

Sunday, February 9, 2020

God is My Salvation – Isaiah

66. The Shunned Servant – Isaiah 53:1-3

Overview: 1) The Enigma (52:13-15) – how can one so humiliated and debased become so exalted? 2) Testimony (53:1-9) – human witness based on divine revelation shows the facts and meaning of the Servant’s suffering and death. 3) The Solution (53:10-12) – demonstrates the experiences of the Servant as explained from the divine perspective.

Introduction: A message revealed. Who could believe that this one, with his birth and early life and his unimpressive appearance was the “Arm of the Lord?” No wonder he was despised – just look at him!

- I. Who Has Believed Our Report? – vs. 1
  - A. Who? No One – Psa. 14:1-3; John 12:37-41 (without revelation, no one will know – Matt. 16:15-17; 1 Cor. 2:9-11)
  - B. Human Observation Insufficient – we cannot know who the Servant is by human observation and reasoning alone
    1. Revelation – Truth makes us free – John 8:31-32
    2. Regeneration – being born again allows us to see – John 3:3; 6:63
    3. Faith – belief comes by hearing the Word – Rom. 10:17; Phil. 1:29; John 6:29
    4. The Message – our report, the good news – Jer. 49:14; John 3:19-20
  - C. The Arm of the Lord – where might the power of the Lord be seen better than here?
    1. This is the Lord Himself – Psa. 44:3-4; Isa. 51:9; 59:16
    2. The Servant is the Lord present with power – Isa. 52:6, 8, 10
    3. This is not merely a man through whom the Lord works – the “Arm” himself has come
- II. An Ordinary Appearance – vs. 2 – why was the “Arm” met with dismissiveness?
  - A. A wholly earthly origin
    1. A tender plant, a shoot out of the ground – natural generation
    2. “Is this not the carpenter’s son?” – Matt. 13:55
  - B. He grew up before Him (the Lord), so how can He be the Lord? – Matt. 26:62-66; John 14:7-11
  - C. He had no evidence of any specialty or distinctiveness
    1. Nazareth, not Bethlehem – John 7:41-42
    2. And yet there is the Holy Seed – Isa. 4:2; 6:13; 10:33-11:1
  - D. No Beauty, Majesty, or Appearance
    1. He was not impressively built, handsome, impressive, or imposing – Phil. 2:8
    2. Look at Him – just an ordinary man – 1 Sam. 16:7
    3. But look closer, look deeper – Luke 9:28-30
- III. Despised and Rejected – vs. 3
  - A. Not Followed, but Shunned – John 1:1-5
  - B. A Man of Sorrows and Grief – taken upon Himself – Isa. 53:4, 10
  - C. Esteemed as of No Value – John 1:10-13; Rom. 1:21-23; Eph. 4:17-21
    1. To the human eye/mind, the Servant added up to zero – nothing to see here
    2. To find no beauty reveals the bankruptcy of human emotions/values
    3. To despise and reject Him exposes the misguided human will at work
    4. To conclude that He is nothing and worthless condemns our mind as corrupted by sin and self-seeking

Every avenue along which, by nature, we might arrive at the truth and respond to God is closed. Nothing but divine revelation can make the Servant known to us and draw us to Him – John 6:30-45, 66-69