away but will heal

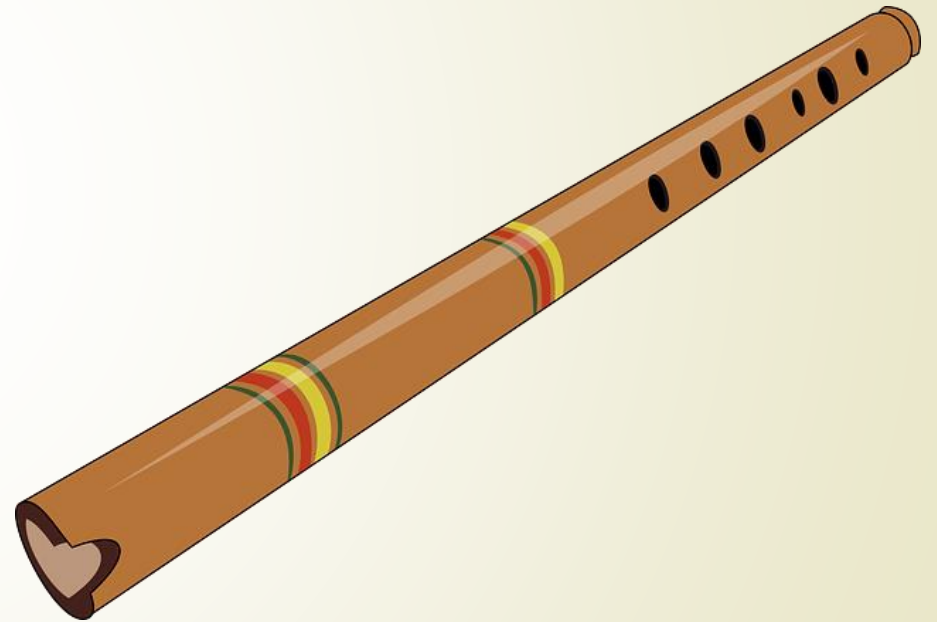


“The smoking flax shall he not quench”

- Lamps were filled with oil
- Flax floated in it
- Light it and let it burn
- When oil runs out throw away Flax
- Flax sometimes faulty throw away and get new
- We are the Flax
- God will simply refill the lamp with oil and relight us.



Recycle not throw away





Leading into Isaiah 42



Who can make things right in this world?



Isaiah 41:



"28 For I beheld, and there was no man; even among them, and there was no counsellor, that, when I asked of them, could answer a word.



29 Behold, they are all vanity; their works are nothing: their molten images are wind and confusion"



Isaiah 42 introduces the Servant of God


42 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.



2 He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street.



3 A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth.



God is the
answer to
man's
problems



Isaiah 42:4 He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.



6 I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;



READ Isaiah 40-42

Encouraging
God's
ultimate
triumph

A bruised reed shall he not break, the smoking flax shall he not quench

- ▶ **John Gill's Exposition of the Whole Bible**
- ▶ ,.... Various thoughts
- ▶ Scribes and Pharisee are the reed and flax who Christ could crush but doesn't "til he sends forth judgement unto victory"
 - ▶ Like a crocodile (Jesus combines strength and gentleness)
- ▶ publicans and sinners,
- ▶ those who have fallen into sin, and are under great decays of grace, Christ will restore
- ▶ Those Broken hearted, end of their faith Christ will restore
 - ▶ No light but rekindle it





Judgment unto victory

- ▶ **Adam Clarke Commentary**

- ▶ A bruised reed shall he not break - A reed is, in Scripture, the emblem of weakness, it is hollow and once bruised is in a state of weakness.
- ▶ And smoking flax shall he not quench - Some suppose the Jewish state, the prophecy declaring that Christ would not destroy it, but leave it to expire of itself, as it already contained the principles of its own destruction..
- ▶ Jesus therefore does not quench faint desires after salvation, even in the worst and most undeserving of men; for even such desires may lead to the fullness of the blessing of the Gospel of peace.
- ▶ Judgment unto victory – Christ will use gentle means to work till the whole world is Christianized, and the universe filled with his glory.

"Bruised Reeds and Smouldering Wicks"

TAKEN from Max
Lucado's book



➡ **HE STILL MOVES
STONES**

➡ The Leper

➡ Writing in the Sand



“He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her”



Hope conquers all

- ➡ the reed and the wick.



Are you a bruised reed?

- ▶ Are you a bruised reed?
- ▶ Are you OK?
- ▶ Are you a smouldering wick?



The canvases depict a God who is the friend of the broken hearted and those almost burnt out

- The world will try to break you or snuff you out
- But not God

