

Part II, Lesson 24

# Isaiah

The Lord is Salvation

The Servant:  
Humbled  
And Exalted

Isaiah  
52:13-  
53:12

## Isaiah Part II, Lesson 24

### The Servant: Humbled and Exalted

#### Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Looking at our Scripture for today, we are impressed with the wonder of God's word. God gave Isaiah the gift of foresight so that he could see all the way to Jesus. The lesson today comes from a long passage, but it is very familiar. Read Isaiah 52:13-15.

We read that this special servant would be wise and would be greatly respected. He would be famous and will be celebrated. We should understand that this servant is Jesus. But then Isaiah must tell it like it is. He said that before we would see Him glorified, famous and celebrated, we would see Him mutilated, disfigured and scarred. As a matter of fact, He would suffer so much that He would not even look like a normal human.

The fifteenth verse lets us know that when Jesus is revealed as the true servant of God, even kings would be surprised and everyone in many nations would understand, even if they had not heard about Him before.

In the fifty-third chapter we hear more specifics about this special servant of God. Looking back through the life of Jesus, we can see Him clearly in this chapter. And, if there is any question about the One to whom this refers, it can be clearly seen that no one else in all of history fits this description. This is some of the most beautiful and detailed prophesy about Jesus found in the Old Testament. Seven centuries, more than 700 years, before Jesus was born, Isaiah was talking about Him. Read Isaiah 53:1-6.

If Isaiah had lived today, he might use the expression, "Who'd 'a thought?" Here comes someone who comes from a hostile environment, "a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground." This special servant is unattractive. People certainly don't come to Him because He is handsome. He is even, at times, hated by those with whom He comes into contact. He would be rejected by those who should have recognized and honored Him, that is, the religious leaders of His day.

This special servant did what He did for us: "took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows." God allowed Him to suffer: "smitten...afflicted...pierced...crushed." He paid the price for our "peace...healing...iniquity (sin)." We were like lost sheep, and He suffered when God put our sin on Him.

Verse six begins with "We all," and ends with "all of us." That means that it includes everyone who ever lived. So everyone sins, everyone is separated from God by that sin, and all of us, because of our own will, are included in this.

Notice in verse four there is a correction in what the people thought. Now they know that He "took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows." But previously they would have thought that His suffering had been because God had "stricken...smitten...and afflicted" Him for His own sin. That is no an unusual thought in the minds of people today. When a person has financial problems, bad health or some other problem some

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people look around to see what sin has caused all that suffering in their life. Jesus suffered for us, not for anything He had done. Read Isaiah 53:7-12

This special servant became a sacrifice. This is like, but not exactly like, the sacrifices offered in the Temple of the Hebrew people. In that sacrifice, a healthy, unmarked animal was sacrificed. In this sacrifice, a perfect, sinless human was the sacrifice. In the old sacrifice sins had to be paid for with the sacrifice, every year; Jesus would pay the price one time, forever. This sacrifice was not offered in the Temple.

We should be very careful to note that this sacrifice is not automatically applied to every person. It becomes your sacrifice only when you repent and have faith that this is God's gift to you for your eternal salvation.

When Jesus was arrested, tried and convicted, He went to the cross without resistance, like a lamb being led to the altar in the Temple to be sacrificed. Death took its toll. He was taken away from whatever death He suffered, it is not clear here what kind of death, to the grave. Obviously, He had no children, He was killed, and assigned a grave. There is a reference to His being in a grave with the wicked...the rich. This probably means that He was not buried in a grave any different than the sinners and "the rich" probably means that among the wicked were those who had gotten rich by taking from others.

Notice also Isaiah makes it very clear that Jesus was killed and buried even though He had done nothing wrong. He hadn't hurt anyone, nor had He said anything that was not truthful or that was hurtful.

The last part of this matchless song tell us that all this was in God's will. But, that's not the end of the story. Because of His suffering, God will do many things as reward. First, He will see many people who consider themselves His children (the saved). Second, prolonged days was seen as one of the great blessings for a person in Isaiah's day. God will prosper Him. After His suffering, "He will see the light of life." A prophecy of His resurrection.

He is the one who provides justification (salvation) for many. God will give Him superstar recognition, will give Him His share of the rewards. We read another place the "God highly exalted Him to the highest place, and gave Him a name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow..." (Philippians 2:9, 10)

Finally, Isaiah said that He "poured out His life unto death and was numbered with the transgressors..." He took His place with the sinners. A lesson for us is that if we are going to help someone, we need to be willing to be ready to suffer with them.

\*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

#### Page Three

**Scripture Memory:** "We all like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:6

**Lesson Goal:** To guide students in understanding Isaiah's prophesy about Jesus.

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## The Servant: Humbled and Exalted—Isaiah 52:13-53:12

### Student Worksheet

Listen during the lesson for this information:

1. He said that before we would see Him \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, we would see Him \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does Isaiah say about the unattractiveness of Jesus?
3. God allowed Him to suffer: “\_\_\_\_\_...\_\_\_\_\_...\_\_\_\_\_.” He paid the price for our “\_\_\_\_\_...\_\_\_\_\_ (sin).”
4. Who does 53:6 say has sinned?
5. What were the differences between the sacrifice of Jesus and the sacrifices in the Old Testament Temple?
6. What lesson do we learn from the fact that Jesus “took His place with the sinners.”

#### Page Four

**Scripture Memory:** “We all like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” Isaiah 53:6

#### **How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:**

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.