

Isaiah

The Mission to the Weary
Isaiah 52:13-15

1



Introduction

52:12–53:12 is the last of our Servant Songs. In this passage we will see that Savior of the world is seen suffering for the sins of the human race. The scene and meaning of His death are described in surprising detail. For true believers, this passage is one of the most heartbreaking yet cherished passages of Scripture, for it describes the brutal treatment and horrible sufferings Christ endured on our behalf.

2



Isaiah 52:13-15

Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. ¹⁴ Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men; ¹⁵ So shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; For what had not been told them they shall see, And what they had not heard they shall consider.

3



Isaiah 52:13

Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high.

God Himself is speaking here, and He says that He will send His Servant, the Savior, for four very specific purposes.

Through Isaiah, God reveals exactly why He will send the Messiah into the world.

4



Isaiah 52:13

Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high.

God's Servant, the Savior, came to live wisely, which means that He came to carry out God's will on earth. God has a very specific purpose for the world, and His Servant came to make sure that purpose is carried out. The word prudently or wisely, means to be circumspect, intelligent, or to act with wisdom. But it can also mean to prosper or have good success.

5



Isaiah 52:13

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Combining both thoughts stresses a significant truth: the Savior would act wisely in that He would do exactly what God sent Him to do, and He would accomplish His task. As Isaiah predicted earlier, “the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit and of the fear of the Lord” (11:2).

6



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Christ lived wisely. He obeyed God, did exactly what God wanted done, and accomplished God's will on earth. Because Christ is the Ideal Righteousness, His righteousness can cover all people who put their trust in Him. When people place their faith in Christ, God no longer sees them as sinners, but as righteous, covered by the righteousness of Christ.

7



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God's Servant, the Savior, came to be highly exalted. Jesus suffered and died, but He did not remain dead. He rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. Because Christ lived wisely, obeying His Father in all things, He finished His ministry on earth both completely and perfectly. He was then raised from the dead, lifted up, and highly exalted by God Himself, both "now and forever".

8



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Philippians 2:7-11

But made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

9



Isaiah 52:14

Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men

God's Servant, the Savior was sent to suffer and die for our transgressions and iniquities. Jesus was so beaten and bloody, so badly mutilated that His appearance no longer looked like a man. Note that Scripture actually says this: that His form or body was so disfigured it was beyond recognition. People who saw Him were utterly horrified, shocked at His disfigurement.

10



Isaiah 52:14

Just as many were astonished at you, So
His visage was marred more than any man, And
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Most likely Scripture does not give a full account of the beatings and abuse inflicted upon the Savior. But what is shared causes the believer to cringe and feel sick at heart. The believer knows that the Lord Jesus Christ bore all these sufferings for their sins, as well as for the sins of the entire human race.

11



Isaiah 52:15

So shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their
mouths at Him; For what had not been told them they
shall see, And what they had not heard they shall
consider.

God's Servant, the Savior, came to sprinkle (cleanse) and redeem many people in many nations. Sprinkling refers to the sacrificial blood of animals that had to be shed and sprinkled on the altar for forgiveness of sins. Before Christ came, the blood of the sacrificial animals brought atonement and reconciliation between the worshippers and God. But now, since the coming of Christ, atonement for sin is secured through the shedding of His blood. And through His blood, many people in many nations are being redeemed, cleansed from their sins.

12



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Although Christ would be rejected and crucified by the people of His day, once His mission and the gospel were understood, kings and citizens alike would stand speechless before Him. While He walked upon earth, most people would consider the Savior insignificant and unimportant. But after His death and resurrection, many would stand in stark amazement, stunned at how wrong the world had been to reject Him.

13



Isaiah 52:15

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Their mouths will be shut, dumbfounded because Christ's coming had been misinterpreted so badly. As a result, many will hear the gospel, understand it, and accept Jesus Christ as their Savior. The apostle Paul clearly said that this prophecy refers to the preaching of Christ to the people of the world.

14



So What ...

We are coming into Passion Week. Jesus entered into Jerusalem and offered the Kingdom. Rather than accept God offer, they tortured and crucified the Promised Messiah. Yet He did not remain dead, but rose from the grave offering us forgiveness and restoration.

What have you done with Jesus?