

The Suffering Servant (Isaiah 53 1-12)

- Certain Bible passages, particularly in Isaiah, were very important to Jesus
- Vs 12 “He was numbered among the transgressors” Jesus applied to himself
- Many times Jesus would refer to this passage regarding His important ministry
- Today it is common for Jewish people to think Isaiah 53 is New Testament

I. Jesus’ Rejection (53:1-3)

- Vs 3 ‘He was familiar with suffering’ not only physical but spiritual suffering
- Jesus’ greatest suffering: He was cut off, lonely and afflicted, idea of rejection
- There was nothing about Jesus that endeared us to Him, He was like any peasant
- Stark contrast, the Messiah seemed more like a victim than a mighty conqueror

II. Jesus’ Death Ransomed God’s Children (53: 4-6)

- Vs 4-6 is the center part of Isaiah 53 which speaks of Messiah’s atoning work
- No other Old Testament passage is so clear about Messiah’s work on the cross
- The pain & rejection that come into sharp view here are ours and not His
- The entire cause of His suffering lies in the idea of substitution & satisfaction
- Substitution, at its heart, is a righteous person suffering in place of a guilty sinner
- He was smitten by God & afflicted which leads into the idea of satisfaction
- It raises the question as to why the Servant suffered? To atone for God’s children
- Sin cannot go unpunished and Jesus Christ takes the judgment of guilty sinners

III. Like A Lamb Silent to the Slaughter

- Vs.7-9 servant suffering describing His trial, death and burial
- Despite his violent death, it is the Messiah’s silence that leaves us dumbfounded
- When they hurled insults, he did not retaliate, when he suffered he made no threats
- Instead He trusted Himself to Him who judges justly (1 Peter 2: 23-24)

IV. Crowned With Glory and Honor (53:10-12)

- Despite His own personal innocence, Jesus was treated as a guilty man (vs.10)
- Heaven itself accused Jesus of those sins in those terrible hours on the cross
- Isaiah says it was the Father’s doing, Jesus was handed over & He put Him to grief
- The ‘us’ ‘we’ & ‘ours’ in vs. 5-6 show that Jesus died for those who will believe
- These are God’s chosen ones whom he chose, loved & called before hand (Jhn 10: 14-15)