

The Old Testament Gospel

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February 25, 2024

Isaiah 52:13 – 53:6

Isaiah is sometimes called the BIBLE in MINATURE. It is 66 chapters and the Bible has 66 Books.

The CAPSTONE chapter of ISAIAH is Isaiah 53. There Isaiah SPEAKS of the “SUFFERING SERVANT.” It is the OT GOSPEL.

- Martin Luther – “This is the foremost passage on the suffering and resurrection of Christ, and there is hardly another like it.
- Charles Ryrie – “One of the most treasured and important passages in the OT.

Isaiah 52:13 – “My servant”

In the BOOK of ISAIAH, the “SERVANT” is a theme that runs through the BOOK. He is called the Ebed of the Lord. The servant of the Lord. The slave of the Lord.

- At first it is the COLLECTIVE PEOPLE... it is ISRAEL.
- But then beginning in Isaiah 42 – there are 4 SERVANT songs that refer to an INDIVIDUAL. The MESSIAH. Who becomes a representative of the people.
 - Isaiah 49:3 – [3] *“And he said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”*

The EARLY JEWS understood this Servant to be in reference to the MESSIAH. And the church and the apostles have interpreted it that way as well!

- We know it is referring to the Messiah for these reasons:
 - 1) Because this SERVANT Perfectly executes the Will of the Lord whereas Israel did not.
 - 2) The SERVANT Suffers unjustly whereas Israel did not.
 - 3) This SERVANT suffers on behalf of the PEOPLE whereas Israel does not. The nation never did suffer for the Gentiles.
 - 4) This SERVANT is ultimately vindicated for His RIGHTEOUSNESS, whereas Israel does not deserve vindication.

3 Characteristics of the Suffering Servant’s Life

The PREEMINENCE of the Servant (52:13-15)

In a WAY Isaiah starts with the final END in MIND. This will be the result of the SUFFERING SERVANT

Isaiah 52:13 – [13] *Behold, my servant shall act wisely*; Servant shall act wisely – He will obey God’s will perfectly.

- He EMBODIES the WISDOM of GOD. Wisdom is the skill of living before God in the FEAR of the LORD.
- Colossians 2:3 – [3] *in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*

he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.

- He shall be high and lifted up.
 - This refers to the HOLY ONE. Yahweh. This is referring to the SERVANT’s DEITY.
 - Colossians 2”9 – [9] *For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.*

- For that reasons he will be worshipped. He will be esteemed.
 - Philippians 2:9, 10 – [9] *Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, [10] so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*
 - Only Yahweh should be lifted up.
 - JESUS is YAHWEH

Isaiah 52:14 – [14] *As many were astonished at you—his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—*

- Before his crucifixion, He was beaten to where He almost no longer resembled a man
- LEGACY STANDARD BIBLE – “So His appearance was marred more than any man And his form more than the sons of men.”

The height of our LORD’s SALVATION was the blood atonement on the CROSS. Isaiah 52:15 – [15] *so shall he sprinkle many nations.* He shall SPRINKLE many nations.... It’s the PICTURE Of a PRIEST.

- The BLOOD is put in terms of sacrifice.
 - On the DAY of ATONEMENT. Leviticus 16:15 – [15] *... sprinkling it over the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat. [16] Thus he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanses of the people of Israel and because of their transgressions, all their sins.*
 - “Without the shedding of blood there is no remission for SINS.” (Heb 9:22)
- His blood shall made purification for the SINS of people of many NATIONS.
 - Revelation 5:9 - [9] *Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.*
 - On the CROSS Christ redeemed a PEOPLE from EVERY NATION.

Kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

KINGS – The greatest of all men will PRAISE HIS NAME... BECAUSE CHRIST is WORTHY!

The PAIN of the Servant (53:1-3)

- 1) Few Believed. Isaiah 53:1: [1] *Who has believed what he has heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?*
 - John records: John 12:37 – [37] *Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, [38] so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:*
 - The “us” is the witness of the PROPHET. Who has believed the MESSAGE?
 - To whom has “Lord’s arm been revealed?”
 - The “ARM of the LORD” – represents the POWER of GOD.
 - The IRONY – The strength of the LORD was manifested in WEAKNESS.

There is an emphasis upon the FEW who receive the MESSAGE of the SUFFERING SERVANT.

- Paul says in ROMANS 10:16 – [16] *But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?”*
 - Paul says I Cor 1:22 – [22] *For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, [23] but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,*

- 2) He had a low birth. Isaiah 53:2 – [2] *For he grew up before him like a young plant,*

- Young Plant... like a little shoot out of the tree.
- It comes in an unexpected way... that seems insignificant.
- He is born to a VIRGIN. Isaiah 7:14.
and like a root out of dry ground;
- He comes in a DARK POINT in history. Nearly 500 years of silence by God. No prophetic word.

3) *He lacked a majestic appearance. he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.*

No beauty (seeing/appearance) something that our eyes like to look at.

- The proportions weren't beautiful.
- Whatever your perception of JESUS, it is probably WRONG.

All of this was before he opened his MOUTH. He was unimpressive at first glance. But then once he opened his mouth... people were stunned.

4) *He was despised and rejected*

Isaiah 53:3 – [3] *he was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;*

- By and large, he was rejected by mankind. “A man of sorrows”/Acquainted with Grief”
- The REASON for this... he called the WORLD to REPENT.
- He called the WORLD to believe in HIM.

and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised,

- The MAJORITY of the DISCIPLES leave him at the END of JOHN 6.

and we esteemed him not.

- Few of the JEWS believed... Isaiah speaks for His own people.

The PASSION of the Servant (53:4-6)

1) *He is our Sorrow-Carrier*

53:4 – [4] *Surely he has born our griefs and carried our sorrows;*

- The diseases represent sin. Jesus is taking on everyone's sin.
- MATTHEW records right at the end of MATTHEW 8... this verse was fulfilled in JESUS's HEALING MINISTRY. “This was to fulfill what Isaiah the prophet had written.”

Then we SEE a FASCINATING STATEMENT.

2) *He is our Sin Substitute*

yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

- The PERFECT one was SMITTEN by GOD, stricken, and afflicted
- Smitten - TO BEAT; to strike; to wound

53:5 – [5] *But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,*

- Pierced – Nails; Crushed – The Wrath of God; Chastisement – Judgment.
 - 1 Peter 2:24 , 25 – [24] *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.*

and with his wounds we are healed.

- The SIN JUDGEMENT is PAID for in HIS WOUNDS.
- Solus Christus – ONLY the WORK of CHRIST HEALS our WOUNDS.

3) *He is our Sacrifice*

53:6 – [6] *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way;*

- Those who STRAYED like SHEEP return as CHILDREN because of the SACRIFICE of the LAMB.

and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

- The LORD laid the sin penalty of us all on HIS SON.