

**Among the OT Prophets, Isaiah stands out as one TO WHOM God revealed many truths about Israel's Promised Messiah:**

In Isaiah 7:14: God commanded Isaiah to write about His birth, which would be miraculous: "Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call His Name Immanuel". Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 11:1-5, 42:1-4

So far, every one of Isaiah prophecies brought hope and excitement to the heart of both the prophet, and the people in Israel who heard it. But then, God revealed Isaiah 52:13-15, 53.

What is this that "The Prince" and "Messiah" of Israel should be thus treated? How is it that "God's Servant shall deal prudently, (HOW IS IT) that He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high"; ONLY THEN to be treated with contempt and hatred and despised and rejected of men. It's astonishing!

HOW can this be? WHO will do this? WHY will this happen? CAN it be stopped? The HOW is because it was the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God. The WHO is written in the text, it would be US, wrote the Prophet. We are the guilty ones; we are the ones that despised our Prince and our Saviour! The WHY, is because we have sinned against God! And finally, no, this CANNOT be stopped, and we must be so grateful to our God that this WAS NOT stopped!

**Isaiah 53 begins with what I believe to be "A CRY and LAMENTATION" from the Prophet: "Who hath believed our report?"**

Notice that it is written in the "present tense", I am telling the people what you have told me to tell them, LORD, I am proclaiming and preaching your message to them, but they do not believe me.

Isaiah, I am sure began to realize that, AS HE was often treated by the people to whom he was sent, so when Israel's Promised Messiah would come, they would ALSO treat Him thus. Romans 10:20-21

Not only Isaiah, but every prophet experienced the unbelief, obstinance, and faithlessness of the people of Israel; if you come fast-forward to Jesus' day, this lamentation was written about the people of Israel in the time of Jesus' ministry. John 12:37-38.

The Apostle Paul sorely lamented the unbelief of his own people, Israel in their refusal to believe on Christ! Romans 9:1-5, 10:1-3, 14-21

Beloved, the Lord Jesus marveled at (2) things during His earthly ministry, the great faith "OF Gentiles" that did believe Him to be Israel's Messiah, and unbelief of the people of Israel who refused Him. Mark 6:1-6

They despised His parentage, upbringing, and that He was a carpenter's Son. He had no credentials or diplomas from the schools of the scribes and

Pharisees. He's not approved by men; how can we believe anything He says. John 1:6-14

And so, here we are in 2023, and Isaiah's lamentation, "Who hath believed our report", our message and the good news of gospel of Christ" is still the lamentation of Preachers and Christians everywhere!

But we also believe what the Prophet Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 55:11.

**Isaiah 53:1B: "And to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed":**

The ARM of the LORD speaks of His mighty power and strength, here in the context, God's mighty power to save! Isaiah 52:9-10

This is a military image of a warrior going into battle, "making bare" or freeing his arm from inside his tunic to fight; this passage is an expression of God RISING UP in His might to the battle, as a warrior to put down His enemies and rescue the captives; in our case, rescue us from sin & Satan!

Christ coming into the world was "the holy arm of God (being) made bare in the eyes of all of the nations".  
Psalm 98:1-3

Consider yourself to be among the most privileged, children of God, in that Christ hath made bare His Holy Arm, He "rolled up His sleeves" to rescue you and save you from your sins, He delivered you from the power of darkness and conveyed you into His glorious Kingdom!

If you're lost, but God has and is communicating His gospel to you, consider yourself to be among the privileged; God is showing His kindness to you in that He is SHOWING YOU, HIS SALVATION! Consider yourself to be being called BY GOD and commanded by Him to repent right now!

What will you do with Christ? Will you believe God's report?

**Why was there so much unbelief in Israel toward Christ their Promised Messiah? Yes, many were dead in their trespasses and sins, but there's also THIS prophecy in Isaiah 53:2 that should help us understand.**

First: Jesus is described as a good and tender plant in a parched and desert place. He was the LIFE OF GOD in the middle of a dead spiritual wasteland.

He took root (and grew up) in this wasteland, and then, He brought light and life to

THIS PLACE OF DEATH! Isaiah 52:9, John 1:4-5

But the people of Israel, who waited for their Messiah were not led by "spiritual leaders", the deliverance that they looked for was earthly and physical... their pastors did not teach them to be a people of faith in God, nor to look for a Messiah, who would come to save them from their sins, and from captivity of Satan, who was the enemy of their souls.

In Jesus' time, they were taught that their enemies and oppressors were the Romans, when in fact, their real enemies and oppressors were their pastors and teachers, many of whom

were lost themselves, they were blind leaders of the blind. Thus, when Jesus came to them, He was NOT the Messiah that they were looking for. Thus Isaiah's 53<sup>rd</sup> chapter!

We experience the rejection of Christ today; that is because the Jesus of the Bible is NOT the Savior who many are looking for...

**"He hath no form, nor comeliness; and WHEN WE SHALL SEE HIM, there is no beauty (IN HIM) that we should desire Him" to be our King!**

This doesn't mean that Jesus was contemptible to look on, in his outward appearance, He just didn't look outwardly majestic or royal, He didn't look like what the people THOUGHT He should look like. And then, He was not born in the palace at Jerusalem, but in a barn in Bethlehem. Micah 5:2

He wasn't adorned with the garments of a prince; He was adorned in the garments of a carpenter.

He was not from a rich and noble family, (Oh but He was) ... BUT.....His parents were Joseph a carpenter and Mary a poor young virgin, there was nothing special, majestic, or "outwardly royal" about them. And then, Jesus grew up among the common people.

Note: Isaiah speaks in the 1<sup>st</sup> Person: There is nothing externally beautiful or attractive in Him that WE should desire Him.

**Isaiah 53:3: "He is despised and rejected of men: a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not"**

Jesus was PRIMARILY despised and rejected by the religious leaders, the scribes and Pharisees, the shepherds, and guides to the people of Israel who had a bewitching influence over the people of Israel.

He wasn't despised by the common people; fishermen, carpenters, publicans, sinners, he was ONLY despised by the religious elite! But He was a friend to publicans, harlots, and sinners!

This should speak volumes TO US as to how lost sinners should see us toward them! The religious elite of that day despised sinners, but Jesus loved them! And because Jesus loved sinners, and ministered among them, the religious elite despised and rejected Him!

The scribes and Pharisees coerced, oppressed, and threatened the common people into submission to them.... ONLY the Rabbi's and Teachers that they approved of, and who were taught and credentialed by them were to be ACCEPTED as men of God!

i. Of course, THIS EXCLUDED the Lord Jesus, of whom they did not approve! And so, these religious devils did their worst to tighten their stronghold on the sinners of Jesus' day.

Thus, they despised the Lord Jesus; after all, He was a carpenter's son, a common man who companied with publicans, harlots, and sinners; surely this man was NOT of GOD! And when He began to teach and preach, and do mighty works,

which they could not explain away, like the devils that they were, it only intensified their hatred of Him.

Matthew 13:54-58, Psalm 22.6-8

**"He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief"**

In the days of His earthly ministry, sorrow and grief were His intimate acquaintances. He was surrounded by sin and trouble; He lived among sinners, ministered to them, heard their problems, delivered many who were captives of Satan... He showed compassion and mercy to those who cried out to Him in their distress.

He didn't run from sorrow and grief, sickness and sin, pride, and envy, but He compassionately prayed, He sighed, and He wept with sinners and because of sinners, taking upon Himself their burdens and sufferings, lovingly and mercifully carrying their griefs and sorrows as His own.

When pride and envy and strife and the lust for greatness reared its ugly head in those who were closest to Him, He lovingly admonished and instructed them with the authority of a King, but in the meekness and gentleness of a Friend who loved them.

Beloved, Jesus immersed Himself among sinners that He might lift them up out of the horrible and miry pit of sin from when they had fallen!

Because this was WHO HE WAS in His humiliation; He was their Prince and Saviour! AND BECAUSE this is who He was...Isaiah wrote...

"We hid as it were our faces from Him; we despised Him, and we esteemed Him not"

SURELY is a word of strong emphasis, it means TRULY first word of (53:4) is a powerful word of emphasis: TRULY and SURELY did Christ suffer as an Innocent Man, TRULY and SURELY was Christ condemned and crucified because of no sin of His own, but it was for OUR griefs and for OUR sins which were against God!

But that's not how so MANY in Israel saw their Messiah!

You see, in the days of the Lord Jesus' earthly ministry, the people of Israel had become blinded under great oppression, BUT it wasn't Roman oppression or tyranny, but they were oppressed by their own religious leaders, who should have been pastoring and caring for their souls; THEY should have RECOGNIZED their Messiah when He came, when he was pointed out by John the Baptist.

"He came unto His own, and His own received Him not".  
Jesus was NOT the mighty military Messiah whom they had hoped for...

Jesus' public life and ministry, and even His miracles would be judged in the court of public opinion rather than by the truth of God's Word...and every OT prophecy that pointed to Him!

Isaiah prophesied of the Lord Jesus' sufferings and death here (53:4) ... in the "First Person" ... SURELY, He bore OUR griefs and carried OUR sorrows and OUR sins, YET (and then Isaiah continued to write in the First Person, including himself, and his own people and nation to be rejectors of their Promised Messiah), YET WE ESTEEMED or JUDGED Him to be a condemned man, who was being punished by God, and put to death for His own sins!

Isaiah 53:5-6: "BUT (Isaiah continued), He WAS wounded FOR OUR transgressions, He WAS bruised FOR OUR iniquities: the chastisement of our peace WAS upon Him; and with His stripes WE ARE healed. All WE like sheep have gone astray; WE have turned everyone (OF US) to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of US all"

**As the Prophet Isaiah wrote in the "First Person", my hope and prayer for every one of you, who are "Born-Again" by the Spirit of God, is that YOU HAVE come to the Lord's table IN THE FIRST PERSON!**

Do you remember that POWERFUL word of emphasis that Isaiah used at the beginning of (53:4)? This must be your heart this morning in "REMEMBERING" the broken body and shed blood of your Lord!

SURELY and TRULY did the Lord Jesus take upon Himself and upon His holy soul ALL of MY sins, which were against God!

He willingly OWNED to Himself, the penalty and punishment for my sins; laying down His life so that justice could be done upon Him for me!

Many of the people that stood there (that day) on Golgotha's hill, looked upon Jesus as nothing but a criminal, and a condemned man! THIS MAN must be guilty of great crimes against God to die such a cruel and awful death!

Isaiah continued: "YET we did esteem (or judge Him) to be stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted"

We judged Him in by His death to be a guilty and condemned man; His being nailed to His cross was God STRIKING Him down in righteous indignation!