

THE SUFFERING SERVANT ISAIAH 53

“Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures...” (I Cor. 15:3). In this magnificent summary Paul reduces to just a few words the central doctrine of the gospel: the atonement... the fact that Christ offered Himself as the propitiation for our sins by which we are reconciled to God. His summary is so sweeping that it includes the entire revelation of God: “According to the scriptures.” Isa. 53 immediately comes into view, even as it was uppermost in the preaching of the first Christian messengers. Philip needed no other Scripture from which to begin his proclamation of “Jesus” to the Ethiopian eunuch.

The Ethiopian was reading from Isa. 53 and asked Philip this question: “I ask you of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?”

Isaiah is known as the Messianic prophet. Numerous prophecies concerning Christ are found in this great book. I want to examine the same chapter Philip and the Eunuch discussed more than 1900 years ago. Isaiah 53 will give us some insight into the life of our Lord and what He went through for mankind.

I. Despised and Rejected (53:1-3).

A. Who hath Believed (v.1).

1. The message of divine revelation, not mere human wisdom.
2. Demands reception.
3. The people would not believe that Jesus was the Messiah (Christ, the Anointed One) and submit to him.
4. John 12:37-38
5. Romans 10:16
6. I Cor. 1:23

B. Arm of the Lord.

1. Seen the arm of the Lord in the workings of God’s power and such was sufficient to convince any who gave it honest consideration.
2. Arm is the power of God (I Cor. 1:18).

C. A Tender Plant.

1. From human standpoint, there was nothing about Christ, either by way of background or culture, that might suggest that He could establish a kingdom that would revolutionize the world.
2. Possessed none of those characteristics normally associated with the founding of great empires.
3. He came to earth as a baby, which was contrary to Jewish expectations.
 - a. Herod tried to kill him (Matt. 2:16)
 - b. Reared in a despised town (John 1:46)
 - c. Possessed no wealth (Lk. 9:58).
 - d. Had no formal rabbinical training (John 7:15).
4. No form or comeliness.
 - a. Not literally . . . He did not appear in his personal ministry in the way and manner that was expected of a king.
 - b. They were disappointed and did not desire him.
5. Despised and Rejected.
 - a. He was treated shamefully.
 - b. What God accepted, man rejected (John 1:10-11)
 - c. Parable of the wicked husbandman (Matt. 21:33-45, esp. vss. 37,38,42).
 - d. He was a man of sorrows (Matt. 26:38).
 - e. Failed to see the spiritual beauty of His life and teachings

II. Wounded for our transgressions (vss.4-6)

- A. Borne our griefs.
 - 1. He bore our problems, our sins.
 - 2. He did this for us (Mk. 14:32-35; Luke 22:44; Matt. 8:17).
 - 3. Yet man, for whom he was suffering, thought that God was punishing him for his own sins.
- B. But he was. . .
 - 1. Wounded (Matt. 27:35)
 - 2. Bruised (Matt. 27:30)
 - 3. Chastisement
 - 4. Stripes (Matt. 27:26—scourging leaves stripes)
 - 5. We are healed—in a spiritual sense by his suffering.
 - 6. *The innocent are punished as if guilty, that the guilty might be rewarded as if innocent.*” (A.R. Fausset)
- C. We went astray.
 - 1. Universal sinfulness of humanity... “all.”
 - 2. Personal responsibility—“gone astray” not “born astray.”
 - 3. Remedy is available to all.
 - 4. Christ is the universal Savior and the only hope of salvation.
- III. Servant’s Submission (vss.7-9)
 - A. Oppressed and afflicted.
 - 1. Jesus made no defense in an attempt to save his life.
 - 2. Utterly innocent, yet totally submissive.
 - 3. Opened not his mouth (Mark 15:3-5)
 - 4. I Pet. 2:21-23
 - 5. Jesus was deprived of right judgment by an unfair trial and condemnation.
 - 6. The stroke was due us.
 - B. His Burial (v.9).
 - 1. In death he was treated as a wicked person (Lk. 23:33) [Crucified between two thieves]
 - 2. Christ was buried in the tomb of a rich man (Matt. 27:57-60)
 - 3. He was totally innocent. Spotless, sinless, Son of God.
 - 4. He was numbered with the wicked, and would, if the custom was followed, be buried with the wicked . . . but he was buried with a rich man.
 - 5. Proof of Isaiah speaking by inspiration.
- IV. Reward of His Sacrifice (53:10-12)
 - A. Pleased the Lord.
 - 1. Divine justice was satisfied (Rom. 3:24-26; 5:18,19)
 - 2. What Jehovah allows to be done he may be said to do; for without his allowing it, it could not be done.
 - 3. He was not pleased in the fact that Jesus had to die, but was willing to allow it so sinners might be saved.
 - 4. “Seed” seems to refer to those who would be converted to his cause.
 - 5. Days prolonged by virtue of his resurrection.
 - 6. Pleased because of the continuous work of redemption.
 - B. See the travail and be satisfied.
 - 1. The Father would be satisfied with the atonement.
 - 2. Christ mission was thus victorious.
 - 3. Only through the Savior that reconciliation with God can be effected.
 - C. Numbered with the transgressors .
 - 1. Phil. 2:9-11
 - 2. Heb. 5:8,9

3. Died that all might be saved.
4. He is still interceding (Romans 8:34; Heb. 7:25).

Con:

This is truly a beautiful. . .and a sad chapter. It's a beautiful thought that Jesus was willing to die for us. John 3:16. . .Mark 10:45; 14:24. It is sad because the stroke was due us. Jesus died for **ME!**

Adam Clarke notes, "*in this chapter the incarnation, preaching, humiliation, rejection, sufferings, death, atonement, resurrection, and mediation of Jesus Christ are all predicted, together with the prevalence of his gospel, and the extension of his kingdom through all ages.*"

You are lost without Jesus Acts 8:36-39. Have you done that? Obey the gospel today. Isa. 53:5,6