

THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST

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Isaiah 53:1-12

1. There are many messages that can be preached out of Isaiah, but chapter fifty-three represents the Gospel in miniature.
2. Here we learn much about the person of Christ, His propitiation, and His potential or promise.
3. It is amazing to me that the Jews, their priests, their leaders, and their scribes all missed the emphasis in the Old Testament related to the necessary suffering of the Messiah.
4. Even Jesus's disciples found it difficult to accept or understand His teaching on the subject. Note Jesus response to two of His followers on the road to Emmaus after His resurrection. Luke 24:25-27

And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

5. So let's examine the person and work of Christ as presented in this passage and other related passages.

I. His person. 1-3

A. Who He was. Isa 9:6-7

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this. HE WAS THE SON OF GOD.

B. What He looked like. Isa 53:2

For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground; He has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should attracted to Him. HE WAS THE SON OF MAN.

NOTE: Jesus looked like and dressed like an ordinary man. His appearance and His dress were not as depicted by many artists and by Hollywood.

C. How He suffered physically.

1. Isa 50:6-7

I gave My back to those who strike Me, and My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting. 7 For the Lord God helps Me, therefore, I am not disgraced; therefore, I have set My face like flint, and I know that I will not be ashamed.

2. Isa 52:13-14

Behold, My servant will prosper, He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted. 4 Just as many were astonished at you, My people, so His appearance was marred more than any man and His form more than the sons of men.

3. Isa 53:3

He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

II. His propitiation. 4-9

A. We read the following in 1 John.

1. 1 John 2:1-2

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and He Himself is the **propitiation** for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

2. 1 John 4:10-11

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the **propitiation** for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

NOTE: Through His suffering and death Jesus atoned for, paid the price for, our sin, appeased the wrath of God, and satisfied the justice of God.

B. Most were and are blind to why Jesus suffered and what He accomplished on our behalf.

“He was despised, and we did not esteem Him...we ourselves esteemed Him smitten of God, and afflicted (by God)...He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth.” V. 3, 4, 7

C. Verses 4-9 have implications for all of mankind and for us as individuals in particular.

NOTE: Read these verses and substitute “I” for the pronouns our, we, and us.

D. Be sure to focus on verse six which clearly reveals the consequence of our sin nature in relationship to God.

NOTE: Every person who has yet to repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ is in an ongoing state of rebellion against God.

III. His potential or promise. 10-12

A. In I John 2:2 we see that the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ was and is the propitiation for the sins of the whole world.

B. However becoming a beneficiary of Christ’s propitiatory work requires both repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

C. Notice that the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in Christ’s hand, and notice also that He will justify the many.

NOTE: Nothing matters more than where you and I stand in relationship to God.

APPLICATION

1. In closing note God's admonition and invitation in Isaiah 55:6-9.

Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.

2. Here we are admonished to actively seek the Lord, to call upon Him, and to turn from sin to the Savior.

3. God's plans and purposes for us are much higher, meaningful, and fulfilling than anything we can come up with on our own.

4. Regardless of where our rebellion against God has led us there is mercy and forgiveness with the Lord.