Jesus Christ in the Old Testament

(Part 25 - Jesus – The Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53)

Isaiah 52:13 - 53:1-12

6/21/2015

INTRODUCTION:

***Over 700 years before Christ was crucified, Isaiah predicted five spiritual benefits that we would have because of His suffering and death.**

I. **Messiah would suffer so that our <u>SIN DEBT</u> could be <u>PAID</u>** (v. 4-5a, 6)
(His sacrifice <u>VICARIOUSLY</u> <u>PAID</u> the price we owed)

II. **Messiah would suffer so that we could have <u>PEACE</u> with God** (v. 5b)
(His sacrifice <u>PROVIDED RECONCILIATION</u> between sinful man and a holy God)

III. **Messiah would suffer so that we could have <u>SPIRITUAL WHOLENESS</u> for life and eternity** (v. 5c)
(His sacrifice <u>PROVIDED HEALING</u> for the "sin-sick soul")

IV. **Messiah would suffer so that His righteous demands against sin could be <u>SATISFIED</u>** (v. 10-11a)
(His sacrifice <u>FULLY SATISFIED</u> His righteousness)

V. **Messiah would suffer so that sinful people could be viewed and treated <u>JUST AS IF THEY HAD NEVER SINNED</u>** (v. 11b)
(His sacrifice <u>JUSTIFIES</u> the unjust)

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INTRODUCTION:

This chapter of prophecy did not have fulfillment until over 700 years after it was given to Isaiah.

Predictive prophecy is one of the many proofs for the inspiration of Scripture.

52:13

"Behold" - Look; pay attention (shows the importance of this context)

"My servant" - A messianic title for christ

He came not to be served but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many (Mk. 10:45).

He faithfully served the Father and fulfilled His plan for the salvation of humanity.

Modern interpretation by Judaism is that the *"servant"* is not Christ but the nation of Israel.

--If so, who is the *"my people"* (v. 8) referring to?

--If so, when did Israel vicariously bear iniquity? (v. 5-6)

--This servant is called *"righteous"* (v. 11); Israel has been unrighteous (yea, even rebellious - Is. 30:9; 65:2; SEE: 64:6).

--The servant in context is referring to one person (not many; not a nation)

"Deal prudently" - - with insight and understnading.

Christ's exaltation to such heights would not all come to fruition until after His redemptive work was accomplished.

52:14

"Astonied" - appalled; awe struck; horrified and astonished.

"Visage. . . marred" - His appearance was disfigured.
Someone has said: As one looked at Him on the cross, they would not have said, "Who is that?" but "What is that?"

"More than any man" - No one who was ever crucified was so severely beaten and mistreated as Jesus Christ. It was Satan's last chance to make Christ's last hours as unbearable as possible.

52:15
"Sprinkle" - A reference to the blood of Christ (I Pet. 1:2), which has been shed and spiritually sprinkled on the Mercy Seat in the Tabernacle of Heaven (Heb. 9:11-14; 12:24).

One day when even the world's kings see Christ on His throne, they will be speechless as they come to see Him for who He really is -- God Almighty!

V. 1
"Who hath believed our report?" -
Those who believe are in the minority (Rom. 11:5 - *"remnant";* Mt. 7:14 - *"narrow. . . few find it")*

"The arm of the Lord" = Christ is the arm of the Lord (NOTE: *"He"* (v. 2ff - 44 personal pronouns pointing to Christ).

Everything the Father did (from the work of creation to the work of redemption) He did through Jesus Christ.

Christ is the *"right arm"* of God (ps. 16:11, 20:6, 44:3) and is seated at the right side of God (Heb. 12:2).

Has the *"arm of the Lord"* been revealed to You?

V. 2
"Tender plant" - lit. a suckling

"Root out of a dry (parched) ***ground" -*** hints at the miracle of the virgin birth; and the fruit that Jesus came out of Nazareth (mt. 2:23)

Christ's attractiveness was not found in His appearance. His looks and dress are not what made Him appealing. He did not come with the beauty of royalty. His beauty was inner, not exterior.

V. 3
Hymn - "There's Not a Friend Like the Lowly Jesus"

"We hid...from Him" - Man's tendency is to keep away from the Christ of the bible.

Two ways men hide: They either avoid the true Christ or manufacture a false one.

(Even "His own received Him not..." - Jn. 1:11-12)

V. 4
While Christ was bearing the world's griefs and sorrows on the cross, that world misinterpreted it as if God had nothing to do with Christ (Mt. 27:40f).

***Over 700 years before Christ was crucified, Isaiah predicted five spiritual benefits that we would have because of His suffering and death.**

I. Messiah would suffer so that our SIN DEBT could be PAID (v. 4-5a, 6)
(His sacrifice VICARIOUSLY PAID the price we owed)

He paid a debt He did not owe because we had a debt we could not pay.

I Peter 3:18 - *"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us too God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit"*

V. 5
"Wounded" - Heb. *chalal* (poel participle) = Messiah's precious body would be dishonored by being pierced through; to be fatally "bore through" (cp. Ezek. 32:26 = "*slain by the sword*'"; cp. Is. 51:9)

It was your transgressions that nailed Christ to the cross!

"Transgressions" - to revolt, rebel, or refuse allegiance and duty to whom they are due; to refuse subjection to rightful authority (Wilson, p. 451).

Christ was pierced to pay for our rebellion against authority (child's disobedience, wife's insubordination, citizen's rebellion, everyone's rebellion against God).

"Bruised" - to be crushed; a reference to the pummelling Jesus received prior to His being nailed to the cross (Mt. 26:6, 7)

"Iniquities" - our perversions and twisted iniquity, manifested in vanities and idolatries

Christ was bruised to pay for our idols of the heart.

Everything we lived for outside of Himself is vain idolatry.

V. 6

"Gone astray" - like dumb sheep, we all wandered away, we all went astray, we all erred off the right path. Perhaps we were seduced to stray; maybe we wandered as a result of intoxicaton.

"Turned" - We pulled away from the Lord and His truth so as to pursue our own path, our own course of life.

"The Lord laid on Him" - This was the "cup" Jesus dreaded most (Mt. 26:39).

"Iniquity" - the guilt of our perversity and perversion.

"Laid on Him the iniquity" - He is our "scape goat"; He bore the weight of the world's iniquity (II Cor. 5:21). He became a curse for us (Gal. 3:13).

"Of us <u>all</u>" - Not a limited atonement (cp. I Jn. 2:2; I Tim. 2:4, 6; I tim. 4:10; Heb. 2:9), Christ had to be divine to pay for the whole world's sins.

Because of His infinite suffering, we will avoid eternal suffering.

II. Messiah would suffer so that we could have <u>PEACE</u> with God (v. 5b)
(His sacrifice <u>PROVIDED RECONCILIATION</u> between sinful man and a holy God)

v. 5b - **"Chastisement"** = the corrective chastening; to correct by scourging

"Of our peace" = that brought us the shalom tranquility.

"The chastisement of our peace" - the whipping that brought about our peace

Christ took our beating (ILLUS: The king and his mother/ the boy who took his friend's whipping)

Why? That we might have peace with God.

We were the <u>offender</u>, and God was the <u>offended</u>.

all human beings (via their sinful nature and actions) are at odds with God.

Rom. 5:10 - *"For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."*

We <u>now</u> have <u>peace</u> with God (Rom. 5:1 - *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"*).

--He is no longer at war with us
--He is no longer at odds with us
--We are no longer enemies (Eph. 2:15)
--We are no longer under His wrath (Jn. 3:36)

III. Messiah would suffer so that we could have <u>SPIRITUAL WHOLENESS</u> for life and eternity (v. 5c)
(His sacrifice <u>PROVIDED HEALING</u> for the "sin-sick soul")

"Stripes" - three repeated words in Hebrew: chabburah, chabburah, chabburah - The repeated blows to the back opening up the flesh; Here God predicts the Messiah to receive lashes that leave permanent marks or prints in the skin (Wilson, p. 424) (cp. Ex. 21:25).

"Healed" - made healthy; cured. The great Physician received the wounds, so that we could be healed.

"Healed" - spiritually and eternally (physical healing was not in Christ's atonement; He does not guarantee a healing physically in the temporal sense, but ultimately it is true that we will have new bodies one day).

But as Peter quotes this, the *"healing"* (I Pet. 2:24) is one that produces *"<u>righteousness</u>"* <u>not</u> freedom from physical sickness

We were once spiritually sick. . . a step further -- we were spiritually <u>dead</u>! (Eph. 2:1, 5; Col. 2:13)

v. 7
"Oppressed" - Intense pressure was exacted upon Jesus.

"Afflicted" - to be put down so as to be humiliated

"Yet He opened not His mouth" - When reviled, He reviled not again (when mocked and ridiculed, He did not retaliate verbally).

"Brought" - led. "Down the Via Dolorosa, the way of suffering. . . He chose to walk that road out of His love for you and me."

"To the slaughter" - The slaughter house or place of butchering (Illus: Hatfield meat packing plant in PA)

"Dumb" - tongue-tied, silent; sheep do not put up a fight before execution.

v. 8
Rather than being imprisoned to await a fair trial, Jesus was taken away from justice; He would receive no fair hearing. Actually, false witnesses were hired to lie and accuse Him falsely.

"Who shall declare His generation" - Who will speak of the life and times in which He lived; who will tell of the days and time period in which He lived.

"Cut off" - Gawzar - to be cut off, separated, or excluded from the land of the living.

In a similar sense Daniel prophesied that Messiah the Prince would be "cut off" (karath).

"Transgression" - pesha - rebellion

"My people" - Isaiah's people - Israel

"Stricken" - nega - plagued

v. 9
His grave with the "wicked" - criminals; He would die between two criminals

"With the rich" - Jesus was buried in a wealthy man's sepulchre

"No violence" - No injustice that should place Him with the criminals

"No deceit" - No false, crafty guile. His words were true and sincere.

IV. Messiah would suffer so that His righteous demands against sin could be <u>SATISFIED</u> (v. 10-11a)
(His sacrifice <u>FULLY SATISFIED</u> His righteousness)

V. 10

"Bruise" - crush

"It pleased the Lord" - God was delighted with the crushing punishment He suffered in the person of His Son.

Because of Christ's crushing and torment, God's justice was satisfied.

Nothing you do can please God (for salvation); He is only pleased in the work of His Son.

"He hath put Him to grief" - God the Father had made Christ to become sick with grief.

Who killed Jesus? Was it the Jews who said, "Crucify Him!"? Was it Pilate and Rome? In actuality, it was God the Father!

"He shall prolong His days" - speaking of His resurrection; His days woudl not end on Calvary's cross; He would continue for eternity.

V. 11

"The travail (anguish) ***of His soul" -*** We will never fully realize the anguish Christ felt on Calvary.

"Satisfied" - God viewed Christ's work as being sufficient for salvation. He is satisfied with nothing else.

God is dissatisfied with anyone who attempts to earn Heaven by adding to Christ's work.

"The righteousness He requires is the righteousness
His righteousness requires Him to require"

V. Messiah would suffer so that sinful people could be viewed and treated <u>JUST AS IF THEY HAD NEVER SINNED</u> (v. 11b)
(His sacrifice <u>JUSTIFIES</u> the unjust)

"By His knowledge" - by God's wisdom and understanding. God's plan of salvation may seem foolish tot he world, but it is part of His omniscient and sovereign plan.

"Justify" - to declare <u>righteous</u>

"Just as if I had never sinned"

Rom. 3:26 - *"To declare, I say, at this time His righteousness: that He might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."*

"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." 2 Corinthians 5:21
VIN INSERT NOTES

v. 12
The spoils of victory which Messiah won will be shared with multitudes, as we as joint-heirs will inherit everything Messiah has won for us.

"He bare (lifted up and carried upon Himself) **the sin of many** (multitudes"

"Made intercession" - "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

CONCLUSION:

Why the Cross?
(The Exclusivity of Christ and His Death and Resurrection for the Salvation of Mankind)

Why is the way to God exclusively through Jesus Christ?
Why is Christ's Work on the Cross the only way to our attaining
forgiveness of sins and eternal life?

Couldn't God have devised another means of Salvation?
Couldn't there be an easier way? A less offensive way? Couldn't any road be the right road to Heaven?

Why is the Cross the only way?
Why is Jesus the only way to Heaven?

Because God is God, and Heaven is His Heaven, He deserves the right to determine the means by which anyone enters His Heaven! If He requires Faith in His Son, He has the right to do so.

1. God's nature demands a salvation plan which would be consistent with His character. (Romans 3:26)

2. God's justice demands that sin be paid for. (1 Peter 3:18)

3. Sin's infinite price demands an infinite payment. (2 Corinthians 1:10)

4. God's holiness demands a perfect sacrifice for sin. (Hebrews 9-10)

5. God's Son is the only one who could qualify to pay sin's penalty. (Hebrews 7:27)

6. God's glory demands a salvation plan which would give Him the highest credit, honor, and praise. (Isaiah 42:8; Isaiah 43:10-12)

ILLUS: <u>The Little Red Boat</u> (made by a boy and lost; found and sold to a second-hand store; he sees it and demands it back; the store owner tells him he cannot have it, but he can pay for it; he goes and earns the money and buys it back; he clutches the boat and says, "Little boat, little boat, you are mine twice. Once because I made you and twice because i bought you back").

John 3:16 illustration - He who takes the Son, gets all.

THE ART COLLECTOR'S SON
Author Unknown

Years ago, there was a very wealthy man who, with his devoted young son, shared a passion for art collecting. Together they traveled around the world, adding only the finest art treasures to their collection. Priceless works by Picasso, Van Gogh, Monet and many others adorned the walls of the family estate.

The widowed, elder man looked on with satisfaction, as his only child became an experienced art collector. The son's trained eye and sharp business mind caused his father to beam with pride as they dealt with art collectors around the world.

As winter approached, war engulfed the nation, and the young man left to serve his country. After only a few short weeks, his father received a telegram. His beloved son was missing in action. The art collector anxiously awaited more news, fearing he would never see his son again. Within days, his fears were confirmed. The young man had died while rushing a fellow soldier to a medic.

Distraught and lonely, the old man faced the upcoming Christmas holidays with anguish and sadness. The joy of the season, a season that he and his son had so looked forward to, would visit his house no longer.

On Christmas morning, a knock on the door awakened the depressed old man. As he walked to the door, the masterpieces of art on the walls only reminded him that his son was not coming home. As he opened the door, a soldier greeted him with a large package in his hand. He introduced himself to the man by saying, "I was a friend of your son. I was the one he was rescuing when he died. May I come in for a few moments? I have something to show you."

As the two began to talk, the soldier told of how the man's son had told every one of his, not to mention his father's, love of fine art.
"I'm an artist," said the soldier, "and I want to give you this."
As the old man opened the package, the paper gave way to reveal a portrait of the man's son. Though the world would never consider it the work of a genius, the painting featured the young man's face in striking detail. Overcome with emotion, the man thanked the solider, promising to hang the picture above the fireplace.

A few hours later, after the soldier had departed, the old man set about his task. True to his word, the painting went above the fireplace, pushing aside thousands of dollars of paintings. And then the man sat in his chair and spent Christmas gazing at the gift he had been given.

During the days and weeks that followed, the man realized that even though his son was no longer with him, the boy's life would live on because of those he had touched. He would soon learn that his son had rescued dozens of wounded soldiers before a bullet stilled his caring heart.

As the stories of his son's gallantry continued to reach him, fatherly pride and satisfaction began to ease the grief. The painting of his son soon became his most prized possession, far eclipsing any interest in the pieces for which museums around the world clamored. He told his neighbors it was the greatest gift he had ever received.

The following spring, the old man became ill and passed away. The art world was in anticipation! Unmindful of the story of the man's only son, but in his honor, those paintings would be sold at an auction.

According to the will of the old man, all of the art works would be auctioned on Christmas Day, the day he had received his greatest gift.

The day soon arrived and art collectors from around the world gathered to bid on some of the world's most spectacular paintings. Dreams would be fulfilled this day; greatness would be achieved as many would claim, "I have the greatest collection."

The auction began with a painting that was not on any museum's list. It was the painting of the man's son. The auctioneer asked for an opening bid. The room was silent.

"Who will open the bidding with $100?" he asked. Minutes passed. No one spoke.

From the back of the room came, "Who cares about that painting? It's just a picture of his son."

"Let's forget it and go on to the good stuff." More voices echoed in agreement.

"No, we have to sell this one first," replied the auctioneer. "Now, who will take the son?"

Finally, a friend of the old man spoke, "Will you take ten dollars for the painting? That's all I have. I knew the boy, so I'd like to have it."

"I have ten dollars. Will anyone go higher?" called the auctioneer.

After more silence, the auctioneer said, "Going once, going twice. Gone." The gavel fell.

Cheers filled the room and someone exclaimed, "Now we can get on with it and we can bid on these treasures!"

The auctioneer looked at the audience and announced the auction was over. Stunned disbelief quieted the room.

Someone spoke up and asked, "What do you mean it's over? We didn't come here for a picture of some old guy's son. And what about all of these other paintings? There are millions of dollars of art here! I demand that you explain what's going on here!"

The auctioneer replied, "It's very simple. According to the will of the father, whoever takes the son gets it all."

And because of that Father's love, whoever takes the Son, gets it all!