

ISAIAH CHAPTER FIFTY THREE

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INTRODUCTION

- A. For twenty-six centuries the 53rd chapter of the book of Isaiah has been a beauty spot of biblical literature.
 - 1. Kyle Yates called it the “Mt. Everest” of Old Testament prophecy.”
 - 2. It was from this section that the treasurer from Ethiopia was reading.
 - 3. From this text Philip preached about Jesus.
 - B. Because of its great prophetic message of Christ it has been the target of critical attacks.
 - 1. One that Isaiah did not author the material.
 - 2. The other that this great passage has no primary reference to Jesus Christ.
 - C. Jesus himself declared that Isaiah 53 was “fulfilled” in him (Lk. 22:37), and that should settle the matter!
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Jehovah’s Suffering Servant

- A. A declaration of the sort of unbelief that would be characteristic of the Jewish nation in general (v. 1).
 - 1. “*Who hath believed our report? And to whom hath the arm of Jehovah been revealed?*” A negative answer is anticipated.
 - 2. John interprets this (John 12:37-38) of Jesus’ miracle-working abilities, which were an extension of Jehovah’s “arm” (power).
 - 3. The Jews, for the most part, refused to believe on Him.
 - B. THE PROPHET DESCRIBES THE REJECTION AND SUFFERING OF THE LORD JESUS. (v. 2,3).
 - 1. Christ grew up before the Father as a “tender plant out of dry ground”.
 - 2. From the human vantage point, it appeared quite unlikely that Jesus could accomplish anything.
 - 3. How dramatically history has proved false that assumption!
 - 4. His power was not in a physical attraction; rather, it was grounded in his own divine nature, and in his relationship with the Father. (John 1:11)
 - C. CHRIST WAS PUT TO DEATH:
 - 1. In the divine scheme of things, that act would constitute an atonement sacrifice on behalf of rebellious man.(Vs. 4-6).
 - 2. The substitutionary nature of the death of Jesus is abundantly affirmed; he bore our griefs and sorrows.
 - 3. Jesus received the stroke of God for *our* transgressions.
 - 4. *When we are tempted to complain about God’s allowance of suffering in this world, let us humbly reflect upon the experience of His Son.*
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SIGNIFICANT POINTS

- A. THE UNIVERSAL SINFULNESS OF HUMANITY IS AFFIRMED.
 - 1. "All we like sheep have gone astray.
 - 2. Without Jesus, the human family void of hope.
 - B. This deplorable condition is our personal responsibility.
 - 1. We were not "born astray"
 - 2. **Rather, we have "gone astray".**
 - C. The remedy of Jesus' death is available potentially for all.
 - 1. Jehovah has laid on him the iniquity of us "all."
 - 2. This declaration stands in bold contrast to Calvinism's concept of a "limited atonement" i.e., that Christ died only for the elect.
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DEATH ON THE CROSS

- A. The submissive disposition of the Lord during his trial is depicted (v.7). (Phil. 2:8).
 - 1. Though he was oppressed and afflicted, Jesus made no defense in an attempt to save his life (v. 7a).
 - 2. Rather, meekly, as a lamb that is led to the slaughter, he endured the cross(v. 7b; cf. John 1:29; Hebrews 12:2).
 - B. Corrupt legal proceeding. As a result,
 - 1. The Roman procurator's judgment of *I find no crime in him* was taken away.
 - 2. A survey of the Jewish criminal code in vogue during the first century reveals numerous infractions of the law during that frenzied pursuit to murder Jesus.
 - C. The events associated with Jesus' death were extraordinary.
 - 1. In death he was treated as a wicked person...though he had done no violence.
 - 2. Yet he was buried in a rich man's tomb (v. 9). (In life he had no place to lay his head, even the fox had holes, but was buried in garden tomb.
 - 3. Normally, a crucified criminal was not even afforded a burial under Roman custom.
 - D. The death of Christ was fundamental in plan of God for human salvation.
 - 1. Jesus was an "offering for sin" in order that divine justice be satisfied. 10a
 - 2. The Lord's "days" were prolonged, however, by virtue of his resurrection from the grave (v. 10b).
 - 3. Christ's mission was thus victorious,
 - 4. It is therefore only through the Savior that reconciliation with God can be effected. (V. 12b).
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5. New Testament is filled with reference to fulfillment of Isaiah 53.
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