



Study of Isaiah

Chapters 52 & 53

Lesson 14 - 15

Where are
we in our
study

THE BABYLONIAN PERIOD

Hope for troublesome times – Remnant (40-66)

- Deliverance from Babylon, The one true God verses the gods of the nation (40-48)

Isaiah 48:17 ¹⁷Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord thy God...

- Salvation through the suffering Servant (49-53)
 - The work of Jehovah's servant – (49)
 - Israel needs to trust in the Lord – (50)
 - Exhortation to listen to God and His Servant – (51)
 - Deliverance from captivity (future) – (52:1-12)
 - Victory through the suffering Servant - (52:13 – 53:12)

Review – Lesson 14

Isaiah Chapt 49:

- The Servant Himself speaks of His commission to bring salvation to Israel and to be a light to the Gentiles.
- The Lord will offer the Servant as a covenant to the people, providing restoration and comfort to the afflicted.
- Zion, who fears that the Lord has forsaken her, is reassured that she is remembered.
- She will overflow with new children, and those who would oppress her will have to contend with the Lord.

Isaiah Chapt 50-52:

- The Servant is offered as Israel's true hope.
- Rebuked for thinking that their sufferings were due to the Lord's inability, the exiles are admonished to trust in the Lord to save them in response to their plea.
- Zion (Jerusalem, the holy city) is called to awake, for those who have experienced His righteous judgment will find that He offers redemption and comfort.

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Chapter 52-53:

- The last of chapter 52 and all of chapter 53 contain a description of the Suffering Servant.
- Despised and rejected by men, smitten and afflicted by God, the Servant would bear the sin of many and make intercession for the transgressors.
- This prophecy was fulfilled when God sent His Son Jesus Christ to be crucified for our sins. Thus God would provide salvation for Israel, and for all mankind.
- “It is generally acknowledged by students of the prophets that in this the fourth of the Servant Songs is attained the loftiest height of prophecy. It was pointed out in the third song (50:4–11) that the Servant will suffer in obedience to the word of God, but the purpose of His suffering was not explained. This final song deals with both purpose and achievement. The Servant is to conquer as a sufferer, not as a warrior (cf. Rev 5:4–6). From His shameful suffering and inhumane treatment He is to emerge in triumph and glory” (Young, A Commentary on Isaiah, 434)

Isaiah 52:1-12 – Lesson 14

Jerusalem is exhorted to awake and put-on beautiful garments for they are free from bondage: 52:1-2

- Awake from the affliction that had been brought on by the indignation of the Lord (Cf. 51:17-23)
- This is a spiritual (messianic) look concerning Jerusalem that would make her a new city with no more un-circumcised or unclean intruders to enter.
- With the images of the captivity, he looks to the spiritual freedom in the Messiah, who is the Christ

The Lord will redeem Zion: 52:3-6

- They had sold themselves through transgressions (cf. 50:1)
- Their past had been marred by subjection to the uncircumcised (Allowed by God)
- That brought continual blasphemy against the Lord and suffering on themselves
- Yet, they are the Lord's people, He will redeem them without payment by His power
- It will be known "in that day" (Judgement upon Babylon) that God is behind this.

Isaiah 52:1-12 – Lesson 14

The message of deliverance proclaimed: 52:7-12

- A messenger proclaims good news about the future glory of Zion. (v7)

Question 11. Discuss Paul's use of Isaiah 52 in Romans 10:15 and what we can learn from it.

- When the good news is heard the people will rejoice (v8-9)
- God is praised for their deliverance only made possible by His strength and power (v10)
- When they leave Babylon, they must purify themselves from the heathen surroundings (v11)
- They must put their trust in the Lord who would go before them and also be their rear guard (v12)

Isaiah 52:13-15 – Lesson 14

The exaltation of the Servant: 52:13-15

Question 12. What three things did the prophet say about the suffering servant (32:13-15).

1. He would be exalted, lifted up and very high (Cf. Acts 2:32-33; Eph 2:19-23; Phil 2:9-11)
2. He would be treated shamefully (Cf. Luke 4:16-30; Heb 12:2-3; Matt 26:67; 27:26-31)
3. He would sprinkle (“startle”) the nations (Cf. Heb 9:13-14; 10:22 or Acts 4:23-28; 1 Cor 2:6-10)

Isaiah 53:1-12 – Lesson 15

Victory through the suffering Servant (53:1-12)

1. Rejected of Men (v1-3)

- John and Paul quote v1 and apply it to the unbelief of the Jews as they reject Christ and the gospel of Christ (John 12:37-38; Rom. 10:16).
- The Jewish rejection of Jesus served to confirm, rather than thwart, God's eternal plan for human redemption.
- Men would see nothing spectacular in His appearance, bore no outward evidence of royalty.
- He appears as fragile as a tender twig that shoots from the trunk of a tree and as unlikely to survive as a root that has come up on dry ground.
- Because of His appearance man, judging from the wrong perspective, would completely misjudge Him (Cf. John 1:11; 46)

Isaiah 53:1-12 – Lesson 15

Victory through the suffering Servant (53:1-12)

1. Rejected of Men (v1-3) Cont....

- All though he came and gave Himself out of love (John 3:16) the religious leaders despised Him and plotted for His death (Cf. Mark 3:6)
- Rejected among His own people & family (Cf. Matt 13:54-58; John 7:5)

Question 2. In what way was Jesus a man of sorrows?

- His entire life was acquainted with grief (Cf. Luke 19:41; John 11:35; Heb 5:7)
- Men wanted little to do with Him although seeing His powerful works and being astonished at His teaching. (Cf. John 11:47-48; 12:37-40)

Isaiah 53:1-12 – Lesson 15

Victory through the suffering Servant (53:1-12)

2. The reason (What & Why) for His suffering (v4-6)

- Matthew 8:17 applies this passage (v4) to the healing ministry of Jesus, where He took pain and sickness away. Proof of His ability to bring Spiritual healing (Cf. Matt 9:1-8)
- God allowed Him to suffer as an offering of propitiation for man's sins (Cf. Rom 3:23-26; 2 Cor 5:21; 1 John 2:1-2)
- The cause of His death was not that He was guilty of sin (Cf. 1 Pet 2:22; Heb 4:15; Lk 23:4, 14, 22)
- One who was "hanged on a tree" was considered "cursed of God" (Deut. 21:22-23; Gal. 3:13)
- Jesus was **wounded, bruised, chastised**, and suffered **stripes** for our spiritual healing (Luke 22:63-64; 23:11, 16; John 19:1-3; 1 Pet. 2:21-25; 3:18; Heb. 9:28)
- Sheep without a shepherd wander aimlessly, men in their sinful condition have turned everyone to their own way (Cf. Rom 3:10-18; 1 Pet 2:25)

Isaiah 53:1-12 – Lesson 15

Victory through the suffering Servant (53:1-12)

3. Total submission through suffering (v 7-9)

Question 1. How can we know without a doubt that Isaiah 53 is speaking of Jesus Christ?

- Phillip in his inspired teaching applies this passage (v7-8) to Christ (Cf. Acts 8:29-39; Phil 2:5-11)
- Jesus opened not his mouth to argue, threaten, or quibble with the Jews, Herod, or Pilot (Cf. Matt. 26:63; 27:14; Luke 23:9; John 19:9-10; 1 Pet. 2:21-25).
- He submitted and meekly gave himself as “the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29; Cf. Phil 2:8)
- He died without any cause for death, yet who among His generation understood or cared
- He died a dishonorable death among thieves (Cf. Mark 15:27-28)
- He did not receive a disgraceful burial but taken to tomb of a rich man (Cf. Matt 27:57-60)

Isaiah 53:1-12 – Lesson 15

Victory through the suffering Servant (53:1-12)

3. Victory and reward (v10-12)

- The Father was in agreement and was pleased to provide redemption for humanity through the death of his son (Cf. Col. 1:19-20; Acts 2:23)
- Jesus was pleased to provide atonement for humanity (Cf. Heb 12:2; John 10:17-18)
- Jesus, for a time, experienced profound grief in the garden of Gethsemane (Matt. 26:36; Luke 22:39-44; Heb. 5:7)
- His days are prolonged because he was resurrected from the grave and will live forever (Rev. 1:18; 5:13; Heb. 1:8, 12; 7:24, 28; 13:8)
- A multitude of spiritual descendants will be born as a result of His sacrifice (Cf. Gal 4:4-7; 3:26-29; Heb 2:8-10)
- The Messiah servant brought the knowledge of the way of salvation from the Father and delivered it unto man (Heb. 1:1-2; John 12:48-50; 6:44-45; Isa. 54:13; Rom. 10:17; 2 Pet. 1:2-3)

Isaiah 53:1-12 – Lesson 15

Victory through the suffering Servant (53:1-12)

3. Victory and reward (v10-12) Cont.

- Jesus overcame the power of the devil and freed men and women from the bondage of sin (Cf. Col. 2:15; John 8:30-36; Rom. 6:15-18).
- Genesis 3:15 (KJV 1900) ¹⁵And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.
- Hebrews 2:14–15 (KJV 1900) ¹⁴Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; ¹⁵And deliver them who through
- 1 Corinthians 15:57 (KJV 1900). ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.