

Waiting on Peace

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Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

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Series Title Explanation: Advent = a season of waiting and preparation. Jewish people are still waiting for the Messiah. Christians wait for the day when the Messiah, Jesus, returns to make all things new. This series explores the topic of waiting and the promises God will fulfill when Christ returns. Goal: To help other follow Jesus by reminding them of the hope we have in Christ—for this life and the life to come.

Before reading our text,

- 1) The author is **Isaiah**. His name means “**The Lord Saves**.” His topic: Salvation comes from God. God saves sinners. That’s very good!
- 2) It’s a **Big book** – 66 chapters. It’s very complicated.
- 3) It’s **Prophetic**. It predicts what would happen much later. He began his work about **740 B.C.**
- 4) It’s a **Vision**. Isaiah begins w 5 words: “**The vision concerning Judah & Jerusalem**.” He **saw** a word from God. This book has a different way of seeing/perspective. We desperately need that. Left on our own, we are often blind to things we need most. Isaiah taps us on the shoulder & says: “There’s another way to see this –interested?” Without this new word, we’re on our own. With it, new realities are before us.
- 5) **Chapter 6** describes his vision of seeing the **Lord**, high and lifted up - then saw himself. He saw the truth about himself = he was a **sinner**. He was a man of unclean lips living among a nation of sinners. But when he saw the Lord, he confessed his sin, was forgiven and then went on a mission: “Here am I Lord, send me!”

Is. 52:13-53:12 will be read in 5 paragraphs with 3 verses each. This text is quoted more in the NT than any other OT passage + is often called the “**gospel of the OT**.”

52:13-15 THE SHOCKING SERVANT *See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. Just as there were many who were appalled at him — his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness — so will he sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand.* This passage sounds like the crucifixion. Jesus used the term “lifted up”:
John 12:32-33 *But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.” He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.* He was absolutely humiliated.

53:1-3 THE SUFFERING SERVANT *Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their face she was despised, and we esteemed him not.* People were shocked by his appearance. When you think of all Jesus went through at the scourge and at the cross, no wonder they didn’t recognize him as being human.

Not only does Isaiah describe this, so does Psalm 22. It begins with: “*My God, My God, why have you forsaken me.*” It describes being scorned, despised, mocked & insulted. “Dogs” surrounded him who pierced his hands/feet. People stared and gloated at him. They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing. And yet the Psalm ends with a note of optimism about the impact of the servant’s life.

53:4-6 THE WOUNDED SERVANT *Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.* Our peace comes from Jesus. Our peace isn’t the absence of war – it’s a note of affection. It means **friendship**. The Hebrew word “**Shalom**” means: **completeness, wholeness, soundness, welfare, health and safety**.

53:7-9 THE SILENT SERVANT *He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment, he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.*

Matt 27:12-14 *When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?" But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge — to the great amazement of the governor.*

Matt 27:57-61 *As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away.*

53:10-12 THE SATISFIED SERVANT *Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light [of life] and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore, I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.* Jesus bore our sins. He made atonement for our transgressions. His death was not an accident. He was not a martyr. It was God’s way of justifying us. Jesus died for our sins to be covered.

Philippians 2:6-11 *Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross! Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

3 points:

1.) **“JUSTIFIED”** While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. We were broken, powerless and helpless. We had absolutely no way to find forgiveness or Jesus brought peace on earth with God. This is through his sacrificial death and resurrection. The word is JUSTIFICATION. I saw this week where Pete Rose’s bookie died. In case you don’t know, Pete Rose played baseball for the Cincinnati Reds. He holds the MLB record for the most at bats, hits (4,256), singles, outs and games played. He was the Rookie of the Year, won 3 batting titles, 2 Gold Gloves, an MVP award and 3 World Series rings. He had 17 All-Star appearances BUT cannot be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. He was banned from the sport by MLB because of allegations he gambled on games, including ones in which he was managing. ESPN did an investigation of him in June of last year and reached the conclusion that indeed, he was guilty. He’s now 75, has been retired as a player for 30 years, but is banned by MLB. He’ll never make it into the Baseball Hall of Fame because of his gambling. It “strikes” me ☺ that we’re like Pete Rose. We’re banned from living in peace with God and entering heaven. We are all guilty. In MLB, maybe something will happen, probably posthumously, to let Rose back in, but the integrity of the game can’t be tarnished. So, in heaven, there won’t be any “sinners” there – there will only be those who’ve been forgiven, or “justified.” We are made right before God, when in fact, we really aren’t right. We get in, not because we earn it or deserve it, but only because of God’s grace.

2) **FAITH** Rom 5:1 *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.* Faith is our response to the invitation of Jesus has opened the door for us - but we must accept the gift. There’s something we must do.

3.) **PEACE** God has given us His peace so that we might become peacemakers. Matthew 5:9 *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.* If we’re living in the Spirit, then we should see a steady increase of peace in our relationships during our lifetime. Am I making peace or stirring up trouble? Peaceful people seek unity, not divisions.