

Isaiah

The Mission to the Weary
Isaiah 53:1-12

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


 A decorative graphic featuring the word "Isaiah" in a bold, serif font, overlaid on a background of faint, repeating text in Hebrew and English.

Introduction

While the speaker is not identified, the picture is that of believers discussing the Savior's death and the world's rejection of Him. While Christ walked on earth, He suffered rejection because He seemed to be of no consequence and was totally misunderstood. Down through the centuries, the vast majority of people have continued to reject God's Servant, the Savior of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ.

3


 A decorative graphic featuring the word "Isaiah" in a bold, serif font, overlaid on a background of faint, repeating text in Hebrew and English.

Isaiah 53:1-3

Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? ² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, *There is* no beauty that we should desire Him. ³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

4



Isaiah 53:1

Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

The Savior's coming had been predicted, but the prophecy had been rejected. God had foretold that He would send the Messiah into the world, but very few believed the prophecies. They denied that God could or would use His power (arms), to do such a thing as send a savior to the world. Or else they denied the need for a savior.

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Isaiah 53:1

Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

You would think that the coming of Christ would be accepted with His clear fulfillment of so many Old Testament prophecies. However, few have believed. Like the prophets, Believers down through the ages have cried out: "Who has believed our report (our message)? To whom has the arm of the Lord (His saving power) been revealed?"

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Isaiah 53:2

For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, *There is* no beauty that we should desire Him.

The Savior's coming as a baby was totally unexpected and therefore it too was rejected.

The people expected the son of David, a descendant of the great king, who would free the Jewish state from all its oppressors and make it one of the greatest nations the world has ever known.

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The Jews expected the Messiah to come in great power and majesty, anticipating that He would immediately set them free from their captivity and oppression. But when the Messiah came into the world, He did not come as a conqueror, deliverer, or mighty prince. Instead the Messiah entered the world as a baby in totally unexpected and undesirable circumstances.

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Jesus grew up in God's care, like a tender shoot of a plant that is barely noticed. Although He was a descendant of the royal line of David, that family line had sunk into insignificance and poverty.

Jesus' supposed father Joseph was a poor carpenter. Even Nazareth, the place of Jesus' upbringing, was not a respected city. This is not what the people expected.

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As a result of this, Jesus grew and developed unnoticed, out of "dry ground," that is, in a humble and little known family. There was nothing to appeal or draw attention to Him, His family, His environment, or even His country of birth. In fact, the nation Israel was a barren country of little importance to the rest of the world. At the time Christ was born, Israel had been conquered and was being ruled by the Romans.

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Most people expected the Messiah to be an attractive, charismatic person, someone who would stir hope in the hearts of all who saw Him. They were looking for someone who would be desirable by “worldly standards”. This was not the case. He was not physically attractive. Like God told Samuel, “The world looks at the outward appearance, but God looks where true beauty resides – the heart”. (Genter paraphrase)

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Jesus did not have a charismatic personality that naturally drew people to Him. Nothing about His appearance was striking or majestic. Nothing about it made Him any different from any other person. In outward appearance, Jesus was an average, ordinary person who would fit into any crowd, never attracting attention. God is determined that those who are attracted to Jesus are attracted for who He is not how He looks....

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Isaiah 53:3

He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

The Savior's coming as a man of sorrows was rejected. The very thought of His suffering for the human race was unacceptable to people. People dismiss the idea that they are ...

- so sinful that they need a Savior to make them acceptable to God
- so sinful that God had to send His Son to die for their sins.

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Jesus' life was characterized by grief. He was born in poverty, suffered rejection by those he came to deliver. Satan was relentless in his temptation.

Hebrews 4:15

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

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The depth of Christ's sufferings can be seen in three facts:

1. In coming to earth, Christ set aside all His heavenly glory.
2. In coming to earth, Christ bore all the temptations and trials of the human flesh as well as the mockery, hostility, and rejection of sinful people.
3. In coming to earth, Christ took the sins of the entire human race upon Himself and died for those sins, suffering the rejection of God and God's judgment upon them.

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To many people, the cross and all it represents are repulsive. They despise the truth that they are in need of a savior. They do not "esteem" Jesus but choose to believe that they become acceptable to God by *good works*, doing the best they can throughout life. As a result, they reject the idea of a Savior having to suffer and die for the sins of the human race.

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So What ...

Isaiah states that there are two types of people in the world.

There are those who believe the testimony of Scripture and accept Jesus as the promised Messiah who came to take our punishment for sin.

AND

Those who reject the testimony of Scripture and accept their own reasoning and view of the world.

Which type of person are you?