

The Suffering Servant (part 2)

Isaiah 52:13-15, 53

The gospel according to the prophets

W. Cochran wayne.cochran@gmail.com

The Great Isaiah Scroll

One of original seven *Dead Sea Scrolls* discovered in Qumran in 1947.

Largest and best preserved (25 feet).

Contains all 66 chapters.

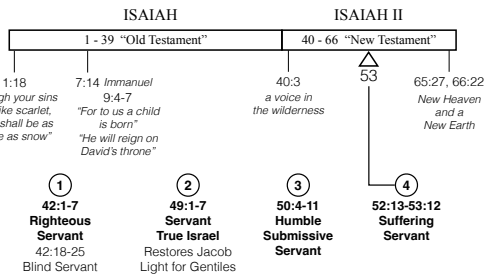
Dating from 125 BC.

1000 years older than any other Hebrew Biblical Manuscript at the time of discovery.

Around 20 additional copies of Isaiah found, 6 pesharim (commentaries), and many other Isaiah quotations in other scrolls.



<http://dss.collections.imj.org.il/isaiah#52.13>



- 722 BC Northern Kingdom (Israel) falls to Assyria
- 596 BC Southern Kingdom (Judah) falls to Babylon (Exiles Return)
- Isaiah 6 : Isaiah's vision / calling
- Isaiah 14 : Fall of Lucifer (Ezekiel 28)
- Isaiah 2, 11, 35, ... Millennial Reign

Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12

52:13-15 Exaltation / Disfigurement "lifted up" John 3:14, 8:28, 12:32,34 Philippians 2 6 11 7 10 8 9	53:1-3 Unbelieved, Rejected, Man of Sorrows John 12:37-41 The blind eyes, hardened heart	53:4-6 He carries our sorrows, takes our punishment, and bears our sin.	53:7-9 Slaughter of the innocent Lamb	53:10-12 Victorious resurrected Servant
--	---	--	--	--

John 12:41 *Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him*

Exaltation and Humility (last week)

*Behold, my servant shall act wisely;
he shall be high and lifted up,
and shall be exalted.*

*As many were astonished at you—
his appearance was so marred,
beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of the
children of mankind—*

*so shall he sprinkle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths
because of him;
for that which has not been
told them they see, and that which
they have not heard they understand.
Isaiah 52:13-15*

Lifted up on a cross
John 3:14, 8:28, 12:32,34
Suffering and shame
Beaten beyond recognition
Triumph Colossians 2:15
Exaltation!
Philippians 2:5-11
"taking the form of a servant"
Worshipped by all!
High and Lifted Up (6:1)

“Sprinkle” has been translated as “startle” by some.

Sprinkle denotes cleansing.

“kings shut their mouths” : amazement and inability to say anything be self-justification.

“they have not heard” : Gentile kings will see and hear The Gospel.

Unbelief

John 12:32-33,35-38; Isaiah 53:1

*And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”
He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. ... So
Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk
while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks
in the darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the
light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”
When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from
them. Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not
believe in him, so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be
fulfilled:*

*“Lord, who has believed what he heard from us,
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”
what he has heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?*

John 12:41 Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him.

1 Corinthians 2:8 None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

“arm of the Lord” -> God acting in human affairs (frequent use in The Exodus)

Belief

Romans 10:14-17

*How then will they call on him in whom they have
not believed? And how are they to believe in him of
whom they have never heard? And how are they to
hear without someone preaching? And how are they
to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How
beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good
news!” But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For
Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has
heard from us?” So faith comes from hearing, and
hearing through the word of Christ.*

• What makes the gospel believable?

- It is counter intuitive that our salvation comes not thru an earthly display of power, but through a humble sacrifice.

Tender Shoot in Dry Ground

*“tender shoot” contrasts with “lofty trees” which are “cut
down”
(Isaiah 10:33,34, 2:12-18, see 11:1)*

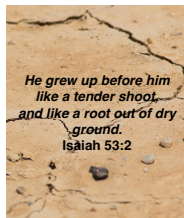
*Christ enters humanity as a vulnerable infant, born in a
stable in the “backwoods” of Bethlehem (Micah 5:2),
to a poor unwed teenage mother.*

*Is this the expectation of what “the arm of the Lord”
(Isaiah 52:10) would look like?*

*Isaiah 53:1 — “arm of the Lord is not too short to
save” — salvation will require the slaughtering of an
innocent lamb.*

“dry ground” = hostile to life

cursed environment (Jer 17:5,6)



*He grew up before him
like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry
ground.
Isaiah 53:2*

• “shoot” vs cedar of Lebanon

• Christ was *not* born in Rome or even Jerusalem.

• This is not a dominating magnetic deliverer, but a fragile tender shoot in a hostile environment.

• Picture from the Negev in Israel (from wiki commons).

Veiled in Weak Humanity

*He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.*
Isaiah 53:2b

Christ's glory is veiled in weak humanity.

No outward superficial splendor.

Most never notice Him, much less pay Him homage.

Contrast: *The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being* (Hebrews 1:3)

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father" John 14:9

The beauty of The King — Psalm 45

- Most do not see Christ as having any significance in their life.
- What can a man of pain and weakness do for us?

Despised and Rejected

*He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*
Isaiah 53:3

Isaiah 49:7 - despised by the nation and the rulers.

Jesus sees his arrest (Matthew 26:56) as fulfillment of Scripture.

So complete was the rejection that the crowd shouted "*Crucify Him!*" (Matthew 27:22,23).

Contrast: *"you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live."* Exodus 33:20

Rejection of Christ

Hometown — Luke 4:16-30 (after reading opening to Isaiah 61)

Cornerstone — Matthew 21:42 (wicked tenants); stone rejected by builders (Psalm 118:21,22)

Samaritan Village — Luke 9:51-56

Galilean cities — Luke 10:12-15

Many disciples — John 6:60-66

Scribes and Jewish Rulers

Our Substitute Isaiah 53:4-7

*Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.
We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.*

The Cost of Healing? Matthew 8:16-17

...many who were demon-possessed were brought to him,
and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.
This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:
"He took up our infirmities
and bore our diseases."

Matthew connect Christ's healing ministry with Isaiah 53:4

Evidently healing came at a personal cost — the infirmities and diseases were carried by Him!

Isaiah 25:8, Revelation 21:4-5 "He will wipe every tear from their eyes... There will be no more death", or mourning or crying or pain" — the cross makes all this possible!

The Great Exchange

Us		Him
our pain	_____	he bore
our transgressions	_____	he was pierced
our iniquities	_____	he was crushed
our punishment	_____	was on him
our iniquity	_____	laid on him
brought us peace	_____	the punishment
we are healed	_____	by his wounds

2 Corinthians 5:21

- Note that 53:1-9 are past tense, where's 52:13-15 and 53:10-12 are future tense.
 - Revelation 13:8 : the Lamb who was slain before the foundation of he world.
- *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.* 2 Corinthians 5:21

Substitution Isaiah 53:5

*But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.*

"But he..." contrasts with the idea that he was punished for His own sin

Penal Substitution: Christ was punished in our place.

Double Imputation

Our sin was placed on Christ, the sinless Lamb of God.

"we are healed": His righteousness was placed on our account

Isaiah 53:6

*We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.*

"We all..." are prone to wonder in "our own way" (Proverbs 14:12).

God laid on Christ the sin of the entire world (1 John 2:2)

Jesus is the "Good Shepherd" (John 10:11) and "Overseer of your souls" (1 Peter 2:25)

- John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

Isaiah 53:7-9

*He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.
By oppression and judgment he was taken away,
And who can speak of his descendants?
For he was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people he was stricken.
He was assigned a grave with the wicked,
and with the rich in his death,
though he had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in his mouth.*

Death of the Innocent Lamb Isaiah 53:7-9

The Lamb is innocent — never violent, never used deceit

Mistreated — Oppressed, afflicted

Does not protest — Silent, offers no resistance

Is killed — "Cut off" — deprived of life

Has no posterity

Associated with the wicked

Oppression and Submission Isaiah 53:7

Oppression

Exodus narrative : God sees the harsh treatment of the task masters (Exodus 3:7).

Final plague: Death of the firstborn / sacrifice of Passover Lamb (Exodus 12)

Submission

Christ is not a victim, but *"lays down his life for the sheep"* John 10:15, 17

Isaiah 50:5,6 : He offers his back to those who beat him...

Isaiah 50:7-8 : He trusts in God, sets his face like flint (*Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem*
Luke 9:51)

The creator who spoke the universe into existence remains silent.

- Isaac is submissive to Abraham in Genesis 22:9

"Cut off" with no posterity Isaiah 5:8b

The servant seemingly dies alone with no offspring

"Cut off" — Psalm 37:9, 22, 28, 34, 38

Theme of children (or lack thereof) as blessing (or curse)

Isaiah 29:23 — The second component of the promise to Abraham

Isaiah 54:1-3 — The reversal of barren one

"unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone"
(John 12:24)

- John 12:37 Jesus has Isaiah in mind concerning His rejection (v38) and death (being lifted up v32 in crucifixion — Isaiah 53:13)

Lamb without Blemish Isaiah 53:9

Jesus buried with rich (Matthew 27:57-60) (born poor)

Why would two members of the Sanhedrin (Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea - John 19:38-42) risk their status on a dead Messiah?

"rich" is a pejorative associated with "wicked" — the "oppressors"

He was not merely suffering for the sins of others, He had no sin of His own to suffer for.

That means the righteousness that is imputed to us is pure and unstained (2 Corinthians 5:11)

- Jesus told Nicodemus that he would be "lifted up" in John 3!

Oppression and Injustice Isaiah 53:8a

Judgment of rebellious servant is just

Northern Kingdom (Israel) exiled by Assyria (722 BC)

Southern Kingdom (Judah) exiled by Babylon (586 BC)

Christ was condemned on false charges (Matt 26:59-61, Luke 23:2-4)

Yet it was Christ's voluntary submission (Phil 2:8) and "laying down of his own life" (John 10:18) that brought us salvation.

The crowd did not want a mere execution — they wanted a crucifixion! (Matt 27:21,22)

Isaiah 53:10-12

(NIV 1984)

*Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him
and cause him to suffer,
and though the Lord makes his life a guilt offering,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.*

*After the suffering of his soul,
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.*

*Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,
because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.
For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.*

"..the will of the LORD." Isaiah 53:10a

*Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him
and cause him to suffer, ...*

"Yet" contrast with previous verses... how could this happen?
Christ's humiliation and death was the will of the LORD!
Jesus in garden: "yet not my will, but yours be done." Luke 22:42
Submission to Father: "I have authority to lay it down ..
This command I received from my Father." John 10:18
"Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him" NKJV

God's will has always been to redeem us!

- The fall was in a garden, and it was the Lord's will then restore us then...
-

His Life as a Sacrifice for Sins Isaiah 53:10ab

*Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him
and cause him to suffer,
and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, ...*

Hebrews 10 : Christ as The Sacrifice

Levitical sacrifices where only a shadow ... v. 1

Blood of animals can not remove sin ... v. 3

Christ was the real sacrifice "*Here I am ... I have come to do your will*"

("A body you readied to me" Psalm 40:6-8 LXX)

His Sacrifice Produces Life Isaiah 53:10

*Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him
and cause him to suffer,
and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering,
he will see his offspring
and prolong his days,
and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.*

*"...unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies,
it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" John 12:24
Fulfillment of Promise to Abraham "descendants as numerous as
the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore."
Hebrews 11:12 (Genesis 15:4, 22:17, 32:12.)*

The Righteous Servant is the Source of Justification Isaiah 53:11

*After the suffering of his soul,
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.*

Resurrection implied: The servant who was "cut of from the
land of the living" will see the "light of life."

The sacrifice of Christ is the source of our righteousness.

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us,

so that in him we might become the righteousness of God"

2 Corinthians 5:21

The Victorious Servant Isaiah 53:12a

*Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,
because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.
For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.*

Victory Parade: The servant has conquered and divides
the spoils of his victory!

*"...he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them
by the cross." Colossians 2:15*

"Death is swallowed up in victory." 1 Corinthians 15:54

His death and bearing of our sin gives us the victory!

The Scroll and The Lamb Revelation 5

Seven Sealed Scroll

The heir of all the earth (Psalm 1, Hebrews 1) to receive the title deed. Satan offered the all the kingdoms of the earth in the wilderness -- this would have short circuited the Cross.

Who is worthy to open the scroll?

"Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

How has He conquered? Colossians 2:15, John 12:31, John 16:11

"I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain"

"you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation"

Paradox of The Cross

*For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

1 Corinthians 1:18

But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,...

1 Corinthians 1:27,28

Power through weakness lies at the heart of the mystery of almighty God himself. This is the universe's greatest paradox; creation's deepest and most profound truth: You win looking like you are losing.
John Stott