

Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12

Introduction.

- A. Isaiah ministered from 739-681 (martyred by Manasseh).
- B. Themes of Isaiah.
 - 1. Disobedience to God's will brings terrible consequences.
 - 2. The remedy lies in fulfilling the Covenant obligations.
 - 3. There is hope for the people of God.
- C. Sins specifically noted in Isaiah.
 - 1. Idolatry.
 - 2. Taking advantage of the poor and helpless
 - 3. Attempting to thwart the plan of God for his people.
- D. Two divisions of the book.
 - 1. The book of judgement (1-39).
 - 2. The book of consolation (40-66).
- E. This is the last of four servant songs about the Messiah.

I. The successful servant (52:13-15).

- A. The success (13).
- B. The shame (14).
 - 1. Disfigured.
 - 2. Causes horror.
- C. The effect (15).
 - 1. Startles the nations.
 - a. Translation (“startle” vs. “sprinkle.”)
 - b. From deepest humiliation to greatest glorification (cf. Ph.2).
 - 2. A new attitude prevails.

II. The unbelief of his people (53:1-3).

- A. Such a change seems beyond belief (1).
 - 1. “Arm of the LORD” = salvation.
 - 2. Salvation depends on faith.
 - 3. Unbelief in the power of God.
- B. Reasons for unbelief (2-3).
 - 1. No physical attraction.
 - a. During his life.
 - b. At the crucifixion (cf. Mt. 27:37-44).
 - 2. Rejection.
 - 3. Scorn (cf. Dt. 21:23; Gal. 3:13).

III. The suffering of the servant (4-12).

A. Reasons for suffering (4-6).

1. To carry our burden (4; cf. Mt. 8:17).
 - a. A staggering load.
 - b. The cry of desolation.
2. To bring us peace (5; cf. Phil. 4:7-9).
 - a. Pierced through = extreme suffering.
 - b. Crushed.
 - c. We were rebels.
3. To restore our wandering (6).
 - a. Reflects the captivity.
 - b. Reminds us of Amos 7:7ff.

B. How he suffered (7-9).

1. Silently (7).
2. Unjustly ((8-9).
 - a. Hostile oppression.
 - b. Judicial persecution.

C. Result of his suffering (10-12).

1. Because of the guilt offering (10).
 - a. Offspring = believers.
 - b. Long life (cf. Rev. 1:18).
 - c. Pleasure of the LORD.
2. Because of the anguish (11).
 - a. Satisfaction.
 - b. Justification.
3. Because of the substitution (12).
 - a. Glory.
 - b. Prosperity.

IV. What can we learn?

- A. Substitution has been made.
- B. God's justice has been satisfied.
- C. It only remains for us to partake of God's salvation.

“Christian scholars,” says Abravanel [Jewish scholar of the Middle Ages, 1437 -1508] interpret this prophecy as referring to that man who was crucified in Jerusalem about the end of the second temple, and who, according to their view, was the Son of God, who became man in the womb of the Virgin. But Jonathan ben Uziel [disciple of Hillel the Elder, who was the grandfather of Gamaliel, under whom Saul of Tarsus studied] explains it as relating to the Messiah who has yet to come; and this is the opinion of the ancients in many of their Midrashes.” Keil & Delitsch *Isaiah* Vol. 2, page 303.