

“BY HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED”

Isaiah 52-53

Introduction

- 1) As he was traveling back home in his chariot after worshiping in Jerusalem, an **Ethiopian eunuch** was reading Isaiah the prophet (Acts 8:26-28)
- 2) He was confused as to the identity of the one spoken about in **Isaiah 53:7-8**
 - a) He read the Scriptures not just to read, but to understand and learn (vv. 30-34)
- 3) Philip taught the eunuch the identity of this suffering Servant of God by “beginning at this Scripture preached Jesus to him” [connected OT prophecy to the NT gospel] (v. 35)
 - a) Most Jews of this time did not understand the messianic fulfillment of this prophecy
- 4) **Isaiah 52-53** includes the last of the four Servant Song and is one of the most well-known and stirring of the OT messianic prophecies – the **Suffering Servant!** (cf. 1 Pet. 1:10-11)

I) Jerusalem is to Awaken (52:1-6)

- A) The remnant in captivity is to awaken and put on beautiful garments (v. 1a)
 - 1) Time of punishment in captivity is about to end (vv. 1b-2; cf. 51:21-22)
- B) God’s people were under oppression in Egypt, Assyria, and now Babylon (vv. 3-6)
 - 1) Made to wail and the Lord’s name was continually blasphemed
 - 2) People would be “redeemed without money” and they would know the Lord’s name “in that day” (cf. Jer. 31:34)

II) The Good News of Deliverance (52:7-12)

- A) The good news of peace, joy, salvation, and deliverance for God’s people (vv. 7-10)
 - 1) The feet of him who brings this good news are “beautiful upon the mountains” (cf. Nahum 1:15); feet are “beautiful” because they bring a beautiful message!
 - 2) God reigns and will make “bare His holy arm” – reveal His power before all nations
 - 3) Lord brings back Zion – comfort, redemption, salvation
 - 4) God did restore the physical remnant to the land, but this foreshadowed the greater news of spiritual deliverance from sin through the Messiah, Jesus (cf. Rom. 10:8-17)
- B) God’s people must separate themselves from the ungodliness of sin (vv. 11-12; cf. 2 Cor. 6:17; Rev. 18:4)
 - 1) God will go before and behind to keep His faithful remnant safe

III) The Suffering Servant (52:13 – 53:12)

- A) Fourth of the four “Servant Songs” – full expression of the mission of God’s Servant Messiah
 - 1) The rejected and suffering Servant would bear our iniquities and die as a sacrifice for sin on our behalf
- B) ***The Servant Messiah’s Destiny and Affect*** (52:13-15)
 - 1) Will prosper, be exalted, extolled, and be very high (v. 13; Jn. 17:4-5; Phil. 2:9-11)
 - 2) Astonishment that appearance and form marred greatly (v. 14; Lk. 22:63-65; Matt. 27:27-30)
 - 3) Will startle nations and shut the mouths of kings (v. 15; Rom. 15:20-21)
- C) ***The Servant Messiah’s Ordinariness and Rejection*** (53:1-3)
 - 1) Who will believe God’s message and power? (v. 1; Jn. 12:37-40; Rom. 10:16-21)
 - 2) Grew up as a tender, fragile youth out of the dry ground of Israel (v. 2a; Lk. 2:51-52)
 - 3) No outstanding physical or social attributes to attract desire (v. 2b; Jn. 1:46; Mk. 6:2-3)
 - 4) Despised and rejected, a man of sorrows and grief (v. 3a; Jn. 1:11; Matt. 27:18; Jn. 11:35)
 - 5) Was not esteemed for His work/teaching (v. 3b; Jn. 12:42-43)

D) *The Servant Messiah's Bearing and Suffering* (53:4-6)

- 1) Bore our griefs and carried our sorrows (v. 4a; Matt. 8:16-17; Rom. 5:8)
- 2) We esteemed Him smitten by God, and afflicted (v. 4b; Matt. 26:65-66; 27:43)
- 3) Wounded, bruised, and chastised for our sins (v. 5a; Rom. 5:6; Jn. 19:17-18, 34)
- 4) By His stripes we are healed (v. 5b; Jn. 19:1; 1 Pet. 2:24; Eph. 1:7)
- 5) All we have gone astray like sheep to our own way (v. 6a; 1 Pet. 2:25; Rom. 3:23)
- 6) Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all (v. 6b; 2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 3:24-26; 1 Jn. 2:1-2)

E) *The Servant Messiah's Submission and Death* (53:7-9)

- 1) Oppressed and as lamb led to slaughter, yet not open mouth (v. 7; Mk. 15:1-5; 1 Pet. 2:21-23)
- 2) Judgment taken away; cut off from the land of the living (v. 8; Matt. 27:20-26; Jn. 19:30, 33)
- 3) Grave with wicked, but with the rich at His death (v. 9a; Mk. 15:27-28; Matt. 27:57-60)
- 4) Did no violence, nor any deceit in His mouth (v. 9b; 1 Pet. 2:22; Heb. 4:15)

F) *The Servant Messiah's Mission and Reward* (53:10-12)

- 1) Pleased the Lord to bruise Him (v. 10a; Jn. 6:38; Matt. 26:39, 42; Acts 2:23; 4:27-28)
- 2) Lord shall see His seed [faithful children], prolong His days [eternal], pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand [kingdom] (v. 10b; Gal. 3:29; Heb. 7:25; Col. 1:13)
- 3) Lord shall see the travail of His soul and be satisfied (v. 11a; Heb. 5:7-9)
- 4) Shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities (v. 11b; Rom. 5:8-9, 18)
- 5) Divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong (v. 12a; Col. 2:14-15; Phil. 2:8-11; 4:13)
- 6) Rewarded because He... (v. 12b):
 - a) Poured out His soul unto death (Matt. 20:28; Jn. 10:11, 17-18; 1 Tim. 2:5-6)
 - b) Was numbered with the transgressors (Mk. 15:28; Lk. 22:37)
 - c) Bore the sin of many (Heb. 9:26-28)
 - d) Made intercession for the transgressors (Heb. 9:24; 7:24-25; Rom. 8:34)

Conclusion

Hallelujah! What a Savior, Messiah, and Servant of God! Jesus emphasized that it was *necessary* for Him to suffer and die (Mk. 10:32-34; Lk. 24:25-27, 46-48). By means of His suffering and death, we are saved by His atoning blood (Heb. 2:9-10). In baptism we are united with Him in the likeness of His death, burial, and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-5; Acts 8:36-39). Have you died to sin and been raised to newness of life? He suffered so that you might be glorified in eternal joy!!