

In Search of The Servant of God
(Part 4- Isaiah 52:13-53:12)
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Introduction: We cannot conceive what is in the mind of God.

- A. Proud men often think they can know everything. **(Rom 11:33-35)**
 - 1. God's plan would truly startle those who finally came to see it!
 - 2. Many remained blind and fought God while thinking they were serving Him. They made their own light rather than follow God's. **(Isa 50:10-11)**
- B. The ministry of Christ fulfilled every part of these servant songs.
 - 1. If you looked for the character of this Servant you could find Him!
 - 2. Common prejudices, not based on scripture, even hindered the disciples! How is it possible for man to kill the Messiah? **(Mt 16:21-23)**
 - 3. Imagine reading these passages before Jesus came! It is difficult to understand until afterwards it was all was revealed! It is plain now!

I. The account of the Servant will be one of extremes (52:13-15)

- A. The Servant would be beaten and bruised to an extreme.
 - 1. The Servant would be almost unidentifiable as a man. **(52:14; Psa 22:6)**
 - 2. Consider the bloody pulp that Pilate presented to the crowd. **(Jn 19:1-3)**
 - 3. What would you think of such a person? Imagine the thought of this being God!
- B. The Servant would be exalted to the very highest place. **(52:13)**
 - 1. Can you imagine this scene of exaltation from heaven? **(Ps 24:7-10)**
 - 2. He was received to sit at the right hand of God. **(Mk 16:19)**
 - 3. Jesus understands what it means to be crushed and ignored.
 - 4. He also knows what God can do for us now if we will let Him. **(Eph 2:4-6)**
- C. The account of the Servant will bring extreme reactions in all men
 - 1. They will hear of that which before was inconceivable.
 - 2. Even the proud will close their mouths and marvel.
 - 3. Who will actually believe this report? Many fought it!

II. The appearance of the Servant caused many to look down and despise Him (53:1-3)

- A. The Servant in fact had the "arm of the Lord" with Him. **(Isa 53:1)**
 - 1. Too many people assume they know where the "arm of the Lord" is working.
 - 2. God reminds us it has to be "revealed."
 - 3. Where does God's power work today? It is not to the "wise" and "powerful" but to His suffering servants! We are like Him! **(Rom 8:36-37; 2 Cor 12:9-10)**
- B. The Servant would be a "root out of dry ground." **(53:2)**
 - 1. This was a distinctive description of the Messiah. **(Isa 11:1, 10)**

"Here it evidently applies to the Redeemer as growing up in the manner of a shoot or sucker that springs out of the earth. It means that he would start, as it were, from a decayed stock or stump, as a shoot springs up from a root that is apparently dead. It does not refer to his manner of life ... but to his starting as it were out of a dry and sterile soil where any growth could not be expected, or from a stump or stock that was apparently dead" – Barnes

- 2. The Romans would struggle at a king coming from a nearly dead nation.

C. Men wrote off the Servant because of His suffering. **(53:3-4)**

1. We all tend to judge men by appearance. What would Jesus look like if He came today?
2. Jesus made it very clear that His followers would not be caught up in the things that men find so great. **(Mk 10:42-44)**
3. Are we judging others by the standards that men judged the Lord? **(Jas 2:1-7)**

III. The Servant was a sacrifice for the sins of all men (53:4-6)

A. How does a man's suffering heal others? How does God lay sins of mankind upon another man?

1. Only temple sacrifices of animals were connected to forgiveness of sins.
2. In the complete plan of God the sacrifice of the King would provide forgiveness to all men, both in the past and in the present! **(Heb 9:14-15; Rom 3:25)**
3. When John the Baptist began to preach baptism for the remission of sins apart from the temple and the priests, then it was obvious that change was coming!
4. This was all part of God's eternal plan! **(Mk 11:29-30)**

B. God placed our sins upon this Servant! **(2 Cor 5:21; 1 Jn 1:1-2)**

1. Our sacrifice lives and now acts on our behalf! **(Rom 5:10)**
2. Jesus did not want anyone to die in their sins! **(Jn 8:21-24)**
3. This Servant truly cares for each of us.

IV. This Servant would be raised from the dead. (53:7-12)

A. These passages were widely used in converting others! **(Acts 8:30-35)**

1. It was widely known that He was denied justice, that known criminals were placed around Him and that they struck and cursed Him.
2. He was buried in a rich man's grave!

B. The death of this servant is clearly foretold.

1. He suffers and is disfigured in an extreme way. He was afflicted to the point of being a lamb "led to the slaughter." **(Isa 52:14; 53:7)**
2. He was spit upon and slapped. **(Isa 50:6-7; Mt 26:67)**
3. He is killed and buried in a grave. **(Isa 53:8-9; Mt 27:57-60)**
4. He poured out His soul unto death! **(Isa 53:12)**

C. He never struck back or spoke against those that did this! **(1 Pt 2:21-25)**

1. He remained silent when others would have spoken out!
2. When He spoke it showed love for those that hated Him. **(Lk 23:34-35)**

D. Even though He dies, He then lives again!

1. His days will be prolonged! **(Isa 53:10)**
2. He will live again to see this sacrificial death bless many! **(Isa 53:11)**
3. He will reign as a victor dividing the spoils of His defeated enemies. **(Isa 53:12)**
4. Indeed, the "pleasure of the Lord" prospered in His hands! Is that true of us? **(Isa 53:10; Gal 1:10)**

Conclusion: Shall we yield and become a servant of the Servant! **(Gal 1:10)**