

Isaiah 52–53

Lesson 21

Redemption—Physical and Spiritual

Isaiah 52:1–12

Foreshadowing

- Isaiah 52:7 quoted in Romans 10:15; the latter half of 52:10 quoted in Luke 3:6.
- “The LORD has made bare His holy arm...” (52:10), used also in 53:1, in reference to the Messiah.
- Redeemed from captivity (52:2).
- Redeemed without money (52:3).
- Redeemed and rejoicing (52:8–9).
- Putting off (52:11) and putting on (52:1).

Questions

- For what had Jerusalem sold herself and how would they be redeemed?
 - “You have sold yourselves for nothing, and you shall be redeemed without money” (52:3).
 - “He shall build My city and let My exiles go free, not for price nor reward” (45:13).
 - “For your iniquities you have sold yourselves...” (50:1).

Questions

- What two things would be published by those with “beautiful” feet?
 - “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’” (52:7).

Questions

- Before whom had God “made bare His holy arm” and what shall be seen?
 - “The LORD has made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God” (52:10).
 - Note the reference to His “arm” in 53:1.
 - “Behold the Lord God shall come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him...He will gather the lambs with His arm” (40:10–11).

Questions

- How would people leave the land of captivity?
 - “Depart! Depart! Go out from there, touch no unclean thing; go out from the midst of her, be clean, you who bear the vessels of the LORD. For you shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight; for the LORD will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard” (52:11–12).
 - “Put on your beautiful garments...” (52:1).

The Suffering Servant

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

Outline of the Suffering Servant Text

- His impact (52:13–15)
- His rejection (53:1–3)
- His suffering (53:4–6)
- His submission (53:7–9)
- His reward (53:10–12)

The Suffering Servant

- The true beauty of the Servant cannot be seen when judged by worldly standards (53:2).
 - “He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.”
 - Rejected by many, because He didn’t fit *their* image of a King.

The Suffering Servant

- Jesus suffered and died, not for His sins, but for our sins (53:4–5, 8–9, 11–12).
 - His sentence, in fact, was a complete miscarriage of justice— “by oppression and judgment He was taken away” (53:8, NAS).

The Suffering Servant

- He suffered and died, not for righteous people, but for people who hid their faces from Him, people who did not esteem Him, for people who even despised Him (53:3).
 - He suffered and died for ME!

The Suffering Servant

- He suffered to the point that “His visage (appearance) was marred more than any man” (52:14).
- Think about what was done to Him even *before* He was nailed to the cross (beaten, slapped, scourged, etc.).

The Suffering Servant

- He suffered further indignity in being “numbered with the transgressors” (53:12). He was treated like a common criminal, crucified between two thieves (“made His grave with the wicked”—53:9).

The Suffering Servant

- He bore His sorrow, pain and grief patiently and silently (53:7), not because He thought He deserved it, but because it was the Father's will and because He loves us and wants to save us.

The Suffering Servant

- His suffering and death pleased God—in the sense that was all part of God’s plan (“it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief”—53:10).
- Lawless hands took Him and crucified Him (Acts 2:23), but little did they know they were carrying out God’s eternal plan.

The Suffering Servant

- God's plan was that through the death of His Son, we could be healed, justified, given peace with God, and the other "spoils" of victory (53:5, 11–12).

The Suffering Servant

- His victory (and ours) was assured when after His death He was exalted very high (52:13).
- This from One who “shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground” (53:2).

The Suffering Servant

- Death, then, was by no means the end of His days—
“He shall prolong His days” (53:10).

The Suffering Servant

- Because He lives, He is able to see the fruits of his anguish. Unlike everyone else who dies, this servant would “see his seed” (descendants); He would “see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied” (53:10–11).

The Suffering Servant

- Those who hear this story of the suffering Servant will be astonished, startled, rendered speechless (52:14–15).
 - “Sprinkle” in 52:15 rendered “startle” in RSV.
 - Others would not believe— “who has believed our report?” (53:1). Why should they have believed?