

A Trek Through Isaiah 70 - 53:7-12

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Nov 26, 2017

For this week:

- The successful work (part 2) 53:7-12

Context

The Greater Deliverance: the Work of the Servant (49:1 - 55:13)
The Servant's mission 49:1-13
Nation and Servant contrasted 49:14 - 50:11
To the faithful remnant 51:1 – 52:12
The Servant's triumph 52:13 - 55:13

- In the book of the Servant (38 - 55): How will God's people be redeemed from captivity?
- This section (49 - 55) describes the greater deliverance (redemption from sin) accomplished through the Servant.
- This part (52:13 - 55:13) describes the triumph of the Servant.
 - The climax to the book of the Servant
 - The fourth Servant song: The successful work (52:13 - 53:12)
 - Two-part tailpiece: the great invitation
 - To Zion (54)
 - To the world (55)

The Servant's Triumph 52:13 – 55:13

The successful work 52:13 - 53:12

- Structure of the section
 - 52:13-15 Tension: How do exaltation, suffering, universal benefit go together?
 - V13 exaltation
 - V14 suffering
 - V15 universal benefit
 - 53:1-9 Life to death
 - V1-3 His life
 - V4-6 His mission
 - V7-9 His death
 - 53:10-12 Resolution: The suffering came from sin-bearing.
 - V10 The LORD's will accomplished
 - V11 The condemned made righteous
 - V12 The victory achieved

- V7-9 His unjust death

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. 8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? 9 And 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.

- V7 Voluntary acceptance

- He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
 - Verb form indicates voluntary acceptance.
- Like a lamb
 - Levitical sacrifice
 - As John the Baptist in Jn 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"
- yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.
 - Animals go silently to both shearing and slaughter because they don't know what is coming.
 - Thus they cannot be a substitute for man, who sins while knowing the consequences.
 - But the Servant, knowing all that was to happen, consented willingly.
 - Unlike the animals, His silence was deliberate.
 - 1 Pet 2:23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten...

- V8 Injustice and ignorance

- By oppression and judgment he was taken away
 - Oppression. Victimization. Injustice without limits.
 - Judgment. Within judicial proceedings.
 - taken away. Ending in death.
- as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?
 - Who considered.
 - Meditated upon; gave serious thought to
 - Total ignorance in those He died to save.
 - He was cut off. Violently put to death
 - My people. God's elect.

■ V9 Finality and innocence

- And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death,
 - Contrast what men intended (with the wicked) and what God intended (with a rich man)
 - Death. Lit deaths. Either to emphasize His extended suffering or plural of majesty: His supreme, wondrous death.
- although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.
 - No violence. Sin in deed.
 - No deceit. Sin in thought.
 - In His mouth. Sin in word.

■ So the Servant displays all the necessary characteristics of a Substitute as required by a holy God.

- Identified with us in our need (v4-5)
- Voluntarily standing in our place (v7-8)
- Accepting the punishment for our transgression (v8, 9)
- Without sin (v9)

- V10-12 His victory

10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; 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. 11 Out 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. 12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

- V10 The LORD's will accomplished

- Bracketed by the LORD's will.
 - The Servant died according to the LORD's will.
 - The Servant lives to prosper the LORD's will.
- when his soul makes an offering for guilt
 - Three possible translations
 - When You make His soul a guilt offering
 - The LORD is the One accomplishing His work through the Servant.
 - When His soul makes a guilt-offering
 - The soul (person) of the Servant is uniquely fitted to be our substitute.
 - When you make His soul a guilt offering
 - Each of us who believes has made a personal response to what the Servant has done.

- offering for guilt
 - Turn to Lev 6:1-7. Describes the guilt offering
The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “If anyone sins and commits a breach of faith against the LORD by deceiving his neighbor in a matter of deposit or security, or through robbery, or if he has oppressed his neighbor 3 or has found something lost and lied about it, swearing falsely—in any of all the things that people do and sin thereby— 4 if he has sinned and has realized his guilt and will restore what he took by robbery or what he got by oppression or the deposit that was committed to him or the lost thing that he found 5 or anything about which he has sworn falsely, he shall restore it in full and shall add a fifth to it, and give it to him to whom it belongs on the day he realizes his guilt. 6 And he shall bring to the priest as his compensation to the LORD a ram without blemish out of the flock, or its equivalent, for a guilt offering. 7 And the priest shall make atonement for him before the LORD, and he shall be forgiven for any of the things that one may do and thereby become guilty.”
 - For the person wronged: Restitution of what was taken plus a fifth
 - Restoration is based on what was taken.
 - For the Lord: a ram brought to the priest to be offered.
 - Requires a ram without blemish.
 - Atonement is made by a priest.
 - Guilt forgiven. Relationship with the LORD restored.
 - Looks forward to the sacrifice of Christ on the cross.
 - he shall see his offspring;
 - From straying sheep, we become God’s children.
 - he shall prolong his days;
 - From death, the Servant is raised to eternal life
 - As the king in Ps 21:4 He asked life of you; you gave it to him, length of days forever and ever

- V11 The condemned made righteous
 - Out of the anguish of his soul
 - Out of. Because of.
 - The anguish of his soul. All the horrors of the crucifixion.
 - he shall see and be satisfied
 - Idiom for “he shall be satisfied with what he sees”
 - by his knowledge.
 - Knowing God
 - Knowing His word.
 - the righteous one, my servant
 - Spoken by God
 - Righteous. Sinless
 - My Servant.
 - Belongs to the LORD
 - Commissioned for this work
 - make many to be accounted righteous
 - Many. The elect.
 - Accounted righteous.
 - Legal term: declared not guilty.
 - Given Jesus’s righteousness.
 - and he shall bear their iniquities.
 - Substitutionary atonement.
 - How the many can be accounted righteous by a just God.

- Keep your place in Isaiah. Turn to Ro 3:21-26

21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

- But now the righteousness of God has been manifested.
 - Paul is writing after the cross.
- apart from the law.
 - No one is justified by keeping the law.
- the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it
 - As Moses, Isaiah, many others.
- the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.
 - All who believe. Those who trust in the work of the Servant as described in God’s word
- for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
 - As described by Isaiah in detail
- and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus
 - The great exchange: Jesus bears our sins; we are given his righteousness as a gift
 - Isaiah
 - v10: his soul makes an offering for guilt
 - V11: He (makes) many to be accounted righteous
- whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood.
 - Isaiah v10: Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring;
- This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.
 - Passed over. But not forgotten.
- It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
 - Isaiah v11: Out 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.
 - The Servant bears our iniquities
 - He suffers anguish to the point of death.
 - Many are accounted righteous.
 - He is satisfied with what He sees: God is just and the justifier of all who believe.

■ v12 The victory achieved

- Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong
 - But the Servant does not share the supreme place with anyone. Eph 2:21 ... far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.
 - Motyer translates, “Therefore I will apportion to him the many, and the strong he will apportion as spoil.”
 - The many. God’s elect, given to Christ.
 - The strong. The forces of darkness who are defeated.
- Summary: four factors that brought the victory
 - He poured out his soul to death.
 - Voluntary self-offering even to death.
 - He was numbered with the transgressors.
 - Voluntary self-identification with sinful men.
 - He bore the sin of many.
 - Having no sin of His own, thereby qualifying as an acceptable sacrifice.
 - Voluntary shouldering of all the sins of the elect.
 - He makes intercession for the transgressors.
 - Now alive.
 - Interceding to bring all His brothers and sisters to glory.

Summary of the fourth Servant Song

- The question: How will God’s people be rescued from captivity to sin?
- God’s answer: the Servant
- 52:13-15 Tension: How do exaltation, suffering, universal benefit go together?
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Discussion

We will break into three groups for discussion. The questions are

1. The Lamb of God 53:7-9

- a. Oppressed and afflicted**
- b. Opened not His mouth**
- c. Taken away**
- d. With the wicked and with the rich**
- e. 1 Pet 4:19 Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.**

2. The will of the Lord 53:10

- a. The will of the Lord to crush Him**
- b. He shall see and be satisfied**
- c. The will of the Lord shall prosper in His hand**

3. To Him the many 52:11-12

- a. He poured out His soul unto death**
- b. He was numbered with the transgressors**
- c. He bore the sin of many**
- d. He makes intercession for the transgressors**
- e. Are we His?**

Remember to worship the Lord: (1) See (2) Know (3) Respond

For next week: To the Faithful Remnant (part 2) 51:17 - 52:12

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