

Background

OT Israel was called to function as the Lord's "servant" by being a picture to the world of a people who live in the light, until a final servant would come and bring that light to the world. Israel abdicated this role, but instead of derailing the plan, their failure further highlighted the need for a final servant to come and bring rescue.

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 is the fourth of four "Servant Songs" in Isaiah, in which the prophet energizes the hopeful resilience of the people though depicting the coming servant with vivid images. The other "Servant Songs" are Isaiah 42:1-9, 49:1-7, and 50:4-11.

Matthew 20:27-28

"But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

2 Corinthians 4:6

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.



Unfolding Grace

2022 Sermon Series

We are spending several weeks in 2022 exploring the unfolding grace of God in major portions of the Old Testament. This means we often cover large sections of Scripture and skip many otherwise important things. We encourage you to supplement these sermons with depth reading of the surrounding passages on your own.

The Suffering & Satisfied Servant

October 16, 2022 | Isaiah 52:13-53:12 | Pastor Roger Williams

The mission of God unfolds as we behold *The Servant* in his serving.

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 (8th Century BC)*

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God...

¹³**Behold**, my servant shall succeed;
he shall be high and lifted up,
and shall be exalted.

¹⁴As many were astonished at him—
his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—

¹⁵so shall he sprinkle many nations.
Kings shall shut their mouths because of him,
for that which has not been told them they see,
and that which they have not heard they understand.

Mystery

(Isaiah 53)

¹Who has believed what he has heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

²For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should take pleasure in him.

³He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and familiar with grief (suffering/affliction);
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Rejection

⁴Surely it was our grief (suffering/affliction) he himself bore,
and our sorrows which he shouldered;
As for us, we thought him plagued,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵But he was pierced because of our rebellion;
he was crushed because of our iniquities;
the punishment bringing us peace was upon him,
and with his wounds we are healed.

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one of us—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

Mission

⁷He let himself be brutalized, and accepted humiliation,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

⁸By oppression and injustice he was taken away;
and as for his contemporaries, who considered
that he was cut down from the land of the living,
because he was stricken for the transgression of my people?

⁹And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Death

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;
he has put him to grief (suffering/affliction);
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will distribute to him the many,
and the strong he shall distribute as spoil,
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the rebellious;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and makes intercession for the rebels.

Satisfaction

*ESV with some expansion from Hebrew scholar J. Alec Motyer