

## IMMERSE: PROPHETS

Week 7 – The Servant Suffering Vicariously

July 16, 2023

How does the entire Bible define SALVATION? By grace alone through faith alone in God's revealed message which always points to Jesus! In the book of Isaiah, as in all the books of the Bible, the Messianic hope through the Jewish Messiah Jesus is the truth we cannot ignore.

In Isaiah we read of the virgin birth....

*Isa. 7:14 - Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.*

*Immanuel* means “God with us” – “God in the flesh.”

The virgin shall conceive and bear a Son – no man in the equation! This harkens back to “the Seed of the Woman” in Gen. 3:15.

The Seed of the woman Who will be born, will be human – 100% human. The virgin birth is a supernatural birth; the Seed Who will be born – will be 100% God.

*Luke 1:35 - And the angel answered and said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.'* “Overshadow” – the Holy Spirit overshadowed [hovered over] Mary). (Cross reference: Gen. 1:2)

Consider this passage as speaking of Jesus' coming into this world through a virgin....

*Hebrews 10:4-6: For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. <sup>5</sup> Therefore, when He (Jesus) came into the world, He said: 'Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me. <sup>6</sup> In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. <sup>7</sup> Then I said, 'Behold, I have come. In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.'*

Is the virgin birth difficult for God? OF COURSE NOT!!!!

GOD EXCELS in creating out of NOTHING!

Gen. 1:1 – *Bereshit bara Elohim* – “In beginning God created.” Prior to that moment there was nothing!

Heb. 11:3 - *By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.*

Jer. 32:27 - *Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?*

Why is the virgin birth a crucial belief/doctrine?

Bottom line: it speaks to Jesus’ SINLESSNESS!

If Jesus is not sinless, then He’s not God.

If Jesus is not God, He cannot remove sin.

If He cannot remove sin, we have no hope; we are eternally condemned! (Isa. 33:14-24)

There are those who refute the virgin birth of Jesus who focus on the Hebrew word for “virgin” which is *almah*.

- “*Almah*” – pure, chaste woman ready for marriage
- Septuagint – 70 Rabbis who translated the Hebrew into Greek used the Gk word, “*Parthenos*,” which exclusively means “virgin” for the Isa. 7:14 word, “*almah*”!

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- Genesis 24:16 – “*betulah*” – commonly considered to mean virgin exclusively. Rabbis today say that if Isaiah had meant “virgin” he would’ve used this word. But, this word does not always mean “virgin:
  - Joel 1:8 – it’s used in reference to a widow.
- Gen. 24:16 – because it doesn’t exclusively mean virgin, the phrase, “had never known a man” was added to “*betulah*” re: Rebekah.
- AND, God would not choose a young woman who had “known” a man to fulfill His prophecy re: the virgin conceiving and bearing a Son without a man!

Jesus’ first coming: Isa. 7:14.

Jesus’ second coming: Isa. 9:6 - *For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

His birth as a child indicates His humanity.

...unto us a Son is given – this should be cross referenced to II Sam. 7:8-16 as the basis for the Davidic Kingdom and the Davidic King - Jesus. We also read of the Son in Psalm 2 written prior to Isaiah. In both references the Son is the eternal Son of God, the Second Person of the Godhead.

The four names of this Child/Son are doubled and speak of His divine character:

Wonderful Counselor – a marvel, a wonder; to advise, to consult, to give counsel. He is the authoritative One to Whom the people will listen

Mighty God – Isaiah understood this Son as *el gibbor* – the Mighty God.

Everlasting Father – How can the Son be the Father? Literally this title means that Son is the “Father of eternity.” The Messiah as the Second person of the Trinity, in His very nature/essence is God. Therefore, He has all the attributes of God including eternity. “Father” can further be understood since the Messiah created (Col. 1:16) and as such He is “Father” – He is the source of life. Most importantly, the Son is the source of eternal life! (John 14:7-11)

Prince of Peace – as King of the Messianic Kingdom in which there will be peace, the Son is *sar* – prince/captain/ruler/leader of *shalom* – completeness. The root of *shalom* is repairing that which was broken.

*Isa. 9:7 - Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*

Isaiah 11 speaks of Millennial conditions on the earth following Jesus establishing His kingdom. We observe animal—animal harmony and animal-human harmony. Nature and the animal kingdom were cursed at the fall. Why wouldn't the restoration of all things (Acts 3:21) include a restoration of nature and animals? Psa. 8:6-8 speaks of man's mandate to rule over the creatures of the earth has not been revoked! In Eden man and animals lived in harmony; so too will it be in Messiah's kingdom.

In Isa. 11:10 speaks to blessings to Gentile nations. This truth of Gentiles being blessed by Israel's Messiah goes back to Gen. 12:2-3 - ...through Abraham and his descendants all families of the earth will be blessed!

## The Servant Songs

There are are four “Servant Songs” in Isaiah that describe the service, suffering, and exaltation of the Servant of the LORD, the Messiah.

Isa. 42:1-9; Isa. 49:1-13; Isa. 50:4-11; and Isa. 52:13-53:12.

Isaiah initially identified God’s servant as Israel: Isa. 41:8; Isa. 44:1-2. Israel was to serve as God’s witnesses: Isa. 43:10. Israel could not fulfill this mission as Israel was deaf, blind (Isa. 42:19) and in need of God’s forgiveness (Isa. 44:21-25).

*The Messiah: I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles, <sup>7</sup> To open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house.  
<sup>8</sup> I am the LORD, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another (Isa. 42:6-8).*

*Israel: Hear this, O house of Jacob, who are called by the name of Israel, and have come forth from the wellsprings of Judah; who swear by the name of the LORD, and make mention of the God of Israel,  
But not in truth or in righteousness....*

Who is this RIGHTEOUS servant of God?

- He was despised and rejected (Isa. 53:3)
- He was silent during his affliction (Isa. 53:7)
- He was wounded and killed (Isa. 53:5 & 9)
- He was innocent; he had done no wrong (Isa. 53:9)
- He was resurrected – raised from the dead (Isa. 53:11 & 12)

## ISAIAH 53

Before 1100 AD, Rabbis read Isaiah 53 in synagogues. After Isa. 53 caused arguments and great confusion, the Rabbis decided to take Isa. 53 out of the Haftarah reading in synagogues. Today, in synagogues Isaiah 52 is read through Isaiah 53:12. The following week, Isaiah 54 is read.

## Isaiah 52

<sup>13</sup> Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high.

God the Father is speaking...LO, SEE, GAZE - get fixated on My Servant. This One Who submits to His Master's will...will be lifted up. The first words of the LORD in the mouth of the prophet Isaiah regarding His Servant declare His victory. The Messiah will triumph. Before any of His suffering is announced, His glorious triumph is assured...

*<sup>14</sup> Just as many were astonished at you, so His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men;* We know God's plan...before the Messiah will be exalted, He would suffer and be humiliated. His body would be so abused and tortured that He would be completely disfigured and unrecognizable. Many were astonished!

*<sup>15</sup> So shall He sprinkle many nations.* "Sprinkle" as in expiation – cleansing, redeeming, bringing about restitution. Nations – beyond Israel will be cleansed, redeemed.

*Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; for what had NOT been told them they shall see.* We always have unreached people groups! *And what they had not heard they shall consider.* Not having been told but now SEEING – they will CONSIDER!!! Sprinkling is often associated

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with *cleansing from sin* in the Old Testament ([Exodus 24:8](#), [Leviticus 3:8](#), [Numbers 19:21](#), [Ezekiel 36:25](#)). Here, the promise is that the work of the Messiah will bring cleansing to **many nations** – to the Gentiles.

### Isaiah 53

**1** *Who has believed our report?* This speaks to the so few who believed and who will believe. *And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?*

The arm of the LORD is a picture of God's strength, power, and might. Isa. 52 – the arm of the Lord brings salvation. Isa. 53 is the Messiah. The outstretched arm of the Lord has brought us salvation – through Jesus' outstretched arms on the cross! We see a Messiah suffering. But weak? The strength, power, and might of the arm of the LORD will be REVEALED – will be exposed/uncovered!

*<sup>2</sup> For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant,* The arm of the LORD is an individual, "He." The arm of the Lord grew in stature and wisdom. *And as a root out of dry ground.* No royalty in the Kingdom of Judah since the Babylonian captivity! And no kings in returning to Israel and in moving through the intertestamental years (430 years) (Hosea 3:4-5; Matt. 1 – Jesus' genealogy (Joseph was not a King!))

*He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. <sup>3</sup> He is despised and rejected by men,*

*A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; The children of Israel didn't want to look upon Him. The crucified One was not honored by His people. The Messiah suffered not only external abuse but also internal grief over man not responding – from those whom He came to save!*

*<sup>4</sup> Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. Isaiah states, as he is recording about 700-800 years into the future, that we saw this crucified One as cursed by God. We didn't understand that it was for OUR sin that He suffered and died.*

And then we read of a substitutionary sacrifice. Jesus took on the role of the substitute. He became the recipient of God's wrath that we deserved (II Cor. 5:21; Gal. 1:3-4; Heb. 10:9-10; I Pet. 2:24).

*<sup>5</sup> But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed!!!!*

The Messiah died in our place. He was wounded and pierced...He died for our sin. The judgment and punishment we deserved was heaped upon Him. The "stripes" are hard blows that left marks...by His scars we are healed.

In His sacrifice...in His death on a Roman execution stake, Jesus was treated as a criminal. In God's plan...Jesus was treated as if He had committed every sin ever committed by every person! Jesus is righteous, sinless, perfectly innocent of any sin. Jesus satisfied God's righteous demands. Through Jesus' death, justice was satisfied.

*I John 2:2 – And He is the propitiation for our sins and not for ours only but also for the whole world. (II Cor. 5:14-15).*

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*<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

At Yom Kippur/the Day of Atonement, once a year, the Lord's goat was killed and its blood was sprinkled on the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies. The High Priest would then confess the sins of Israel over the Scapegoat (the live goat) which was then sent out into the wilderness. The

Scapegoat was the sin-bearer. Both the Lord's goat and the Scapegoat foreshadowed Jesus sacrifice for mankind.

<sup>7</sup> *He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.* The Servant Jesus offered no protest. He was completely submissive. He is the perfect Passover Lamb.

<sup>8</sup> *He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare His generation? Seaks of the fact that the Messiah died childless. There was no one to declare His generation. For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of My people He was stricken.* Jesus was cut off, He died – for the transgressions of Israel (Isaiah is speaking of his people).

<sup>9</sup> *And they made His grave with the wicked—but with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.* Jesus died among the thieves (John 19:31). Jesus was buried in an empty tomb owned by Joseph of Arimathea (Matt. 27:57-60), a wealthy man (Matt. 27:57), a member of the Sanhedrin (Lk. 23:50). Joseph gave Jesus an honorable burial. Jesus' death was totally undeserved. Of course it was...YET...

<sup>10</sup> *Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; YHWH/Jehovah delighted in the death of Jesus! (John 10:17-18) He has put Him to grief.* God caused Jesus to suffer.

*If He renders Himself as a guilt offering (NASB) (sin offering NKJV), He took away our sin once for all - Heb. 10:10, 12)*

*He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, The Messiah will rise from the dead! And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.* There will be fruit from Jesus' resurrection. Jesus is our firstfruits – “our” being believers in Jesus. Because He rose from the dead, we will rise from the dead! (I Cor. 15:20-23)

<sup>11</sup> *He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.* <sup>12</sup> *Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.* Jesus is our Advocate for us as sinners before a holy God!

It is important for us to understand that we've not gone through a “Christian” interpretation. The Ancient Rabbis (before 1100 AD) understood Isa. 53 to be about the Messiah. Judaism today teaches that Isaiah 53 is fulfilled in the suffering and survival of the nation of Israel who bore the sins of the Gentile nations. This response began to be taught approx. 1100 AD when Jewish persecution intensified.

Why this prophecy, written approx. 700 years before Jesus, cannot refer to the nation of Israel. Isa. 53 points to Jesus in NEON:

- Israel is not an innocent sufferer.
  - Israel as a nation was sinful. Isaiah 1 and 5 speak to this.

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- There are two servants in Isaiah: the righteous Servant Who is the suffering servant and the unrighteous servant, Israel (Isa. 48:1)

- Israel is not a silent sufferer.
  - During the Holocaust, the Jewish people had well-organized resistance movements. Throughout their many wars, the Jewish people defended their land and their right to live!!!!.
- Israel never died.
  - Israel continues to exist and is proud of it!
- The text points to the suffering of an individual, not a nation.
- The nation of Israel is the specific beneficiary of the Suffering Servant's death.
  - The text clearly speaks to an individual person dying for the sins of God's people, the Jewish people. Therefore, one must ask the question, "How can Israel be killed on behalf of Israel?" The subject of Isaiah 53 cannot be Israel as a nation.

Further clarification:

Isaiah 53:3

Who is the "He"?

The Suffering Servant (whom Jewish people claim is Israel)

Who is the "we"?

The "we" is Israel:

- Isa. 53:3 – we hid our faces from Him

- Isa. 53:4 – He has born our griefs...
- Isa. 53:5 – He was wounded for our transgressions.

The “He” cannot be the “we”...

The Suffering Servant is the Messiah.

The “we” is Israel.