

The Suffering Servant

Jesus is the Suffering Servant of God

Hebrews 2:9 But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of His suffering death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

But we do see Him. Jesus Christ.

Who was made. By God the Father.

For a little while. During the time that He was born and on earth prior to the Resurrection.

Lower than the angels, We saw last week that He was higher than angels, after His Resurrection, in His Session at the right hand of the Father.

Namely, Jesus, The humanity of the Son of God, this is the first time in this letter for the name, Jesus, to come to the front.

Because of His suffering of death (associated with) > *crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God*

He might taste death for everyone

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Because of His suffering He was crowned with glory and honor.

1 Peter 1:11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow

Note again the association of His Suffering with glories!

1 Peter 5:1 Therefore, I (Peter) exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed:

Again the Suffering of Christ is associated with the glory.

1 Peter 4:13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that at the revelation of His glory you may also rejoice and be overjoyed.

But we now come to the title, ‘Suffering Servant’ or ‘The Suffering of the Servant of the Son of God.’

Isaiah 42:1 “Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.

Isaiah 42:2 He will not cry out nor raise His voice, Nor make His voice heard in the street.

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**Isaiah 42:3 A bruised reed He will not break
And a dimly burning wick He will not
extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth
justice.**

**Isaiah 42:4 He will not be disheartened or
crushed Until He has established justice on
the earth; And the coastlands will wait
expectantly for His law.”**

**Isaiah 49:1 Listen to Me, O islands, And pay
attention, you peoples from afar. The Lord
called Me from the womb; From the body of
My mother He named Me.**

**Isaiah 49:2 He has made My mouth like a
sharp sword, In the shadow of His hand He
has concealed Me; And He has also made Me
a sharpened arrow, He has hidden Me in His
quiver.**

**Isaiah 49:3 He said to Me, “You are My
Servant, Israel, In whom I will show My glory.”**

**Isaiah 49:4 But I said, “I have labored in vain, I
have spent My strength for nothing and
vanity; Yet surely, the justice due to Me is with
the Lord, And My reward is with My God.”**

**Isaiah 49:5 And now says the Lord, who
formed Me from the womb to be His Servant,**

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To bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel might be gathered to Him (For I am honored in the sight of the Lord, And My God is My strength),

Isaiah 49:6 He says, “It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the protected ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

Isaiah 49:7 Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and its Holy One, To the despised One, To the One abhorred by the nation, To the Servant of rulers: “Kings will see and arise, Princes will also bow down, Because of the Lord who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel who has chosen You.”

Isaiah 52:13 Behold, My Servant will prosper, He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted.

Isaiah 52:14 Just as many were appalled at you, My people, So His appearance was marred beyond that of a man, And His form beyond the sons of mankind.

Isaiah 52:15 So He will sprinkle many nations, Kings will shut their mouths on account of

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Him; For what they had not been told, they will see, And what they had not heard, they will understand.

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Isaiah 53:1 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

Isaiah 53:2 For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root out of dry ground; He has no stately form or majesty That we would look at Him, Nor an appearance that we would take pleasure in Him.

Isaiah 53:3 He was despised and abandoned by men, A man of great pain and familiar with sickness; And like one from whom people hide their faces, He was despised, and we had no regard for Him.

Isaiah 53:4 Surely, our griefs that He Himself bore, And our pains He carried; Yet we ourselves assumed that He had been stricken, Struck down by God, and afflicted.

Isaiah 53:5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The punishment for our well-being

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was fell upon Him, And by His wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:6 All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.

Isaiah 53:8 By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off from the land of the living For the transgression of my people, to whom the blow was due?

Isaiah 53:9 And His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His deaths, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

Isaiah 53:10 But the Lord was pleased To crush Him, causing Him grief; If He would renders Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand.

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Isaiah 53:11 As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, For He will bear their iniquities.

Isaiah 53:12 Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the plunder with the strong, Because He poured out His Himself to death, And was counted with transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.

It is so important to identify who is The Servant of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1 “Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.

Isaiah 52: The Exalted Servant

Isaiah 52:13 Behold, My Servant will prosper, He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted.

Isaiah 53: The Suffering Servant

Isaiah 53:11: As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant,

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will justify the many, For He will bear their iniquities.

A careful study will disclose that this is not His Servant Israel, as Israel is called earlier. But this refers to the Coming of His Servant—Jesus *Yeshua*

His Servant—will come, with the Holy Spirit in Him and He will suffer on the cross for all!

Then He will be buried and will rise again...

What a plan for a Servant.

Isaiah 53:1 Who has believed our message?...

Isaiah is speaking for all Jews who see and understand the truth of Scripture. *Our Jewish message...our report...our gospel* Not many did, but that is not unlike today where not many believe the gospel today. Here we looked at Romans chapter 10 where they had the truth of the gospel proclaimed to them throughout their history, but not many believed

Isaiah 53:1 And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

This is a reference to Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah,

Verses 2-4: First Advent and if you do not want to see it— you won't see it.

Isaiah 53:2 For He Grew Up before Him like a tender shoot

For He. To whom does this personal pronoun refer? He, that is the arm of the Lord out of verse one—His Servant; referring to His Messiah grew up before Him that is Jesus, before God the Father like a tender shoot,

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It has been said that Isaiah ‘shines’ about Jesus more than all the New Testament. And it begins in shining by Him as Tender Shoot.

Isaiah 11:1 Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from His roots will bear fruit, The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him.

So this phrase is used of our Lord—*a tender shoot*

1. God sees Jesus, first as an infant child or suckling child.
2. Men did not see Jesus as any more important than a tender shoot to be cut off as useless.
3. God sees Him as one to be cut off (cross) to save mankind.

Isaiah 53:2 And like a root out of parched ground;

In the previous phrase Jesus Christ, the Suffering Servant was viewed as *a tender shoot*, now to *a root out of parched ground*. This word means more than just dry ground. It refers to a time of drought – lack of rain, being without water, here when it says that Jesus Christ is like a root out of parched ground it is referring to the nation of Israel at the time of His birth and life. Israel is viewed as parched ground, no life and therefore rejecting the Saving Savior. This imagery was used by Isaiah in describing the coming of the Messiah.

Isaiah 11:1 a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, Offspring of Jesse.

And a branch from his roots will bear fruit. Reference to Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 53:2 Not only does the *parched ground* refers to land of Israel, but also the nation at the time of Jesus Christ; and the spiritual condition of

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the people at the time of Jesus. It also refers to the environment at the time Jesus Christ lived. It also is a picture of how a root has to struggle in dry ground, that is the struggle of the person of Jesus. Not easy to grow in dry hostile ground, yet this is the environment at this time.

**Isaiah 53:2 He has no stately form or majesty
(in appearance) That we should look upon Him,
as one who is special**

Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. This was so important because they were looking for the *king*. They thought their king would look as one who was striking. And here is this suffering servant who was not attractive nor one who was desiring to them. Jesus, physically looked like one who would be pushed aside in a busy line.

We verse 2 – the Jewish people

Our verse 4 the joint people

All verse 6 this refers to all people!

The *we* refers to the Jews at the time of the Incarnation, especially the hierarchy—the Sanhedrin, but again we know that there were only a few who recognized Him as the Promised Messiah—Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus and unnamed others in the Sanhedrin. But as a full council they voted to crucify Him—they carried disdain for Him, as we studied through the six trials of Jesus Christ, actually as we studied through His life, where they carried a hatred for Him and desired to kill Him...but His hour, to die, had not yet come.

**Isaiah 53:3 He was Despised and forsaken of
men.**

This Hebrew adjective means *rejected*—in fact, it ‘means the opposite of hearing’—they refuse to hear and they refuse to accept positively what

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He proclaimed about Himself and about the Kingdom of God. This is one of the sad truths of communicating the truth of Scripture, is that many will refuse to listen and many will reject what is being spoken:

Ezekiel 3:27 “But when I speak to you, I will open your mouth and you will say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD. (adona, Lord)’ He who hears, let him hear; and he who refuses, let him refuse; for they are a rebellious house.

There are those who listen and believe but most will not even listen and not believe.

What is so sad, is that this Servant, Messiah came to provide Salvation for all mankind...Jews and Gentiles, yet both Jews and Gentiles are characterized as refusing Him, rejecting Him, and by so doing seal their own eternal doom. God does not predestine anyone to eternal doom. Each individual makes that decision on his own.

We now come to the third characteristic of our suffering Savior. *despised, rejected* and now: *a man of sorrows*.

We need to note the Hebrew here that is missed in the English:
man of sorrows

In the Hebrew this is word for *pain*, *man of pain* or better: *pain inflected upon Him*.

Most of you realize that Jesus Christ had pain inflected upon Him *because our sins*.

But we must remember that Jesus Christ endured severe pain that belongs to us due to our sins!

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Jeremiah 30:15 Why do you cry out over your injury? Your pain is incurable. Because your iniquity is great And your sins are numerous, I have done these things to you.

We learn so much from Isaiah 53:3. First He is a man, rejected by men; The Servant, the Son of God, is a member of human race at His incarnation. We learn from other passages that He is the Son of God or Deity, He is the unique member of the universe—He is the God-man. I know the Mormons say we all become gods... man-gods which is not supported in the Divine Inspired Word of God. Only Jesus Christ is unique. He and He alone is the God-man. He is man, but He is a man of pain from the sins of mankind.

Before we look at it in reference to our Savior, think about this—how would you like your life to be characterized as a man of pain? The Hebrew word refers to pain caused from suffering.

1. Pain is the result of sin—sin brings pain on the sinner.
2. But now we come to the sorrow—the pain of Jesus Christ: on the cross, His sorrow, His pain was from God the Father for His being identified with sins of the world.
3. You are the cause of the pain of Jesus, because of your sins!

But not only is He a man of pains but He is *acquainted with grief; He knows grief*...The Hebrew word for *grief* refers to severe sickness. So how are we to understand this in reference to the Suffering Servant becoming severely ill?

Sickness is an excellent metaphor for sin.

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Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is more deceitful than all else (this describes our flesh nature in sin) And is desperately, incurably sick

This is a different word for sickness than we have in Isaiah 53:3 but carries the same ideal of the sickness of sin

Who can understand it? No one, not even we ourselves. What we have to understand, is that everyone of us are born with a heart *more deceitful and our heart is desperately sick!!!*

If it were not for the painful death of Jesus Christ on the cross, we would have a severe sickness of heart for all eternity.

Isaiah 1:5 Where will you be stricken again, (speaking to Israel) As you continue in your rebellion? The whole head is sick And the whole heart is faint. (From sin and rebellion against God.)

Isaiah 1:6 From the sole of the foot even to the head There is nothing sound in it, Only bruises, welts and raw wounds, Not pressed out or bandaged, Nor softened with oil. Just eating away at the flesh

Here in Isaiah chapter 53 it describes the sickness or grief that Jesus Christ will come to know on the cross, when He is identified with sins of world.

Isaiah 53:3 He was despised and forsaken of men, man of pains and acquainted with grief

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The next phrase describes how Israel, instead of embracing Him for removal of the sickness of sin—they, rejected Him.

Isaiah 53:3 And like one from whom men hide their face

The Hebrew is difficult to interpret. Literally this reads: *and as of hiding of faces from Him*. It involves *hiding* or actually to *turn away* or desiring not to look at someone because they are pathetic to look at.

This gives you some idea of what Jesus looked like, hanging on the cross, hanging for you and me!!!

Then it refers to *face*. Only now it refers to the attitude of looking at the face, at the horrid of the face, and not wanting to look at His face.

The point being expressed is from reaction of those who looked upon Him and the reaction in their own hearts as they looked upon Him. As He was covered in *pains* and stricken with sickness of sin, we found Him so repulsive to look upon that we hide or covered our faces in order that we might not even look at one so heavy with suffering and pains.

This gives much insight into the hearts and souls of Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus who took Him down off the cross and cleaned Him up and wrapped Him for burial.

He was despised, The *Niphal participle* is used to denote continual passive action that is, He kept on receiving being despised. The Hebrew word means to hold in contempt or to despise; to hold something or someone in disdain, in your soul, in your thinking; to disrespect them. Have you ever felt disrespect from someone important to you so that this hurt you?

Be sure you understand that multitudes around the world hold your Savior in contempt, disdain for Him, they despise Him and they despise

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everyone who believes in Him. This hatred, this disdain is increasing around the world.

But I want to close today by looking at a beautiful verse. **Psalm 51:17** First, context: David is coming to God after sinning with Bathsheba and sending her husband into battle to die. He goes through a list of things God is not looking for and then closes with verse 17.

Psalm 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, God, You will not despise.

The sacrifices of God. This is what God will accept, not sacrifices, not offerings, but:

Are a broken spirit; Arrogance is broken.

A broken and a contrite heart, Do you know what a contrite heart is? It is a heart that is crushed, broken in pieces, most often due to sin.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; Arrogance is broken.

A broken and a contrite heart, CRUSHED HEART. Crushed by sin— not everyone will give in to this condition of the heart; we saw this in 2 Thessalonians that not everyone can be brought to shame, they continue in their sins against God

You will not despise. This is what God is looking for!