



ISAIAH

JEREMIAH

DISCOVERING WHO JESUS IS

FORETOLD

THROUGH THE MAJOR PROPHETS

DANIEL

EZEKIEL

The Messiah Who Humbly Suffers

Isaiah 52-53

Introduction

- Isaiah's suffering servant seems to break every convention of a great leader.
- The suffering servant lives humbly, entering this world in obscure circumstances.
- This humble servant lives an innocent life yet dies a painful death.
- The humble servant follows God's plan, overcoming sin and securing redemption for his people.

Jesus humbly suffered through life to
reveal God's eternal wisdom

Isaiah 52:13-15

Eternal Wisdom

- As Isaiah would later proclaim in chapter 55, God's ways are higher than our ways as far as the heavens are high above the earth (Isaiah 55:9).
- Even though we know that, Isaiah's description in Isaiah 52 and 53 still surprises the reader.
- This prophetic word reveals a singular suffering servant yet to come who would totally baffle the entire world.

Eternal Wisdom

- While this servant would possess the very wisdom of God in heaven, he would shock the world by both his appearance and coming (verses 13–14).
- In fact, Isaiah uses the same combination of words (“raised and lifted up”) here in chapter 52 as he used when describing God’s exaltation in Isaiah 6.

Eternal Wisdom

- This servant is not an attractive figure like so many of the world's conquerors have been or appeared to be.
- This servant would not come to earth to live comfortably. Rather, the suffering servant would be ordinary, ultimately rejected by men (verse 15).
- He is categorically different than any other leader, ruler, or king who has walked the earth.

Eternal Wisdom

- The coming servant will be totally unexpected, and every aspect of his coming will be a surprise to the nations of the world (verse 15).
- He looks different than what's expected for a leader. He lives differently from the prominent figures of the day.
- All the prominent, grand leaders of the world will only be able to stand silent before the divine wisdom of this humble servant to come.

Jesus humbly endured
man's prideful rejection

Isaiah 53:1-3

Rejection

- Two questions focus attention on man's reception of the suffering servant (verse 1). They anticipate the reception seen in the gospel accounts of Jesus' life (Luke 4:14–30).
- Isaiah asks, “Who has believed in this suffering servant?” Sadly, not many believed in him.
- Isaiah asks, “Who has seen the arm of the Lord at work?” Sadly, many witnessed the suffering servant's ministry yet without responding in faith.

Rejection

- Rather than being raised in total obscurity, hidden from the eyes of mankind, the humble servant grew up like everyone else in plain sight.
- The world expected the promised Messiah to crash the scene with flashy, outlandish displays to catch attention or incite fearful respect.
- Instead, Isaiah describes the humble servant's plain beginnings.

Rejection

- The humble servant's unassuming entrance and growth in the world elicits nothing from men.
- The Hebrew words "beauty," "form," and "majesty" hint at both physical features and quality of being and confirm the suffering servant's ordinary disposition.
- Nothing about the humble servant draws attention to self but only focuses on his life and calling (verse 2).

Rejection

- His life and calling involved intense suffering. As Isaiah indicates in verse 3, the humble servant's existence was marked by sorrow and emotional pain.
- As Hebrews 4 affirms, Jesus lived a life of rejection and pain in fulfillment of God's design for man's redemption.
- Jesus, the humble, suffering servant, accepted the path of death and misery to face rejection from His people.

Jesus humbly bore our sin and shame
to give us righteousness and peace

Isaiah 53:4-6

Bore Our Sin

- Isaiah connects the redemptive work of the suffering servant with our need for his substitutionary sacrifice.
- The suffering servant took on the people's infirmities (verse 4).
- The suffering servant carried the people's sorrows (verse 4).
- The suffering servant was pierced, and crushed for the people's transgressions and iniquities (verse 5).

Bore Our Sin

- The suffering servant suffered punishing wounds so that the people would receive healing peace (verse 5).
- Ultimately, all the people's iniquities were placed solely on the suffering servant as he stood in the place of helpless sinners (verse 6).
- God's righteous wrath comes down fully and totally on the servant, freeing people from sin and shame.

Bore Our Sin

- In the humble sacrifice of the suffering servant, God reverses the blindness of the lost sheep that seek their own way.
- Because of the humble servant, we receive true righteousness (verse 6).
- Isaiah indicates that God is the one who willed the suffering servant's death as well as the one who places our sin on Christ (verses 4, 6).

Jesus humbly sacrificed Himself to
secure our eternal salvation

Isaiah 53:7-9

Eternal Salvation

- Verses 7–9 shed even more light on the final steps the suffering servant takes in his mission from God.
- The suffering servant humbly endured death, quietly laying down his life for wicked, sinful people.
- Even though his suffering is totally unjust, he suffers without protest (verse 7). Isaiah's reference to a lamb being slaughtered hints back to the sacrificial system so familiar.

Eternal Salvation

- In verse 8, Isaiah asks if there is anyone who might further explain or revive the message of the suffering servant. This rhetorical question implies a “no.”
- All seems lost when the suffering servant is killed, an innocent life taken with utter disregard (verse 8).
- Even though the suffering servant sought peace and lived a guileless life, he suffered and died in shame.

Jesus humbly rose from the dead
revealing God's victory
over death and sin

Isaiah 53:10-12

Final Victory

- In rather abrupt fashion, Isaiah turns the story on its head, pointing to God's glorious purposes.
- What begins as a description of nondescript origins and terrible suffering suddenly becomes a song of victory over sin and death.
- In verse 10, Isaiah begins to reframe the way the people ought to understand the purposes for the suffering servant's life and death.

Final Victory

- God's plan was not simply for the humble servant to suffer meaninglessly or to die in defeat. God does not waste energy, time, or efforts but fulfills His will with a clear purpose.
- Even if we may not always see God's plan, that doesn't mean He doesn't have a plan. God's design for the servant's suffering is redemption and God's purpose for the servant's death is glorification (verse 10).

Final Victory

- Greater still, Isaiah declares not simply forgiveness of fault or purging of sin, but the imputation of righteousness.
- As God's children are clothed in Christ's righteousness (Romans 13:14; Galatians 3:27), we move forward in a life of faith defined by grace and forgiveness rather than sin and misery.

Ask Kerby



Veteran's Day

Veteran's Day

- Veteran's Day began as Armistice Day.
- As "The Great War" (which we today call World War I) was winding down, there was a need to designate an official time for the end of hostilities.
- The Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919.
- Fighting actually ended seven months earlier. The armistice ended on the eleventh hour of the eleventh month in 1918.

Veteran's Day

- The following year, President Woodrow Wilson designed November 11, 1919 as Armistice Day.
- World War I was not “the war to end all wars.”
- By 1954, Congress amended the previous legislation by striking out the word “Armistice” and inserting the word “Veterans.”
- This day is set aside to honor all American veterans of all wars.



Veteran's Day

- Every two years, we have an election.
- It is often a time of conflict and emotional upheaval.
- It produces many scars that last long beyond the election process.
- Once the votes are counted, we try to move on.
- Veteran's Day provides us with an opportunity to reflect on those who fought for our freedom.

Veteran's Day

- 1 Peter 2:13 - "Submit yourselves (for the Lord's sake) to every authority instituted among men: Whether to the king (as the supreme authority) or to governors who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right."
 - We are to submit ourselves to legal authority for the Lord's sake.
 - Government is supposed to punish wrongdoers.

Veteran's Day

- Philippians 2:4 - "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."
- We should give encouragement to those around us, but often we spend too much time discouraging others.
 - Question #1 - "Are they happier than they were before I came along?"
 - Question#2 - "Are they better off since I came along?"

Veteran's Day

- Galatians 6:9 - "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."
- We should look for opportunities to do good for others.
- Veteran's Day is a reminder that we should look for an opportunity to encourage our veterans.

Veteran's Day

- John 15:13 - "Greater love has no one than this – that he lay down his life for his friends."
- Some American speakers have put it this way:
- "Two friends have died for you: The soldier and Jesus Christ. The soldier died for your political freedom, and Jesus died for your spiritual freedom."
- Today we can express our gratitude to all who have served this country.

