"The ARM of the LORD"

(Isaiah 53:1 and Selected Scriptures in Isaiah)

7-10-2024

Introduction: **John 12:38 That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath <u>the arm of the Lord</u> been revealed?**

I. Jesus is the ARM of the LORD <u>REVEALED</u>

*Isa 52:10 The LORD hath made bare **<u>his holy arm</u>** in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.*
*Isa 53:1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is **<u>the arm of the LORD</u>** revealed?*

II. Jesus is the ARM of the LORD <u>TRUSTED</u>

*Isa 51:5 My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and **<u>on mine arm shall they trust</u>**.*

III. Jesus is the ARM of the LORD <u>RULING WITH EQUITY</u>

See Isaiah 40:1-11

*Isa 40:10 Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and **<u>his arm shall rule for him</u>**: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.*
Rev. 22:12 - And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

IV. Jesus is the ARM of the LORD <u>VICTORIOUS IN SALVATION</u>

*Isaiah 59:16 And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore **<u>his arm brought salvation</u>** unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.*

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Introduction:

It's every macho boy's dream to have big biceps. Many of us vain men take pride in our arm strength. We go to the gym and curl weights to build up our arms. We flex to show how big our "guns" are. Throughout this modern era, many have tattooed their arms to draw attention to them.

However, there is only one person's arms I would look to for help and salvation -- Jesus the Messiah!

In Isaiah, Messiah is called:

--The Branch of the Lord (Is. 4:2)

--The Angel (Messenger) of the Lord (Is. 37:36)

--The Glory of the Lord (Is. 60:1-2)

And the Arm of the Lord (Is. 53:1)

John 12:38 That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?

He is the “Arm of the Lord”

Who was hidden from many people’s eyes **(See: John 12:37-43)**

v. 37
Signs and wonders do not (by themselves) produce faith. Man's hardness and blindness of heart requires a supernatural working.

God's Spirit, taking God's Word and enlightening the spiritual eyes of the blind is required for saving faith to result.

v. 38
"Esaias" = Isaiah 6:10 & 53:1

"The arm of the Lord" – is a reference to Jesus Christ.

Why is He referred to as the "arm of the Lord?" Just as arms do things, make things, accomplish things, so everything God the Father ever did, He did through the instrumentality of His Son.

---He created through His Son

All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
John 1:3

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:
Colossians 1:16

Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;
Hebrews 1:2

God Created all things by His "Arm"

Jer 27:5 I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me.

Jer 32:17 Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:

---He led Israel in the Old Testament by His Son

> And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.
> *1 Corinthians 10:4*

---He revealed Himself by His Son

> Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;
> *Hebrews 1:3*

Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou *then*, Shew us the Father?
John 14:9

---He <u>provided redemption</u> by His Son

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree:
Galatians 3:13

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:
Romans 3:24

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:
1 Corinthians 1:30

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
Ephesians 1:7

---He <u>sustains creation</u> by His Son

And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.
Colossians 1:17

---He will <u>rule and reign</u> by His Son

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6

Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment.
Isaiah 32:1

---He will <u>judge the world</u> by His Son

For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:
John 5:22

"They could not believe" - They were not able to believe; did not have the independent ability to believe.

Because they "would not" believe, God made their hearts so that they "could not" believe (EX: Pharaoh – Because he hardened his heart the Lord then solidified that hardness and kept it that way to fulfill His purposes through Pharaoh.

Once light has been rejected, God is under no obligation to grant sinners more light.

"When a person starts to resist the light, something begins to change within him; and he comes to the place where he cannot believe. There is 'judicial blindness' that God permits to come over the eyes of people who do not take the truth seriously." (Wiersbe, p. 343).

v. 40
Truth must be <u>known</u> (**"eyes"**)
Truth must be <u>understood</u> (**"heart"**)
Truth must be <u>applied</u> (**'converted"**)

v. 41
Isaiah saw Christ's glory (Is. 6:1ff). The reference to **"His"** is the same reference as **"Him"** (v. 42), which is Christ.

Christ is the "arm of the Lord." He is the Lord, high and lifted up to whom the angels cry out, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. . ."

v. 42
Not everyone is permanently kept blind by the sovereign Lord. He does choose to open the eyes of some.

Due to the "fear of man" which traps people in bondage (Prov. 29:25), many believers are reluctant to confess Christ publicly. Such reluctance does not last forever however.

Matthew 10:32-33
Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. [33] But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

v. 43
"They loved the praise of men more than the praise of God" – What motivates you? The applause, approval, recognition of peers, friends or family? Or that "well done" which comes from above.

I. Jesus is the ARM of the LORD <u>REVEALED</u>

Isa 52:10 The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

"Shall look on Me..."

Isa 53:1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

Isaiah 52:1 is describing the future Messianic Kingdom, which will include only those who are made righteous by the Lord (cp. Rev. 21:27).

Just as God redeemed Israel out of Egypt and Assyria (v. 4), so He would redeem them in the future.

Many times in the Old Testament the Lord's Messiah suddenly speaks and reveals Himself.

> Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there *am* I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me.
> *Isaiah 48:16*

Here, Messiah speaks and declares how His name is blasphemed (v. 5) [Is any name so blasphemed as the name "Jesus Christ"?]

In verse 6 Yahweh predicts that His people will one day know His name. Didn't they already know His name? Yes, but they didn't recognize He is Jesus Christ. So Jesus speaks in verse 6.

Romans 10:15 applies verse 7 to those whose feet carry them to proclaim Christ.

Verses 8 & 9 are ultimately referring to the Messiah's Kingdom. At that point, Yahweh will reveal Jesus the Messiah as His holy Arm.

v. 10

"Made bare" - to strip off the covering which formerly hid His Arm from view, just as one would roll up the sleeve to reveal the arm.

"In the eyes of all the nations" - Messiah's revelation of Himself will not be to a select few, but globally manifested.

> And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they

> have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only *son*, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.
> *Zechariah 12:10*

"All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God" - God's salvation is revealed in His holy Arm. Jesus is the only Savior!

READ Isaiah 52:13-15 - Yahweh's servant is the Messiah.

"This is one of the most treasured and important passages in the OT. These verses present the Servant suffering vicariously for men's sins. Traditional Jewish interpretation understood the passage to be speaking of Messiah, as, of course, did the early Christians, who believed Jesus to be that Messiah (Acts 8:35). Not until the twelfth century did the view emerge that the nation Israel is referred to, a view that has since become dominant in Judaism. But the Servant is distinguished from the "people" (53:8), and He is an innocent victim, something that could not be said of the nation (53:9)." (Ryrie note)

Who has believed the triune God's message about Himself ("Who hath believed our report?").

"And to whom is the Arm of the Lord revealed?" -

v. 2 - "For <u>He</u>" - referring to the Arm of the Lord. This proves the "Arm of the Lord" is a <u>person</u>.

The rest of the context of Isaiah 53 shows the "Arm" to be the suffering Messiah.

Has the "Arm of the Lord" been revealed to you?

Most of the world is blind to Him.

> But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which *vail* is done away in Christ.
> *2 Corinthians 3:14*

> In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.
> *2 Corinthians 4:4*

II. Jesus is the ARM of the LORD <u>TRUSTED</u>

SEE: Isaiah 51:3-9 - Jesus the Messiah is speaking throughout!

Isa 51:5 My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and **on mine arm shall they trust**.

We trust the Lord Jesus Christ, not man or self. As the hymn writer said: We are "leaning on the everlasting arms!" And "The arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own."

v. 5

I must trust Jesus for everything:

1) My <u>righteousness</u>
2) My <u>salvation</u>
3) My <u>vindication</u>
4) My <u>strength</u>

> *It is* better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes.
> *Psalms 118:9*
>
> "In God we trust"
>
> Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.
> In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.
> *Proverbs 3:5-6*

SEE Isaiah 40:28-31 - Our strength is in the Lord!

Isa 33:2 O LORD, be gracious unto us; we have waited for thee: be thou their arm every morning, our salvation also in the time of trouble

"Beloved, do not try to get out of a dark place, except in God's time and in God's way. The time of trouble is meant to teach you lessons that you sorely need. Premature deliverance may frustrate God's work of grace in your life. Just commit the whole situation to Him. Be willing to abide in darkness so long as you have His presence. Remember, it is better to walk in the dark with God than to walk alone in the light. (*The Still Small Voice)*. Cease meddling with God's plans and will. You touch anything of His, and you mar the work. You may move the hands of a clock to suit you, but you do not change the time; so you may hurry the unfolding of God's will, but you harm and do not help the work. You can open a rosebud but you spoil the flower. Leave all to Him. Hands down. Thy will, not mine. (Stephen Merritt)." (Streams in the Desert, March 30)

III. Jesus is the ARM of the LORD <u>RULING WITH EQUITY</u>

See Isaiah 40:1-11

John the Baptist would be the forerunner, preparing the way for the Messiah.

Isa 40:10 Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and **<u>his arm shall rule for him</u>**: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.

Rev. 22:12 - And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

One feature that stands out in the Messiah is His fairness, His impartiality, His evenhandedness, His perfect justice.

Footprints in the Sand poem

One night I had a dream...

I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord, and Across the sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; One belonged to me, and the other to the Lord. When the last scene of my life flashed before us, I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that many times along the path of my life, There was only one set of footprints.

I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in my life This really bothered me, and I questioned the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, You would walk with me all the way; But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, There is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why in times when I needed you the most, you should leave me.

The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child. I love you, and I would never, never leave you during your times of trial and suffering. When you saw only one set of footprints, It was then that I carried you.

IV. Jesus is the ARM of the LORD <u>VICTORIOUS IN SALVATION</u>

The Arm of the Lord not only saves, strengthened, guides and provides, but His Arm also judges!

- *Isa 51:9 Awake, awake, put on strength, **O arm of the LORD**; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon?*

- *Isa 59:16 And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore **his arm brought salvation** unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.*

- *Isa 63:5 And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore **mine own arm brought salvation unto me**; and my fury, it upheld me.*

See Isaiah 63

Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.
Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat?
I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment.
For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.
And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine **own arm brought salvation unto me**; and my fury, it upheld me.
And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.
Isaiah 63:1-6

Who is this Arm who will one day bring down judgment in the Day of the Lord? It is Jesus Christ!

> And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand *and* six hundred furlongs.
> *Revelation 14:20*

> And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.
> And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.
> And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.
> *Revelation 19:13-15*

Conclusion:

Jesus is not only Yahweh's Arm, He is the right Arm (the Arm of Power) seated at His right side.

*Job 40:9 Hast thou an **arm like God**?*

Ps 44:3 For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them: but **thy right hand, and thine arm**, and the light of thy countenance, because thou hadst a favour unto them.

Ps 89:13 Thou hast **a mighty arm**: strong is thy hand, and high is thy right hand.

Ps 98:1 A Psalm. O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and **his holy arm**, hath gotten him the victory.

Ps 118:15 The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous: the **right hand** of the LORD doeth valiantly.

Lu 22:69 Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God.

The bottom line is this: On whose Arm will you trust?

--Who will you trust for salvation?

Will you entrust your soul into the hands of your faithful Creator? (I Pet. 4:19)

--Who will you trust for your basic needs of: 1) provision, 2) guidance, 3) strength?

Hymn: "Only Trust Him"

A few times in my life I keenly sensed an attack by the enemy of our souls. A demonic presence sought to smother the life right out of me. At that time, my only reaction was to call upon Jesus Christ. When I did, the demon fled! Thank you, Lord!

My friend, keep trusting "the Arm of the Lord!"

Appendix:

Other Verses describing the ARM of the LORD:

Heb 1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Ps 20:6 Now know I that the LORD saveth his anointed; he will hear him from his holy heaven with the saving strength of his right hand.
Ps 77:10 And I said, This is my infirmity: but I will remember the years of the right hand of the most High.

A Very Common Expression: "with stretched out arm"
2Ki 17:36 But the LORD, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt with great power and a **stretched out arm**, him shall ye fear, and him shall ye worship, and to him shall ye do sacrifice.
Jer 21:5 And I myself will fight against you with an outstretched hand and with a strong arm, even in anger, and in fury, and in great wrath.

Re 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.
Re 1:17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:
Re 2:1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;