

Last week we learned that Isaiah 53 was written 700yrs before Jesus was born, but it is for a still future Israel who, after living thru the Tribulation, will then turn to Jesus & pray these words. Also, Jewish Rabbis, in their efforts to cover their sin of crucifying & rejecting Jesus as Messiah, re-interpreted Isaiah 53 to say that they are God's faithful servant not Jesus.

As Israel begins their prayer of repentance the first three verses of Isaiah 53 sound like they're trying to explain to God all the reasons why they didn't believe.

Isaiah 53:1-3 Who has believed what was reported to us? Who could see the might of the LORD in Him? ²He grew up before us like no one special, like a fragile plant: and like a dry root sticking out of the ground He was not good looking or powerful, and when we look at Him He didn't appear to be someone worth knowing. ³He was despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, so we turned our faces from Him. He was despised by our leaders so we never considered that He could be our Messiah. (Rick's Paraphrased Version)

3- Future Jews confession of Faith in Jesus

Isaiah 53:4 Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet, we considered Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted...

- At this point in their confession the surviving future Jews stop making excuses for their unbelief & begin a sincere confession of faith in Jesus, their Messiah.
- For centuries, if the Jews thought of Jesus at all, they wrongly assumed He had been condemned for being a heretic & lawbreaker, & His death was God's punishment.
- But now you can hear their sorrow as they realize who Jesus really is.
- The gospel message was hidden in the OT but after the cross in Isaiah 53 it's obvious; *Eph 3:1*.

Isaiah 53:5 But, He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

- **But;** They now realize that their God died in their place, for their sins, & it's overwhelming.

Zech 12:10-11 And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. ¹¹In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem ...

- The day Israel gets saved will be the most heartbreaking day of their lives, but, like all who confess Jesus, their repentance restores them to God, *Rom 11:26*.

by His stripes we are healed: This verse is often quoted as a promise of healing our bodies, however, the context is that we are healed of the separation from God caused by our sin & unbelief.

- Their heartfelt confession of faith in Jesus heals their broken relationship with God.

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

- At this point Israel realizes that by rejecting Jesus they have abandoned God & wasted their lives with selfish, worldly ambition.
- But one day they will profess their faith in Jesus & say they believe He died for them; *Rom 11:26*.
 - In Isaiah 53 verses 4-12 we're told ten times that Jesus died for our sins.

4- The Holy Spirit describes Jesus sacrifice

This next section describes the sacrifice Jesus made for us, but when we get to vs10 we'll see that it's someone besides Israel or the Father speaking.

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as

a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

- Even though Jesus' trial was unjust, He never tried to prove His innocence; He willingly gave Himself to die in our place.

*Mt 27:12–14 And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing.
¹³Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?" ¹⁴But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly.*

- Jesus didn't defend Himself because He was born for this reason; to suffer in our place, for our sins, & He did it willingly, without complaint.

Isaiah 53:8 He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.

- *He was taken from prison and from judgment;*
- This phrase is worded a little odd, but in Acts 8:33 Luke quotes it from the Septuagint like this:
In His humiliation justice was taken away ...
- Was Jesus given a just trial; was He treated fairly by the pharisees; Obviously Not!
 - The Pharisees had illegally plotted His death on many occasions.
 - Jesus was arrested & tried at night, which was illegal for a death sentence in Israel.
 - They illegally accepted the word of false witnesses who didn't even agree on their lies.
 - There were no witnesses brought to testify on His behalf.
 - The Talmud falsely records that after Jesus conviction, they waited 40 days to crucify Him.

For He was cut off from the land of the living;

- Jesus was cut off, *executed, separated by death from the land of the living;*
 - Daniel says the same words: He was cut off and he also goes on to tell us why;

Dan 9:26 And after sixty-two weeks, (& the 7 wks of v25), Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself ...

- *Messiah shall be cut off; executed, put to death for a crime.*
- Both Isaiah & Daniel are clear; the Messiah will be **executed**, but not for His own crimes, & Isaiah 53 makes it very clear why: *For the transgressions of My people He was stricken;*
- This is the 7th of 10 times Isaiah 53 tells us Jesus died for our sins. (*Can God die?*) *Col 1:17, Heb 1:3*

Who's speaking here? It must be God because He's referring to Israel by saying *My people*.

Isaiah 53:9 And they made His grave with the wicked, But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.

- Jesus was convicted as a criminal, then crucified between two thieves; *Mt 27:38, Lk 23:33.*
- Jesus' body wasn't thrown onto the piles of burning rubbish in the valley of Hinnom like other executed criminals, Jesus' body was taken by a rich man & put in his own tomb, *Jn 19:38.*

Because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth

- How can the Rabbis claim that Israel is the suffering servant being described here?
 - Israel is certainly not free of violence & deceit; Their own prophets record these sins.

Isaiah 53:10a Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief.

- Is this saying that God The Father was happy to torture & crucify Jesus?
- No, not just for the pleasure of watching Jesus be tortured, But God knew that to save mankind from the penalty of their sins, Jesus is the only one who could pay our debt for us.
- Not only did The Father watch while His Son was crucified, He had to put all of His righteous anger and penalty for sin onto His Son Jesus while on the cross.
- *Psalm 88* gives us a glimpse into some of the despair Jesus suffered on the cross.

- This prayer prophesied about the torment Jesus endured is much different than the one He prayed in *Psalm 69* when He was a distraught boy turning to His Father for help.
- This prayer recognizes that God is the one bringing the torment & that God has abandoned Him because He had become sin for us.
- It's sometimes hard for us to think that Jesus agonized over His upcoming trials, that He could have experienced despair in the midst of His tortures.
- But we forget He became a man, & He faced everything we do, except without sinning.
- Like any man He didn't want to die, especially death on a cross, but Jesus knew that He was our only hope; If He failed, all of mankind was destined for eternal punishment.
- He willingly faced & overcame all those horrors because of His love for us.

Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief.

- Who is speaking here? It's not the Father because it says:
It pleased the Lord (The Father) to bruise Him (Jesus)
- The speaker then repeats the thought: *He (The Father) has put Him (Jesus) to grief.*
- In vs8 we saw that it's God speaking; *For the transgressions of My (The Father) people He (Jesus) was stricken*, but vs10 we see that the Father & Jesus are the subject, spoken by someone else.
- This I believe is the Holy Spirit telling us things no one else could know.
 - This is one of those rare OT places where you can see all three members of the Trinity.

Isaiah 53:10b When You make His soul an offering for sin He shall see His seed, He shall be satisfied ...

- The second half of vs10 continues with the Holy Spirit referring to both The Father & Jesus.
- In verses 8 & 9 we just saw the Messiah was *cut off*, executed from the land of the living & put in the grave & yet here it says *He will see His seed & be satisfied.*
- The dead aren't able to see their seed & watch their lives; But Jesus is no longer dead.
- This passage only makes sense if we realize it's about Jesus resurrection from the dead.
- Jesus endured all of His sufferings as a man & Psalm 16 tells us He had faith that after His death He would be raised from the dead.

Psalm 16:1-2, 8-11 Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust. ²O my soul, you have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, My goodness is nothing apart from You"... ⁸I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved. ⁹Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. ¹⁰For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. ¹¹You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

- *Psalms 16 & 88* both tell us that Jesus, knowing He will be killed, is trusting the Father to raise His body from the dead & physically bring Him up out of Sheol, (the place of the dead).
- At first this idea may sound strange, but because Jesus was a man, like us, He also had to have faith that the Father would resurrect Him from the dead.

Isa 53:10c And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand;

- Once again we see that it's the Holy Spirit speaking; *the pleasure of the LORD (The Father) shall prosper in His (Jesus) hand.*
- Here again, like Isaiah 52:13, we see a statement about the success of Jesus' in His mission.
 - *Prosper- to be successful;* God's redemption is now available to everyone who believes.

1 Tim 2:4 [God] desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

- "The knowledge of the truth" is this gospel message, that Jesus died for us & rose again.
 - All who believe this & turn from this world & to Jesus will also live forever with Him.
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5- The Father declares Jesus victorious

Isa 53:11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied, By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.

- The speaker changes to the Father here as He again calls Jesus; *My righteous Servant*.
- The Father is telling us that Jesus will be raised from the dead to see the labor of His soul; the countless people who will believe in Him from their heart, & become children of God.
- It's faith in Jesus which saves us; knowledge of Him & what He's done for us.
 - Can you imagine the ego of the Jewish rabbis who teach that they personally qualify as *God's righteous servant*,

Acts 4:12 For there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

- How do the Jewish teachers think they could possibly bear the iniquities of anyone else?
- How could the knowledge of Israel justify anyone before God.

For He shall bear their iniquities

- Lev 25:25 says only a person's closest kinsman may redeem someone sold into slavery.
 - It was Adam who sold himself & all of mankind into slavery & only a brother of Adam qualifies to redeem him as his closest kinsman.
 - Besides Adam, Jesus is the only other man whose Father is God, born of a virgin for the purpose of redeeming His brother Adam's family from slavery to sin & death.
 - The virgin birth of Jesus is not just some strange event, it's the only legal way God could redeem mankind & free us from the death we were sold into.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Isaiah 53:12 Therefore, I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

- Jesus earned the position of greatest among men & He has chosen to divide His inheritance with the strong; those who are born again & overcomers; *Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 26, 3:5, 12, 21.*

Because He poured out His soul unto death;

- This passage couldn't possibly refer to the Jews; They never willingly died for anyone else.
- Jesus said in *John 10:18 No one takes my life from Me, but I lay it down of Myself.*

And He bore the sin of many;

- Here again for the tenth time in Isaiah 53 we're told that Jesus bore our sins.
- This is the central theme of Isaiah 53, Jesus died, paying the penalty for all of our sin.
 - How can the Jews possibly believe that they personally could bear the sin of another.

A suffering Messiah was unexpected; No one considered, nor wanted, a Messiah that dies.

- This is why Jesus had to explain His death to the disciples on the road to Emmaus in Lk 24.
- Isaiah 53 is hiding the gospel message in plain sight;
 - God loves us so much He stood in our place before the courtroom of heaven, & took on Himself the punishment for our sin.

Isaiah 53; 700 years before Jesus was born God foretold the Gospel message of His Son's death.