

**The Failed Servant**  
Isaiah paints Israel as a **failed servant** which has failed the Lord in many ways, as incapable of fulfilling its commission. **Isaiah 42:19, 43:10**

God would not forget his servant Israel (44:21) but would rise up a new Servant who would not fail.

## 42

1 Behold my **servant**, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.  
2 He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;  
3 a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.  
4 He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.

5 Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it:  
6 "I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations,  
7 to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.  
8 I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.  
9 Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them." **Isaiah 42:1-9 (ESV)**

And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One, listen to him!" **Luke 9:35**

Matthew 12:20

Luke 2:32

Rev 1:16  
Rev 2:12  
Rev 19:15

## 49

### A Quick Summary

*The servant prepared from birth, like a polished arrow, to bring Jacob back to God, a **light for the nations**, a covenant for the people, comfort and compassion for his people.*

## 50

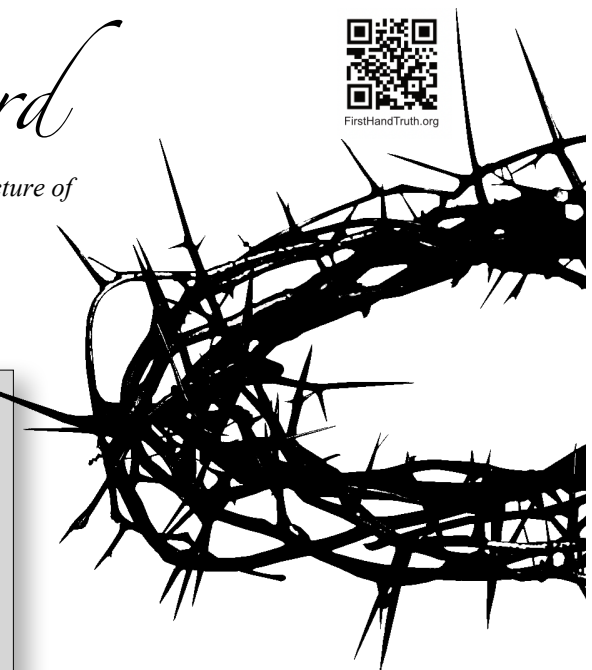
4 The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary.  
Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught.  
5 The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward.  
6 I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.  
7 But the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.  
8 He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me.  
9 Behold, the Lord GOD helps me; who will declare me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.  
**Isaiah 50:4-9 (ESV)**

**Flint:** a stone, a very hard rock

Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.  
**Romans 8:33**



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Compare **Isaiah 61:1** (which is connected with these passages) with **Luke 4:16-21** as Jesus starts his ministry.

Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him,  
**Matthew 27:30**

## 53

### The Suffering Servant: See Tomorrow's Study

Note: The tail end of chapter 52 is also a part of this chapter thematically.

The culmination of the Servant Songs is the Sacrifice the Messiah gives for the sins of others.

### SUMMARY / The Servant Will...

Serve God First / Have God's Spirit Upon Him / Bring forth Justice  
Will be gentle to the Bruised and the Faint Hearted  
Bring a New Covenant / Be a Light to the Nations / Open People's Eyes / Set People Free  
Be Prepared from Birth / Be a Polished Arrow / Bring Jacob Back to God  
Bring Comfort / Allow Others to Strike and Hurt Him / Be Spit Upon  
Trust in the Judgement of God / **He Would Outlast those Who Torment Him...**

...and terribly, much more...

## Isaiah 52:13-15

Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. As many were astonished at you—his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—so 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.

*The Passage in Isaiah 53 actually begins in Isaiah 52, 13...*

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.  
**1 Peter 1:10-11**

"he himself bore our sins in his body on the tree...by his wounds you have been healed."  
**1 Peter 2:24**

"...who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. **Romans 4:25**

Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him... **Matthew 26:67**

"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!" **John 1:29**

For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the shepherd and Overseer of your souls. **1 Peter 2:25**

# The Suffering Servant

Isaiah 53 / Note: Isaiah ministered in Israel as a prophet between 740-680 B.C., Some 700 odd years before Christ.

Matthew 27:29-30

Revelation 5:9, Hebrews 10:22

Romans 15:21

Jesus' crucifixion and ministry has about 27 direct connections with this passage!

## 53

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

2 Tim 2:8 2 For 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 desire him.

John 1:11

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

Mark 9:12  
See Verse 4 & 5

4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

Matt 8:17

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Zech 12:10

6 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.

See  
2 Corinthians 5:21

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.

John 18:12

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?

See Verse 8 & 9

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.

Matthew 27:57-60

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.

Luke 22:42

Acts 2:22-24, Romans 6:9

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.

Hebrews 12:2

Rom 5:1

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.

Luke 22:37

Heb 7:25

But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." **Matthew 26:63 / see also Mark 14:60-61**

But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer... but he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. **Matthew 27:12, 14**

Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our passover lamb, has been sacrificed. **Romans 4:25**

And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain... **Revelation 5:6**, see also Revelation 13:8

When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. **1 Peter 2:23**

You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. **1 John 3:5**

For as by one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. **Romans 5:19**, see also 1 Peter 3:18

For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors.' For what is written about me has its fulfillment. **Luke 22:37**

So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. **Hebrews 9:28**

Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. **Matthew 27:38** See also Luke 23:33

And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. **Luke 23:34**



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