



## EASTER SUNDAY 2016

### Isaiah 53 – The Suffering Servant



**ISAIAH 53** is a **REMARKABLE** piece of prophecy when you consider it was written 730 before the first Easter.

- \* In a seeming paradox, the **MESSIAH** is presented as a **SUFFERING SERVANT**.
  - \* NT quotes Isaiah 53 in Matt 8:17, 1 Pet 2:24, Acts 8:32-33.
- *Why do you think the religious Jews can't, don't or won't see Jesus in this passage? How can scholars justify their position that it refers to the nation of Israel? Why would seeing it in a messianic light be so significant for an orthodox Jew?*
- *What overall summary thoughts do you have as you read this passage (actually Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12)? What do you learn about Jesus? How does this make you look at / feel about Jesus?*

#### 4 THINGS WE LEARN ABOUT JESUS

##### 1. HIS SUFFERING

- \* The response of a rebellious, sinful people was to **UTTERLY REJECT** the perfect One.
  - \* He was **OPPRESSED** = what wicked **TASKMASTERS** do to make the lives of their **SLAVES MISERABLE**.
  - \* He was **AFFLICTED** = **HUMILIATION, SHAMED, RIDICULED**.
  - \* Led like a **LAMB** to the **SLAUGHTER**
  - \* Like a **SHEEP** before its **SHEARERS** = **STRIPPED** of clothes, friends, dignity, honour, glory, protection, presence
- *Why did they reject Jesus? Why was all this suffering necessary? Was there really no other way?*

##### 2. HIS STRENGTH

- \* His response to cruelty, abuse, ridicule and injustice was amazing **SILENCE, PATIENCE, SURRENDER**.
  - \* It takes extraordinary **MORAL FORTITUDE** to say nothing.
  - \* Jesus was not just the Son of Man, or even a perfect man, but the **ULTIMATE, STRONG, COMPELLING EXAMPLE OF MANHOOD**.
  - \* Which is why we make **STUDYING** Jesus our **LIFE PURSUIT**.
- *What was so impressive about the way Jesus carried Himself through His trial and crucifixion? Could you have responded like Jesus under such an assault of abuse and injustice? How might we become more like Him?*

→ *Do you find it necessary to self-justify or prove yourself right all the time? Are there sometimes bigger wins at stake? How do you recognise the bigger win so you can hold your tongue?*

→ *Reinhard Bonnke wrote, "Although Jesus was spat upon, insulted, scourged and crucified by man, He was never humiliated, because Phil 2:8 says, 'He humbled Himself.' He voluntarily took the lowest place + nobody could push Him lower. O Hallelujah, what a Saviour!" Discuss!*

##### 3. HIS SACRIFICE

- \* The Gospel is **GOOD NEWS** = Jesus **TOOK OUR PLACE**.
- SUBSTITUTION:** Jesus took all we'd **DONE** + **BECOME** and gave us all He **IS** and **HAS**.
- a) Our **SIN** on His shoulders; His **ROBE** of **RIGHTEOUSNESS** on ours.
  - b) He became **CAPTIVE** that we might be **SET FREE**.
  - c) He became **WEAK** that we might be **STRONG**.
  - d) He became **POOR** that we might be **RICH**.
  - e) He became **WOUNDED** that we might be **HEALED**.
  - f) He became **MAN OF SORROWS** that we might be **FULL OF JOY**.
- *Explain how substitutionary atonement works. What did Jesus take from us and what did He give to us in return?*
- The outcome for us = **PEACE**
- \* **SHALOM** = peace, wholeness, safety, well-being, tranquillity, contentment, friendship.
  - \* Because of Jesus we have been **RECONCILED** with God, and can have **REAL, FUNCTIONAL, EXPERIENCED** peace, wholeness, contentment.
- *Does your life resemble 'shalom?' Should it? How could it? How do you become a minister / vessel of shalom?*

##### 4. HIS SPOILS

- \* The picture of a **CONQUEROR** returning with the **SPOILS** of **VICTORY** (Col 2:15).
  - \* v12: *Assuredly, I will give him the MANY as his PORTION, He shall receive the MULTITUDE as his SPOILS.* (see Psalm 2:6-8)
  - \* The Messiah, Jesus, is given the nations as His **PRIZE / INHERITANCE / POSSESSION**.
  - \* **WE** are His **REWARD** ... He came **FOR US**, His **INHERITANCE** and His **SEED**,
- *What does Psalm 2:8 mean? How does it work? What part do we have to play? How does the Second Coming of Christ fit into that?*