

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ISAIAH

Text: Isaiah 53

INTRO: If I were to ask you what ONE chapter in the Bible best summarizes the life & work of Jesus, what chapter do you think you might pick? John, chapter 1? Matthew 13?

I think one of the best candidates might well be a chapter that was written about 730 years before Jesus was ever born--Isaiah, chapter 53. Turn with me now as we examine that amazing chapter.

### I. CHRIST--THE REVEALED ONE, vs. 1.

A. The first prophetic indication of the work of Christ had been made to the serpent in the days of Adam: "And I will put enmity between you & the woman, & between your seed & her Seed; He shall bruise your head, & you shall bruise His heel. (Gen. 3:15).

B. More of the nature of Christ's work was revealed to Abraham: "In your Seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice" (Gen 22:18)

C. As God's plan continued to unfold, He revealed to Moses certain characteristics of the One who was to come: "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brethren & will put My words in His mouth, & He shall speak to them all that I command Him" (Deut. 18:18)

D. God continued to reveal thru other prophets until finally He manifested Himself in the flesh in Jesus Christ. "Yes, & all the prophets from Samuel & those who follow, as many as have spoken have also foretold these days" (Acts 3:24).

E. As the N.T. writers reflected on the work & life of Jesus, 2 of them quoted the words of Isa. 1:1.

But altho He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, who

has believed our report? & to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" (John 12:37-38).

But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" (Rom. 10:16).

## II. CHRIST--THE ROOT OUT OF DRY GROUND, vs. 2.

A. The birth of Jesus was a marvelous, miraculous, unexpected & unheard of thing--a virgin birth!

1. This had been alluded to in Gen. 3:15.
2. It had been revealed in plain lang., Isa. 7:14.
3. Its fulfillment is recorded in MT 1:18f & LK 1:29f
4. This miraculous event is also alluded to be Paul in Gal. 4:4.

5. And by John every time he calls Jesus "the only begotten Son of God." JN 3:16, etc.

B. But there another significance in Christ's being a root out of dry ground--the lowly surroundings of His birth in a stable, among a people under foreign domination, whose puppet "king" was an Edomite by race. Obscure village. Poor family.

## III. CHRIST--THE REJECTED ONE, vs. 2-3..

He was rejected by His own--His own family, His own townspeople, His own nation. John 1:11.

Even His brothers did not believe in Him (JN 7:5)

READ LUKE 4:16-30.

NOTE: In this passage Jesus quotes from another of Isaiah's prophecies, Isa. 61:1-3, and declares that it was being fulfilled before their eyes.

## IV. CHRIST--THE WILLING SACRIFICE, vs. 4-10.

Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it

down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, & I have power to take it again... (John 10:17-18).

A. Matthew shows us one way Jesus ministry fulfilled Isa 53:4

When evening had come, they brot to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, & healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, "He Himself took our infirmities & bore our sicknesses" (Matt. 8:16-17).

B. Simon Peter shows us an even more meaningful fulfillment of this section of Isaiah's prophecy, as Jesus went to the cross to bear the consequences of our sins for us.

READ I PETER 2:22-25.

C. We might also note that it was from this section of Isa. 53 that the Ethiopian treasurer was reading when Philip joined the chariot & preached Jesus. ACTS 8:26-39.

D. Thus, over 700 years before these events, Isaiah had made them known almost as vividly as Matthew & John, who were eyewitnesses.

V. CHRIST--THE TRIUMPHANT INTERCESSOR, vs. 10-12.

Jesus' work did not end at His death. He overcame death, ascended the throne & there serves as our mediator before the Father.

Hebrews 4:14-15; Romans 8:27, 34

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God thru Him, since He ever lives to make intercession for them. (Heb. 7:25).

For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us. (Heb. 9:24).

1 John 2:1

CONCLUSION: Perhaps no other chapter in all the Bible could more aptly establish the inspiration of the Scriptures than Isa. 53. Written about 730 years before the birth of Jesus, it gives in detail His life, death, & glorious intercession. And in addition, perhaps to other Scripture could better portray the effectiveness of the long-range plan of God.

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