

Isaiah

“The Evangelical Prophet”

VII. Isaiah’s *Discourse* on the Servant of God, the **Messiah** (49:1-57:21)

- A. The *Calling* of God’s Servant (49:1-12)
- B. The *Consolation* of Zion (49:13-26)
- C. The *Conditioning* of God’s Servant (50:1-11)
- D. The *Comforting* of the Righteous Remnant
(51:1-52:12)

E. The *Chastening* of God’s Servant (52:13-53:12)

- 1. His *Uplifting* and Exaltation (52:13-15)
 - a. an *exaltation* that will be both **prosperous** and **glorious** (52:13)
 - b. an *exaltation* preceded by an “**astonishing**” unprecedented disfigurement (52:14)
 - c. an *exaltation* followed by the cleansing of many **nations** (52:15a)
 - d. an *exaltation* that would both **enlighten** and **humble** the world’s rulers (52:15b)

³ Behold, **My servant** will *prosper*,
He will be **high** and **lifted up** and greatly exalted.

¹⁴ Just as many were *astonished* at you, *My people*,
so **His appearance** was marred more than any man
and **His form more** than the **sons of men**.

¹⁵ Thus **He** will sprinkle many **nations**,
Kings will *shut* their **mouths** on account of **Him**;
for what had not been told them they will **see**,
and what they had not heard they will *understand*.

- 2. His *Unremarkable* Appearance (53:1-2)

53 Who has *believed* our message?
and to **whom** has the **arm of the LORD** been *revealed*?

² For **He** grew up before **Him** like a **tender shoot**,
and like a **root** out of **parched ground**;

He has **no stately form** or **majesty**
that we should **look upon Him**,
nor **appearance** that we should be **attracted to Him**.

3. His **Unbearable Rejection** by **Men** (53:3-4)

³ He was **despised** and **forsaken** of men,
a **man of sorrows** and acquainted with *grief*; and like one from whom
men **hide** their face He was **despised**, and we did **not esteem Him**.

⁴ Surely **our griefs He Himself bore**, and **our sorrows He carried**;
yet we ourselves **esteemed Him stricken**,
smitten of God, and **afflicted**.

4. His **Universal** and **Vicarious Punishment** for our **Sins** (53:5-6)

⁵ But He was **pierced through** for our **transgressions**,
He was **crushed** for our **iniquities**;

the **chastening** for our **well-being** *fell* upon Him,
and by His **scourging** we are **healed**.

⁶ All of us like **sheep** have **gone astray**,
each of us has turned to **his own way**;
but the **LORD** has caused the **iniquity** of us all to fall **on Him**.

5. His **Unassertive Demeanor** in His **Death** (53:7-8)

⁷ He was **oppressed** and He was **afflicted**,
Yet He did **not open His mouth**;

like a **lamb** that is led to **slaughter**,
and like a **sheep** that is **silent** before its **shearers**,
so He did **not open His mouth**.

6. His **Unconsidered** mission of **Substitution** (53:8)

⁸ By **oppression** and **judgment** He was **taken away**;
and as for His **generation**, **who** considered
that He was **cut off** out of the **land** of the **living**
for the **transgression** of **my people**, to whom the **stroke was due**?

7. His **Unique Burial** (53:9)

⁹ His **grave** was assigned with **wicked men**,
yet He was with a **rich man** in His **death**,
because He had done **no violence**, nor was there any **deceit** in His **mouth**.

6. **His *Unparalleled Sacrifice* for our Salvation (53:10-11)**

¹⁰ But the LORD was **pleased** to crush Him, putting Him to grief;
if He would **render Himself** as a **guilt offering**,

He will see His **offspring**, He will **prolong His days**,
and the **good pleasure** of the LORD will **prosper** in His hand.

¹¹ As a result of the **anguish** of His soul, He will see *it and* **be satisfied**;
by His **knowledge** the **Righteous One, My Servant**,
will **justify** the many, as He will **bear** their **iniquities**.

7. **His *Ultimate Reward* (53:12)**

¹² Therefore, I will **allot Him** a **portion** with the **great**,
and He will divide the **booty** with the **strong**;

Because He **poured out Himself** to death,
and was **numbered** with the **transgressors**;
Yet He Himself **bore** the **sin of many**, and **interceded** for the **transgressors**.

**The Prophecies of the Suffering Servant (53:1-12)
are *fulfilled* in the Life and Death of Jesus the Messiah**

1. *Isaiah* begins with a **question** to the **people**: “Who has **believed** our report?
And **to whom** has the **arm of the Lord** been **revealed** (53:1)?”

→ In **John’s gospel** we read that, “though He (**Jesus**) had performed so **many signs**
before them (the **people**), yet they were **not believing in Him**.” John declared
that this was to **fulfill** the **word of Isaiah** the **prophet** when he said:

“**LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM HAS THE
ARM OF THE LORD BEEN REVEALED?**” (John 12:37-38)

2. *Isaiah* wrote that the **servant of God** was “**despised** and **forsaken** of **men**,
a **man of sorrows** and acquainted with **grief**...He was **despised** and we did **not**
esteem Him (53:3).”

→ In the **New Testament** we read:

“He (**Jesus**) came to **His own**, and those who were **His own** did **not receive Him**.”
(John 1:11)

“But first He (the **Son of Man**) must **suffer many things** and be **rejected** by **this**
generation.” (Luke 17:25)

3. *Isaiah* wrote regarding the **Servant of God**, “Surely **our griefs** He Himself **bore**,
and **our sorrows** He **carried** (53:4a).”

→ In the New Testament we read:

When evening came, they brought to **Him (Jesus)**
many who were **demon-possessed**;
and **He cast out** the **spirits** with a **word**,
and **healed all** who were ill.

⁷ *This was to fulfill what was spoken through **Isaiah** the prophet:*

**“HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES
AND CARRIED AWAY OUR DISEASES.”**(Matthew 8:16-17)

4. *Isaiah* wrote; “But **He was pierced through** for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities;
the **chastening** for our well-being ***fell*** upon Him,
and by **His scourging** we are healed (53:5).

→ In the New Testament we read:

...and **He Himself bore our sins** in **His body** on the **cross**,
so that we might **die to sin** and live to **righteousness**;
for **by His wounds** you were healed. (1 Peter 2:24)

But one of the soldiers **pierced His (Jesus) side** with a **spear**,
and immediately **blood and water** came out. (John 19:34)

5. *Isaiah* wrote: “All of us **like sheep** have gone **astray**...but **the LORD** has caused
the **iniquity** of us all to **fall on Him** (the **Servant of God**) (53:6).

→ In the New Testament we read:

But **He (Jesus)** answered and said,
was **sent** only to the **lost sheep** of the **house of Israel**.”(Matthew 15:24)

...so **Messiah** also, having been **offered once** to **bear the sins** of many,
will appear a **second time** for **salvation**...(Hebrews 9:28a)

6. *Isaiah* wrote: “**He was oppressed** and **He was afflicted**, yet **He did *not* open His mouth**; like a **lamb** that is led to **slaughter**, and like a **sheep** that is **silent** before its shearers, so **He did *not* open His mouth** (53:7).”

→ In the New Testament we read:

The next day **he (John)** saw **Jesus** coming to him and said,
“Behold, the **Lamb of God** who **takes away** the **sin** of the world!” (John 1:29)

And while **He (Jesus)** was being **accused** by the **chief priests** and **elders**,
He did not answer. Then Pilate said to Him,
“Do You not **hear** how many things they **testify against You**?”
And **He did not answer** him with regard to even a **single charge**,

so the governor was **quite amazed**. (Matthew 27:12-14)

7. *Isaiah wrote*: “By **oppression** and **judgment** **He** was **taken away**; and as for **His generation**, who *considered* that **He** was **cut off** out of the land of the **living** for the **transgression** of **my people**, to whom the **stroke was due** (53:8)?

→ In the **New Testament** we read about how an **Ethiopian official** had come to **Jerusalem** to **worship**, and was **reading Isaiah** the **prophet**. When **Philip** inquired as to whether he **understood** what he was reading, the **scriptures** declare that he was reading *this text* regarding the **servant of God** in **Isaiah 53:8** (Acts 8:26-33).

“IN HUMILIATION **HIS JUDGMENT WAS TAKEN AWAY**;
WHO WILL RELATE HIS GENERATION?
FOR **HIS LIFE IS REMOVED** FROM THE EARTH.” (Acts 8:33)

8. *Isaiah wrote*: “**His grave** was assigned with **wicked men**, yet **He** was with a **rich man** in **His death**, because **He** had done **no violence**, nor was there any **deceit** in **His mouth** (53:9).

→ In the **New Testament** we read:

At that time **two robbers** were **crucified** with **Him (Jesus)**,
one on the right and one on the left...

And **Jesus** cried out again with a loud voice, and **yielded up His spirit**...

When it was evening, there came a **rich man** from **Arimathea**, named **Joseph**,...
And **Joseph** took the **body** (of **Jesus**) and **wrapped it** in a clean linen cloth,
and **laid it** in his **own new tomb**, which he had hewn out in the rock;..
(Matthew 27:38, 50, 57-60)

9. *Isaiah wrote* that the **Servant of God**, having been “**crushed**,” and having **rendered Himself** a **guilt offering**; would **see His offspring**
and that **the LORD** would **prolong His days**,
and the **good pleasure** of the **LORD** will **prosper** in **His hand** (53:10).

→ In the **New Testament** we read:

And **He (Jesus)** placed His right hand on me, saying,
“Do not be afraid; **I am the first** and the **last**, and the **living One**;
and **I was dead**, and behold, **I am alive forevermore**,...(Revelation 1:17-18)

For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received,
that **Messiah died** for **our sins** according to the **Scriptures**,
and that **He** was **buried**, and that **He** was **raised** on the **third day**
according to the **Scriptures**, (I Corinthians 15:3-4)

But as many as **received Him (Jesus)**,
to them **He gave** the **right** to become **children of God**,

even to those who **believe** in **His name**. (John 1:12)

10. *Isaiah* wrote: “As a result of the **anguish** of **His soul**, **He (God)** will see it *and be **satisfied***; by *His* knowledge the **Righteous One**, **My Servant**, will **justify** the **many**, as **He** will **bear** their **iniquities** (53:11).”

→ In the **New Testament** we read:

...and **He Himself bore** our sins in **His body** on the **cross**,...(1 Peter 2:24a)

and **He Himself** is the **propitiation** (**satisfaction**) for our sins;
and not for ours only, but also for *those of* the **whole world**. (1 John 1:22)

So then as through **one transgression** (by **Adam**)
there resulted **condemnation** to all men,
even so through **one act of righteousness** (by **Jesus**)
there resulted **justification of life** to all men. (Romans 5:8)

11. *Isaiah* wrote: “Therefore (“having **bore** the sin of many”), I will allot **Him**
(**God’s Servant – Messiah**) a **portion** with the **great**, and **He**
will **divide** the **booty** with the **strong** (53:12a);”

→ In the **New Testament** we read:

Being found in appearance as **a man**,
He (Jesus) **humbled Himself** by becoming **obedient**
to the point of **death**, even **death** on a **cross**.

For this reason also, **God highly exalted Him**,
and bestowed **on Him** the **name** which is **above every name**,

so that at the **name of Jesus** EVERY KNEE WILL **BOW**,
of those who are **in heaven** and **on earth** and **under the earth**,

and that **every tongue** will confess that **Jesus the Messiah is Lord**,
to the **glory** of **God the Father**. (Philippians 2:8-11)

The **Spirit Himself** testifies with **our spirit** that **we are children** of **God**,

and if **children**, **heirs** also, **heirs of God** and **fellow heirs** with **Messiah**,
if indeed we **suffer** with **Him** so that we may also be **glorified with Him**.
(Romans 8:16-17)

Closing Comment