

Messianic Prophecies in Isaiah
Lesson 5 – The Servant Songs (Isa 52:13-53:12)

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Introduction: We cannot conceive what is in the mind of God.

- A. Proud men often think they can know everything. **(Rom 11:33-35)**
 - 1. Every time they do this God will show them their folly.
 - 2. When Jesus was put to death by proud rulers they never conceived that Jesus was indeed “God with us.” **(1 Cor 2:7-8)**
 - 3. We do not know what God can do for us right now! **(1 Cor 2:9)**
- B. Who could have known in advance the plan of God?
 - 1. This servant was for a time in the shadow of God’s hand. **(Isa 49:1-2)**
 - 2. He was like a concealed weapon, hidden from the enemy until the right time.
 - 3. This is the significance of the “mystery” in God’s plan. **(Eph 1:9-10)**
 - a. Mystery- “the content of that which has not been known before but which has been revealed to an in-group or restricted constituency”
 - b. This mystery has now been revealed!

I. The account of the Servant will be one of extremes (52:13-15)

- A. The Servant would be beaten and bruised to an extreme.
 - 1. The Servant would be almost unidentifiable as a man. **(52:14; Psa 22:6)**
 - 2. Consider the bloody pulp that Pilate presented to the crowd. **(Jn 19:1-3)**
 - 3. What would you think of such a person? Imagine the thought of this being God!
- B. The Servant would be exalted to the very highest place. **(52:13)**
 - 1. Can you imagine the exaltation scene from heaven? **(Ps 24:7-10)**
 - 2. He was received to sit at the right hand of God. **(Mk 16:19)**
 - 3. Jesus understands what it means to be crushed and ignored.
 - 4. He also knows what God can do for us if we will let Him. **(Eph 2:4-6)**
- C. The account of the Servant will bring extreme reactions in all men
 - 1. They will hear of that which before was inconceivable.
 - 2. Even the proud will close their mouths and marvel.
 - 3. Who will actually believe this report?

II. The appearance of the Servant caused many to look down and despise Him (53:1-3)

- A. The Servant in fact had the “arm of the Lord” with Him. **(Isa 53:1)**
 - 1. Too many people assume they know where the “arm of the Lord” is working.
 - 2. God reminds us it has to be “revealed.”
 - 3. Where does God’s power work today? **(Rom 8:36-37; 2 Cor 12:9-10)**
- B. The Servant would be a “root out of dry ground.” **(53:2)**
 - 1. This was a distinctive description of the Messiah. **(Isa 11:1, 10)**

“Here it evidently applies to the Redeemer as growing up in the manner of a shoot or sucker that springs out of the earth. It means that he would start, as it were, from a decayed stock or stump, as a shoot springs up from a root that is apparently dead. It does not refer to his manner of life ... but to his starting as it were out of a dry and sterile soil where any growth could not be expected, or from a stump or stock that was apparently dead” – Barnes Commentary

- 2. The Romans would also struggle at this Messiah from the Jewish nation.

C. Men wrote off the Servant because of His suffering. **(53:3-4)**

1. We all tend to judge men by appearance. What would Jesus look like if He came today?
2. Jesus made it very clear that His followers would not be caught up in the things that men find to great. **(Mk 10:42-44)**
3. Are we kidding ourselves when we claim to be his follower? Are we judging others by the same standards men judged the Lord? **(Jas 2:1-7)**

III. The Servant was a sacrifice for the sins of all men (53:4-6)

A. His mind was focused on taking care of us. **(Jn 11:27-33)**

1. The day would come where we can know Him and come to Him.
2. Does Jesus carry your sorrows and our griefs? **(Mt 11:28-29)**

B. The Lord placed our sins upon Him.

1. He paid a price that I could not pay. **(2 Cor 5:21)**
2. If you become a follower of the Lord the issue of forgiveness is your focus.
3. Have you forgotten this forgiveness? **(2 Pt 1:9)**

C. His suffering led to our blessing.

1. How do stripes heal? How does chastisement bring peace? **(Rom 5:1)**
2. We must never forget the price that was paid for our peace with God. **(2 Cor 5:14-15)**

IV. The Servant never resisted the unjust treatment of evil men (53:7-9)

A. It is hard to imagine the unrelenting evil Jesus faced.

1. The face of it appeared on the men holding the highest position that God gave under the Old Testament, the high priest.
2. They denied Him justice.
3. They placed known criminals around Him.
4. They struck and cursed Him.

B. He never once struck back. **(1 Pt 2:21-25)**

1. Are we really His followers?
2. Do we really believe in God?

V. The pleasure of the Lord prospered in the Servant's hand (53:10-12)

A. God raised Him from the dead. **(53:10)**

1. How could He be buried and also God “prolong his days?”
2. The resurrection is God's way of proclaiming His identity. **(Rom 1:4)**

B. The Servant only wanted to do that which pleased God.

1. Do you think of God's pleasure?
2. If I am a servant of God this should be the prime motivation of my life! **(Gal 1:10)**

C. The Servant finds great pleasure in seeing men find His healing and peace.

1. Have you ever thought in gratitude about how you will respond to this Servant?
2. Today I have the power to make my Lord rejoice!

Conclusion: Do you know what is in the mind of the Lord for you? **(1 Cor 2:9)**