

## **THE SACRIFICE OF JEHOVAH'S SERVANT**

Text: Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12

There is not another passage in the Old Testament prophecy of the cross that is more referenced in the New Testament than our passage today. We see it referenced in Romans 15:21; Romans 10:16; Romans 4:25; Matthew 8:17; Luke 22:37; John 12:37-38; I Peter 2:22, 24; Hebrews 9:28; Acts 8:29-35. It is believed that the Ethiopian eunuch was reading a Greek translation of the Old Testament, which was usually read aloud even when alone because the punctuation of the Koine Greek is not easily identified; therefore, reading it aloud made it more understandable. And from this passage the deacon Philip preached unto him Jesus. We would agree with the Apostle Philip who is quoted in John 1:45, 46b, "Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph...Come and see." So, let us come and see the sacrifice of Jehovah's Servant. Our passage is divided up into five stanzas or strophes. Each stanza is divided up into three verses each. Every verse builds upon the previous one and as a rule, gets longer. It is important to note that the opening lines of each stanza serve as the topic of each stanza. Our text also parallels with the five sacrifices of Leviticus chapters one through seven: the Burnt Sacrifice, the Meat (Meal) Sacrifice, the Peace Sacrifice, the Sin Sacrifice and the Trespass Sacrifice.

### **I. THE SERVANT'S MISSION**

Isaiah 52:13-15

"Behold, my Servant shall deal prudently..." (Isaiah 52:13a). Prudently is translated from the Hebrew word *śâkal*, which means wisely, prosper or successfully. It has been determined prophetically that this mission of the Messiah shall be blessed with success. The mission not possible by man is most assuredly possible by God.

A. The Success of the Gospel. Isaiah 52:13

1. Death

Isaiah 52:13b: "...He shall be exalted..." is translated from the Hebrew word *rûm*, which means to lift up, offer up or bring up. John 3:14: "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the

Son of man be lifted up.” John 12:32: “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.”

## 2. Burial and Resurrection

Isaiah 52:13c “...and extolled...” is translated from the Hebrew word *nâšâ’* meaning to bring forth or arise.

Matthew 28:6: “He is not here: for He is risen, as He said....”

## 3. Ascension

Isaiah 52:13d: “...and be very high.” Is translated from *me’ôd gâbah* to mean exceedingly high; of great height. Romans 8:34: “Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”

B. The Shocking Vision of the Cross. Isaiah 52:14

C. The Result of the Gospel. Isaiah 52:15; Isaiah 52:10

## II. THE SERVANT’S REJECTION

Isaiah 53:1-3

“Who hath believed our report?...” (Isaiah 53:1a).

Matthew 21:37a: “But last of all He sent unto them his Son....” John 1:11: “He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.”

A. The Attraction of the Unattractive Savior

Isaiah 53:2: “...a tender plant...no form...no comeliness...no beauty”; II Corinthians 8:9.

B. The Significance of the Virgin Birth

Isaiah 53:2: “...a root out of a dry ground...”; Numbers 23:19; John 1:14; Hebrews 4:15.

C. Christ Took the Rejection that We Deserve

Isaiah 53:3

## III. THE SERVANT’S SUBSTITUTION

Isaiah 53:4-6

“Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows...” (Isaiah 53:4a).

A. Christ Took the Penalty We Deserve

Isaiah 53:4; Matthew 26:67; Matthew 27:30

B. Christ Took Our Chaos So That We May Have Peace

Isaiah 53:5

C. Christ, as the Lamb Went to the Slaughter to Relieve Us from our Deserved Destiny

Isaiah 53:6; John 1:29, 36; Genesis 22:7, 8

## IV. THE SERVANT SUBMISSIVE

Isaiah 53:7-9

“...yet He opened not His mouth...so He openeth not His mouth.” (Isaiah 53:7).

A. Christ Makes No Objection or Protests

Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 26:62, 63a: “And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? But Jesus held his peace....” Luke 23:9: “Then he (Herod) questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing.” Mark 15:2-5: “And Pilate asked him, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answering said unto him, Thou sayest it. And the chief priests accused him of many things: but he answered nothing. And Pilate asked him again, saying, Answerest thou nothing? behold how many things they witness against thee. But Jesus yet answered nothing; so that Pilate marvelled.”

B. Christ Submits to the Ultimate Payment for Sin

Isaiah 53:8

C. Christ Willingly Became the Sin He Never Committed

Isaiah 53:9; II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:22-24.

## V. THE SERVANT SATISFIES

Isaiah 53:10-12

“Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him...” (Isaiah 53:10a).

A. Our Lord’s Resurrection Is the Receipt that Declares our Sin Debt Is Settled

Isaiah 53:10; Romans 4:25: “Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.”

B. God’s Justice Is Appeased

Isaiah 53:11; Hebrews 12:2b: “Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame....”

C. The Redeemed Are the Reward of the Cross

Isaiah 53:12; Hebrews 12:2c: “...and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 7:25: “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.” John 18:9: “That the saying might be fulfilled, which He spake, Of them which Thou gavest Me have I lost none.” John 6:37: “All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.”

Conclusion: Many Jewish people have been saved by the study of Isaiah 53. When we couple the prophecies of Isaiah 53 with the Levitical offerings,

the identity of Jesus, Messiah and Savior is unmistakable! Leviticus 2:4: "And if thou bring an oblation of a meat offering baken in the oven, it shall be unleavened cakes of fine flour mingled with oil, or unleavened wafers anointed with oil." In the type of Christ in the meat (meal) offering, the sacrifice must be pure, thus the unleavened bread is used. I Peter 1:18, 19: "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." The measure of the fullness of the Holy Spirit is in direct proportion of one's personal holiness. Christ was the epitome of complete holiness; therefore we observe that the anointing of the unleavened bread with oil (symbol of the Holy Spirit) was a picture of the perfect Lord, with Whom the Holy Spirit was given without constraint. John 3:34: "For He whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him." Let us keep this in mind as we prepare our hearts for the Lord's Supper this evening.

-Pastor Pope-