

ISAIAH

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Isaiah chapter 52 as we continue our study through the Word of God. Remember in our last study how the Southern Kingdom of Judah was calling for God to wake up and deliver them. And the idea was that God was sleeping, He was not paying attention to what was going on with His people. It sounds funny but we still do that today when things don't go like we think they should.

And as we saw, it was not God who was sleeping but God's people were sleeping. And God wants them to wake up, to pay attention, to look back to Him instead of looking at the situations that they were in because He is going to deliver them.

As we will see tonight, chapter 52 opens up with that same call for the people of God to awaken out of their spiritual sleep. With that as our background, let's begin reading in Isaiah chapter 52 starting in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

ISAIAH 52**VERSES 1-3**

1. I think the near fulfillment of this was seen when they were carried away into captivity by the Babylonians. When they were taken captive they went out with neck shackles and chains. Now God is calling for them to awaken and remove those chains that bound them. He is calling for them to return home to Zion.

2. But I also see this looking into the future because today, the land of Israel is unclean in the sense of not only their own sin but look at the religious sites that cover the land. We see Russian Orthodox churches, Greek Orthodox churches, Roman Catholic Churches, even the Church of All Nations just in case we missed any. And Jerusalem needs to be released from religion; they need to come to the Savior, they need to come to Jesus.

And thus, in the Kingdom Age there will be no uncleanness found because only those that have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ will enter in. And I think we can even apply this to our lives today, to awaken out of our spiritual sleep and put on the Lord Jesus Christ, be clothed in His righteousness and make no provision for the flesh!

That is what Paul was talking about in Romans 13:11-14, “**And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.**”

3. How does this captivity happen, this bondage happen? Like it always does, *SIN!* The Jews went after idols, they worshiped false gods, and they sold their soul for nothing Isaiah tells us. Now we look at the Jewish people and wonder how they could do something like that but make no mistake about it, we do the very same thing.

Imagine if the Devil met you after study this evening and told you that he would give you whatever you wanted. Sounds like a good deal for some. The only catch is that he wanted your soul. How much would you sell it for? Now before you are too quick to answer that, people sell their soul for nothing all the time. They sell their soul for wine, women and song you might say and in the end they lose everything. All that the Devil has for you is temporary!

Think about a person that uses heroin. They tell me it is a great high, you feel fantastic and the Devil has you now. You see, that high you received the first time is going to be a little less the second and third time. So you have to use more as you get used to it. And before you know it you have taken an overdose to achieve that high you now need and you are dead! From what I understand, half the people that use heroin will die of an overdose! That is what the Devil has for you, the death and destruction of your life, your family, of everything you have! It sounded so good and in the end, you were deceived! God wants to give you life and life more abundantly. The Devil wants to take that away!

And then the Lord tells us, “**And you shall be redeemed without money.**” They sold their souls for nothing and yet God loves them so much He will redeem them, but not with money, with the sacrifice of His Son! That is what He has done in our lives, we were born into sin and He redeemed us with His life!

It is as Peter said, “**knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.**” I Peter 1:18-19. Don't trample under foot what cost God His life, your salvation!

God is so gracious and merciful and His salvation did cost Him something and yet He freely laid down His life for us. As we get to the end of Isaiah chapter 52 and on into Isaiah chapter 53 we will see the cost of our redemption that was paid by the Messiah, by Jesus! We get some details that the New Testament leaves out regarding all that Jesus endured as He paid for our sins on the cross of Calvary!

VERSES 4-6

1. What we see here is that Israel was sold as a slave, and the Lord wants His people to see, to remember how He has delivered His people from their bondage in Egypt. Not only the Egyptians but also the oppression that the Assyrians had placed upon them, the Lord delivered them from that oppression just as He said He would.

Now captive in Babylon He wants His people to remember the past to give them assurance in their deliverance from Babylon because nothing is too hard for Him! The reason they went into captivity was their idolatry, they put their faith in nothing instead of the true and living God. And now the Babylonians, like the other pagan nations would do, were gloating over their victory, saying their god's were stronger than the God of Judah and they gave the Babylonians a reason to blasphemy God because of their sin. But out of it all they will turn back to God. They need to not only turn back to God but to trust His Word and that is a powerful lesson for us to learn.

Let me share with you this story and you will see what I mean about trusting in what you know to be true, it will be seen in how you respond in situations, how you live out your life. This is a story by Ken Davis and he wrote,

In college I was asked to prepare a lesson to teach my speech class. We were to be graded on our creativity and ability to drive home a point in a memorable way. The title of my talk was, “The Law of the Pendulum.” I spent 20 minutes carefully teaching the physical principle that governs a swinging pendulum. The law of the pendulum is: A pendulum can never return to a point higher than the point from which it was released. Because of friction and gravity, when the pendulum returns, it will fall short of its original release point. Each time it swings it makes less and less of an arc, until finally it is at rest. This point of rest is called the state of equilibrium, where all forces acting on the pendulum are equal.

I attached a 3-foot string to a child’s toy top and secured it to the top of the blackboard with a thumbtack. I pulled the top to one side and made a mark on the blackboard where I let it go. Each time it swung back I made a new mark. It took less than a minute for the top to complete its swinging and come to rest. When I finished the demonstration, the markings on the blackboard proved my thesis.

I then asked how many people in the room **BELIEVED** the law of the pendulum was true. All of my classmates raised their hands, so did the teacher. He started to walk to the front of the room thinking the class was over. In reality it had just begun. Hanging from the steal ceiling beams in the middle of the room was a large, crude but functional pendulum (250 pounds of metal weights tied to four strands of 500-pound test parachute cord.).

I invited the instructor to climb up on a table and sit in a chair with the back of his head against a cement wall. Then I brought the 250 pounds of metal up to his nose. Holding the huge pendulum just a fraction of an inch from his face, I once again explained the law of the pendulum he had applauded only moments before, "If the law of the pendulum is true, then when I release this mass of metal, it will swing across the room and return short of the release point. Your nose will be in no danger."

After that final restatement of this law, I looked him in the eye and asked, "Sir, do you believe this law is true?" There was a long pause. Huge beads of sweat formed on his upper lip and then weakly he nodded and whispered, "Yes." I released the pendulum. It made a swishing sound as it arced across the room. At the far end of its swing, it paused momentarily and started back. I never saw a man move so fast in my life. He literally dived from the table. Deftly [skillfully] stepping around the still-swinging pendulum, I asked the class, "Does he believe in the law of the pendulum?" The students unanimously answered, "NO!"

- Ken Davis, *How To Speak To Youth*, pp 104-106

As funny as that story is, many Christians do the very same thing with the Word of God, what God speaks to them about. They say things like "Yes, I believe you Lord!" until the 250 pound ball comes swinging towards them and they run for cover, they basically show that they don't believe. Now we all have done that from time to time, but my prayer is that we would learn to trust God and His Word in our lives. That we would grow and no matter if things are going well or a 250 pound ball comes swinging our way, we will stand strong in the Lord, trusting in Him! The only way you are going to do that is by getting to know Him and then walking by faith. Read His Word and walk with Him!

2. Now I think we can understand how the unsaved can dishonor God, blaspheme God, but when God's own people do that it is truly tragic and that is what we see with the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Their sin, their idolatry was blaspheming God and that is a warning to us. We need to live our lives in such a way that it pleases the Lord and the only way to do that is to surrender to His Spirit, to be directed by His Spirit, to walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh and dishonor God!

VERSES 7-10

1. When we think of the human body I don't think any of us think that the feet are beautiful. Think about it, they are covered up most of the time, except for those two weeks we call summer here in Wisconsin! You don't see Sports Illustrated have their "Foot" issue! And yet the Lord says that those feet that bring the good news to people are beautiful! You see, feet speak of motion, moving the Gospel message forward and that is beautiful!

In Romans 10:15 Paul quotes this verse and let's begin reading in Romans chapter 10, starting in verse 9 to see what Paul is speaking about, how he applies this to us. He wrote, **“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For ‘whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.’ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!’”** Romans 10:9-15.

Paul applies this to the Gospel message and he is telling us that is what Isaiah was also speaking of. That it is truly beautiful to bring the Gospel message to others! You see, apart from the good news we only have the bad news of despair, hopelessness and eternal separation from God. Thus, don't just bring the bad news, let them know that they are sinners separated from God and then tell them the good news, that Jesus paid in full the penalty for their sins! By coming to Him their sins can be cast as far as the east is from the west to be remembered no more!

You see, they can't be saved unless they hear the truths of God found in the Word of God. And a people that once were in bondage can be set free in Christ. That is not just good news, it is great news!

2. I see these verses not just looking at their freedom from Babylon but their return from all over the world as the Lord returns and sets up His Kingdom on this earth. And this salvation is for all, or as Isaiah said, “**. . . And all the ends of the earth shall see The salvation of our God.**”

Isaiah 52:10b. May we bring that good news to them, the Gospel message!

3. One more point here regarding the opening words of Isaiah 52:10, “**The LORD has made bare His holy arm.**” What does that mean? First of all when we look at the work that was done in creation we are overwhelmed, but God wasn't! He spoke the universe into existence! That was nothing for Him, but when it came to our salvation He, in a sense, rolled up his sleeves and went to work. You see, God became flesh, went to the cross to die for our sins, and rose the third day. It was not just a snap of His fingers, it cost Him His life!

That is what Bultema says regarding this expression, “The expression *made bare his holy arm* is a Hebrew idiom derived from rolling up long, loose sleeves before starting to work. Then the arm was bared - the symbol of any mighty undertaking or initiative.” And we will see some of the things He endured for us to save us from our sins; Isaiah is going to deal with that.

4. So word has come for them to return to Zion, they are free to go home and as we read on God says to them . . .

VERSES 11-12

1. Notice the call here, to leave Babylon and don't take anything with you from Babylon. Don't take with you their pagan practices, don't take with you their idols, don't take anything back with you. Now as much as this applied to their departure from Babylon, I also see it ultimately speaking of the end times, the Tribulation Period. You see, don't take the things of spiritual and commercial Babylon with you, don't be infected by their ways, come out from them and be clean!

2. This does apply to us as Christians. Think about the things you held onto, the things you did before you were saved and once you were saved those things were let go, at least they should have been let go. The Lord says for us to "**come out**" of those practices and to walk in the holiness of God, to have a walk that is worthy of the high calling by which we have been called! If we do, like with Israel, God will go before us and behind us, He will be our protection as we walk in the things of God! And that is important for us to understand. Because as you are shining the light of God, when you are walking in the ways of God, that light exposes the darkness of this world and they will try to put it out. But God is before you and behind you, He is your shield!

3. Remember that the chapter divisions and the verses are not in the original documents or even for many years after. They were added at much later date to make it easier to find things in the Bible. Stephen Langton, who was the Archbishop of Canterbury divided the Bible into chapters in 1228 A. D. and in around 1551 A. D. Robert Stephanus divided the chapters into verses. He did most of this work while riding horse-back from Paris to Southern France. Maybe that explains some of the bumps with the divisions! Of these divisions Von Soden remarks,

“The verse divisions of Stephanus which he, according to an incidental remark made by his son, made during a trip from Paris to Lyons, frequently do not do service to the sense of the text. There is no consistent method at work in this system. The verses sometimes coincide with a single sentence, and sometimes they include several sentences; sometimes a single sentence is divided into two verses, with the result that the reader is led to consider the second verse while forgetting the point of view of the first verse. Especially objectionable is the way in which words introducing a direct quotation sometimes belong to the preceding verse and sometimes to the verse in which the quotation is found.”

So then what should we do? Should we redo the Bible? Of course not but just understand that they are not inspired but they are there to help us locate things in the Bible more easily. And with any help, it may not be perfect, but it does work and when it doesn't, read on, don't stop the thought, read into the next verse or next chapter to get the whole thought!

And that is what we see here with the last three verses of Isaiah chapter 52, they seem to fit in with what Isaiah chapter 53 is speaking of, the Messiah and the atonement He will bring. So let's read on and see this beautiful picture in the Old Testament of the work that Jesus would do for us, our Suffering Servant!

VERSES 13-14

1. This of course is speaking of Jesus and we are told that He will be exalted and “**extolled**” or “**lifted up**” very high. Now that phrase, “*lifted up very high*” is an interesting one for when the Scriptures were translated from Hebrew to Greek, the Septuagint version in around 270 B. C., the translators used the same Greek words that were to come from the mouth of Jesus in John 12:32, “**And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.**”

Now some have come to the wrong conclusion that if you lift Jesus up people will be drawn to Him. That is not what Jesus is saying, for in verse 33 we are told, “**This He said, signifying by what death He would die.**”

That is interesting to me because if Jesus was speaking of His crucifixion and He was, then so is Isaiah some 750 years or more before Jesus was crucified on the cross of Calvary. And it is through His crucifixion that many will be drawn to Him!

2. Now verse 14 is a little disturbing in that this too is speaking of our Lord. Isaiah tells us that our Lord’s face was so marred, so beaten, so disfigured by the abuse He took, that He did not even resemble a man.

We are told that He had His beard plucked out, Isaiah 50:6. They blindfolded Him and punched Him in the face, Luke 22:64. Because He was blindfolded He did not know when and where the punches were coming and He took the full force of each one. He had a crown of thorns upon His head, with these thorns being some 3 to 5 inches long, John 19:2. And so much more He endured for us!

If you remember the first “Rocky” movie and that last boxing match between Rocky Balboa and the heavy-weight champion, Apollo Creed. By the end of the fight Rocky’s face was so swollen and disfigured by the beating he took and yet, it did not compare to what our Lord went through. In fact, that was a movie and what our Lord went through was real and these beatings were so bad that He didn’t even look like a man anymore!

And for me, it is even more troubling to know that He still bears those scares, those marks for me. In Revelation 5:6 we are told that John, “**. . . looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain . . .**” The holes from the nails in His hands and feet. The spear hole in His side is still there. The marks left from the crown of thorns on His head. The scares from the lashings He endured. He still bears those marks!

VERSE 15

1. Some say that this word “**sprinkled**” should be translated “**startled.**” And the idea here is that when the nations look up Him, when Kings look upon Him, they will be startled by what they see, the love of God for sinful man. That may be true but I don’t think that is what this verse is saying.

The Hebrew word for “**sprinkled**” is NAZAH, (naw-zaw’) and that is exactly what it means, sprinkled. What is the point then? Sprinkling is often associated with cleansing from sin in the Old Testament. We see this in Ezekiel 36:25-27 where we are told, “**Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.**” (Also see, Exodus 24:8, Leviticus 3:6, Numbers 19:21).

And the thought here is that the Messiah will bring the cleansing of sin to many nations, not just to the Jews! But why will they “**shut their mouths at Him**”? Because when He returns in His glory no one will be able to say anything against Him. Many today have a lot to say about Jesus and not in a good way. But there is coming a day that their mouths will be shut and they will bow their knee before the King of kings and Lord of lords!

ISAIAH 53

VERSES 1-3

1. Isaiah opens up about a report that people refused to believe, what is that report. It is that the Messiah is coming and we see Isaiah and the other prophets of God speak of the coming Messiah. But the people refused to listen; they closed their ears to what was being said.

Now in John 12:38 Jesus quotes this verse and He applies it to the Pharisees whose eyes were blinded and their hearts were hard towards God. They could not see the Messiah nor receive Him even though He stood right before them. The same is true even today. Many close their eyes to the truths of God and refuse to receive Him into their lives. They do not believe the report that the Messiah has come and His name is Jesus!

2. Now where did this Messiah come from? First of all let me share with you what Micah 5:2 says, **“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”**

So this Messiah that was to come would be born in Bethlehem in Judah, a small town. And yet this child will grow to be the Ruler in Israel. But please understand that this Ruler has always existed, He is eternal, He is God. That means what is spoken of here is the Incarnation; He came from heaven to earth to free man from his sins!

And this child, the Messiah was born and He grew in wisdom and stature. He played on the streets of Nazareth. And during this period of His life the spiritual life of the nation was dry and barren. In fact, if you remember the Davidic line through David's son Solomon was cut off, for Jehoiachin, also known as Jeconiah and Coniah had a blood curse put upon him and his descendants for his wickedness. (II Kings 24, Jeremiah 22:24-30).

And yet, through the lineage of David's son Nathan came Mary, the mother of Jesus, giving Him the blood line of David without the curse. Also, His stepdad, Joseph was from the royal line, the kingly line, the line that was cursed, and yet Jesus did not inherit the curse, for He was only the stepson of Joseph, but He did have the right to the throne. And so, out of a dry, barren, hopeless situation Isaiah tells us "**There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.**" Isaiah 11:1. The Messiah would come forth!

F. B. Meyer describes this verse this way. He says, "The tender plant; the sucker painfully pushing its way through the crust of the caked ground; the absence of natural attractiveness. Such imagery awaits and receives its full interpretation from the New Testament, with its story of Christ's peasant parentage, his manger-bed, and lowly circumstances – fisher folk his choice disciples; poverty his constant lot; the common people his devoted admirers; thieves and malefactors on either side of his cross; the lowly and poor the constituents of his Church. This were humiliation indeed, though the irregularities of human lot are scarce distinguishable from the heights whence He came."

3. Now when people paint or draw pictures of Jesus they do so by making Him spectacular. When I lived in Arizona I was working at a hospital there and they had a picture of Jesus, very handsome and wearing a poncho! Go figure! But the Scriptures tell us something very different. "**He has no form or comeliness, And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him.**" Isaiah 53:2.

Think about that for a minute. Why are people drawn to movie stars or musicians? Because of their beauty, but not Jesus! You see, man looks at the outward beauty, which fades away and God looks at the heart! Thus, when we try to attract people to Jesus by telling them how beautiful He is, in appearance that is, that is not what the Scriptures tell us.

Redpath sums that up like this and he is right, “These days it appears that we must dress up the gospel to make it attractive. We have to use the methods of technique which must be smart, well-presented, streamlined. There must be something about the presentation of the gospel that will appeal to people . . . to what is called ‘the modern mind.’ I wonder if we stop to think that in our efforts to make the gospel message ‘attractive’ we are drawing a curtain across the face of Jesus in His humiliation? The only one who can make Him attractive is the Holy Spirit.”

4. God became flesh, dwelt among us to pay the penalty for our sins, how did people receive Him? How did His own people, the Jews receive Him? In John 1:10-11 we read, “**He was in the world, and the world was made through Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.**”

The nation as a whole rejected Him, but obviously not all Jews did because the Church was all Jewish when it began on Pentecost! And today, not just the Jews but people from all over the world still reject the Messiah because He speaks the truth and they don’t want to hear the truth, so they hide themselves, they don’t want to be accountable to God. People love to hear feel good messages that don’t deal with sin, sanctification, striving after holiness. They don’t want to be convicted of sin for they want to have fun. And in that kind of teaching, many are being made to feel good about going to hell! How tragic. Speak the truth and either people will receive it or you will be despised and rejected by men as Jesus was.

Spurgeon wrote, “He was also ‘a man of sorrows,’ for the variety of his woes; he was a man not of sorrow only, but of ‘sorrows.’ All the sufferings of the body and of the soul were known to him; the sorrows of the man who actively struggles to obey; the sorrows of the man who sits still, and passively endures. The sorrows of the lofty he knew, for he was the King of Israel; the sorrows of the poor he knew, for he ‘had not where to lay his head.’ Sorrows relative, and sorrows personal; sorrows mental, and sorrows spiritual; sorrows of all kinds and degrees assailed him. Affliction emptied his quiver upon him, making his heart the target for all conceivable woes.”

VERSES 4-6

1. Isn't that interesting, He bore our grief's, carried our sorrows and we say that He was punished by God for what He did. In a way that is true, but not for what He did but because of our sin that He bore on the cross for us!

You see, sin brings grief and sorrow to our life, and yet, the Messiah has come to set us free, to take those things from our life. And as the Messiah came and died for our sins, many feel He got what He deserved. That God put Him in His place; God's judgment came upon Him as I have said. And yet the Scriptures tell us, “**And you know that He was manifested to take away our sin, and in Him there is no sin.**” I John 3:5. Jesus was without sin, He didn't deserve to die on the cross, but He willingly gave His life to be the substitutionary sacrifice for our sins, to set us free from the bondage of sin.

2. Make no mistake about it, His death satisfied the wrath of God against sin and allows God to, in a sense, overlook the sins in our life for they have been atoned for by Christ if we have appropriated that free gift of life into our lives. If not, then the wrath of God will be poured out upon you. And the word “**wounded**” in verse 5 literally means “pierced through.” And that is exactly what we see take place!

3. Here in verse 5 where it says that, “**by His stripes we are healed**” has brought about much confusion. You see, some come to the wrong conclusion that this is speaking of physical healing and thus, we should never get sick, need medicine, we should not even die. If we do it just shows a lack of faith on your part because, “**by His stripes we are healed.**” That is foolishness.

Let me touch on this because this is important. In I Peter 2:24 we are told, “**Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness-by whose stripes you were healed.**” Peter is speaking of spiritual healing, that by His stripes we are spiritually healed! I believe everyone who comes to Christ can be spiritually healed.

In Matthew 8:16-17 we are told, “**When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: ‘He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses.’**” This seems to be speaking of physical healing and Matthew links it to this passage here in Isaiah 53.

I think both do apply and let me explain. First of all in regards to spiritual healing, all who come to Jesus will be healed spiritually speaking as I have said, that is easy. Now in regards to physical healing, all will be healed physically. Now before you get mad at me hear me out. We are not all going to be healed necessarily here on this earth even though God does heal some. But when we go to be with Him God has new bodies for our spirits and souls to dwell in. You see, God does heal some physically but not everyone and not all the time on this earth, He is sovereign. But all will be physically healed in heaven; there are no handicaps, no sickness, no disease! I think we all agree on that.

4. And here is a big problem for us, we are like sheep, not very smart and all of us have turned from God, there is none good, no not one. Paul said, “**All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**” Romans 3:23. We all are going our own way instead of God’s way! Thus, we did not go out looking for God, He came looking for us, and as His Spirit touched our hearts, we received Him or we rejected the Spirit’s leading.

But make no mistake about it; the Father judged our iniquity as it was laid on the Son! That is the reality. Now for many, especially the Jews, they have a problem with Isaiah 53:6. And the reality is, they have a problem with this whole chapter including the last few verses of Isaiah chapter 52. They try to tell us that Isaiah is speaking of the nation of Israel. But think about it, when was the nation of Israel without sin and able to bear the sins of the world? The Scriptures speak of them being rebellious and stiff-necked, and thus, this is not Israel. This is speaking of Jesus!

5. From His 1980 book “You Take Jesus, I’ll Take God” Samuel Levine, a Jewish scholar, wrote, “As you know, the Jews were in Israel for around 1000 years before Jesus appeared. They had a definite concept of what the Messiah would be like-there was a status quo regarding the nature of the Messiah. The Christians appeared and introduced an entirely different picture of what the Messiah would be like (Son of God, God incarnate, born of a virgin, two comings, etc.). Thus, the Christians changed the status quo concept of the Messiah, and so the full burden of proof rests upon them.”

Actually, the Scriptures speak very clearly on these issues and even on what this verse is all about. And yet Samuel Levine says “Many Jewish commentators feel that it [Isaiah 53] refers to the Jewish people on the whole. . . . Thus, Isaiah 53 could very well be describing the history of the Jewish people-despised by the world, persecuted by the Crusaders and the Spanish Inquisition and the Nazis, while the world silently watched. . . . The verses do not point exclusively to Jesus, or to a Messiah. . . .”

That is an interesting statement because a 16th century Rabbi, Moshe el Sheikh said of Isaiah 53, “Our Rabbis with one voice accept and affirm the opinion that the prophet is speaking of the King Messiah, and we shall ourselves also adhere to the same view.”

Not only that but in the 14th century Rabbi Moshe Cohen Crispin said this in regards to applying the suffering servant of Isaiah 53 to the nation of Israel, that it “Distort[s] the verses of their natural meaning. . . . As then it seemed to me that the doors of literal interpretation [of Isaiah 53] were shut in their face, and that they wearied themselves to find the entrance’, having forsaken the knowledge of our teachers, and inclined after the ‘stubbornness of their own hearts’ and of their own opinion, I am pleased to interpret it, in accordance with the teaching of our Rabbis, of the King Messiah. . . . This prophecy was delivered by Isaiah at the divine command for the purpose of making known to us something about the nature of the future Messiah, who is to come and deliver Israel.”

And lastly, one writer put it like this. He wrote,

Isaiah’s prophecy is the clearest description that the Hebrew Scriptures offer concerning the identity of the Messiah. The rabbis, since the middle of the 11th century have claimed this passage is referring to the Jewish people as a whole, but the dominant rabbinical position for centuries was that it spoke of the Messiah. Why the shift? Because the man Isaiah describes fits Yeshua completely. . . .

If it were not for the fact that Yeshua looks so much like this man, would any scholar not immediately conclude that this passage refers to the Messiah? Of course not. Isaiah, 700 years before Yeshua, described in detail that Jewish man portrayed in the New Covenant, Yeshua.

- <http://messiahsmandate.org/page/20/>

You see, there is no other way to interpret Isaiah 53, it must be speaking of the Messiah, for only a perfect sacrifice, without spot or blemish could pay the penalty for our sins, as we are told in I Peter 1:18-19, “**Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from you aimless conduct received by the tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.**”

The reason the Jewish religious leaders moved away from Isaiah 53 being the Messiah is because it fits with what took place in the life of Jesus, the Messiah. Since they reject that, they have to go against what the rabbis were teaching and try to tell us that it is speaking of Israel, but they had plenty of sin in their own lives as a nation and placing our iniquity upon them would not help us or them!

VERSES 7-9

1. Please understand that Jesus was not helpless, He was silent before His accusers. During His religious trial before the Sanhedrin and the civil trial before Pilate, He did not have to defend Himself. Why didn't he defend Himself? Because He did nothing wrong, he committed no sin.

You see, Jesus was falsely accused and judged by the people. They did not realize the magnitude of what was transpiring before their eyes. They seemed not to care.

And on the cross He hung with the wicked, two criminals beside Him but in His death He was placed in the tomb of a rich man, Joseph of Arimathea! Now think about this for a minute, because some 750 years before these events took place God has told us what was to happen. But that is not how the Romans did things.

After a criminal was put to death, and in their eyes Jesus was a criminal, if they were poor and their family did not have the money to bury them, the Romans would cast the deceased into a common burial pit with the rest of the criminals where animals would come and eat their flesh. In fact, many times they would leave them hanging on the cross for several days after they were dead as a warning to others not to go down that same path. But then Joseph of Arimathea came and gave the tomb that was for his family for the burial of Jesus.

VERSES 10-11

1. As you read this it almost seems out of place that God the Father was pleased to crush the Son! It seems out of character, how can that be? Why would He say that? Because of what would be accomplished out of the bruising or crushing, it would bring forth life!

Paul, in II Corinthians 5:18-19 wrote, **“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”**

The only way this reconciliation could take place was by the shed blood of the Son, God was reconciling us back to Him through Jesus and this ministry of reconciliation God has given to us in that we are to bring people to Jesus so they can receive this reconciliation!

2. And once again notice how this can't be speaking of a nation but a person as Isaiah tells us, **“My righteous Servant shall justify many.”** That is important for us to understand. We can't do it; no one else can do it for us, only Jesus can justify us by His shed blood!

You see, Jesus came to do the will of the Father and when He completed that task, dying on the cross of Calvary for our sins, the Father was satisfied. Jesus is the propitiation for our sins and that word means to appease and that is what Christ's sacrifice did for us. And Jesus sat down at the right hand of the Father when the work was finished because there was no more work to be done in regards to our salvation, the work was completed! He satisfied the righteous requirements of sin for us, and many will be justified by His actions. Why not all? Because there are those who will not receive Him as Lord and Savior, they reject the gift and the Father rejects them!

VERSE 12

1. Jesus laid down His life for us and the Father will reward Him as we are told in Philippians 2:9-11, **“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and**

of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Here we see that before glory there was death. As the Son humbled Himself to the point of death, being obedient to the Father, the Father “super exalted” Him! He who humbled Himself was raised in glory and is now seated at the right hand of the Father, the place of power. And His name is Jesus or *YAHWEH IS SALVATION* and He alone has that name for there is no other name under heaven, given among men, by which we must be saved, none at all!

2. Jesus was crucified between two thieves, numbered with the transgressors. Why? To show us that you can be the most wicked person alive, deserving death, and God will still extend His grace to you. Now you can receive that grace, as one of the thieves did, and Jesus said to Him, **“Assuredly I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”** Luke 23:43. Or you can reject it and be like the other thief, he continued to mock the Lord, and He too will enter into eternity, but not in paradise, but in Hell!

The choice is there for all to receive but that is the key. It is your choice to make, to receive Jesus or to reject Him, and like I have said, both have eternal consequences! Let me leave you with these words, **“Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 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. 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.”

Isaiah 53:4-6. Praise the Lord for His love, His grace, His mercy that He extends to us!