

In Search of the Servant of
God (Isa 52-53)

***We cannot conceive what is in the mind of
God.***

- Proud men often think *they can know everything.* (Rom 11:33-35)

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- **Romans 11:33-35** - Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 34 “For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?” 35 “Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?”

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- God's plan would *truly startle* those who finally came to see it!
- Many *remained blind and fought God* while thinking they were serving Him. They made their own light rather than follow God's.
(Isa 50:10-11; Jn 16:2-3)

We cannot conceive what is in the mind of God.

- **Isaiah 50:10-11** - " Who among you fears the LORD? Who obeys the voice of His Servant? Who walks in darkness And has no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD And rely upon his God. 11 Look, all you who kindle a fire, Who encircle yourselves with sparks: Walk in the light of your fire and in the sparks you have kindled -- This you shall have from My hand: You shall lie down in torment.

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- The ministry of Christ *fulfilled every part* of these servant songs.
- If you looked for *the character of this Servant* you could find Him!
- Common prejudices, not based on scripture, *even hindered the disciples!* How is it possible for man to kill the Messiah? **(Mt 16:21-23)**

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- **Matthew 16:21-23** - From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day

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- 22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" 23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

We cannot conceive what is in the mind of God.

- Imagine reading these passages before Jesus came! It is difficult to understand *until afterwards it was all was revealed!* It is plain now!

The account of the Servant will be one of extremes (52:13-15)

- **Isaiah 52:13-15** - Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. 14 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

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- 15 So shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; For what had not been told them they shall see, And what they had not heard they shall consider.

The account of the Servant will be one of extremes (52:13-15)

- The Servant would be *beaten and bruised to an extreme.*
- The Servant would be almost *unidentifiable as a man.* (52:14; Psa 22:6)

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- **Psalm 22:6** - But I am a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people.

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- Consider the bloody pulp that Pilate presented to the crowd. (Jn 19:1-3)

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- **John 19:1-3** - So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. 2 And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. 3 Then they said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they struck Him with their hands.

The account of the Servant will be one of extremes (52:13-15)

- What would you think of such a person?
Imagine the thought of *this being God!*
- The Servant would be *exalted to the very highest place.* (52:13)

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- **Isaiah 52:13** - Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high.

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- Can you imagine *this scene of exaltation* from heaven? (Ps 24:7-10)

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- **Psalm 24:7-10** - Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. 8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle.

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- 9 Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. 10 Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory.

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- He was received to sit at *the right hand of God.* (Mk 16:19)

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- **Mark 16:19** - So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.

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- Jesus understands what it means to be crushed and ignored.
- He also knows what God can do for us now if we will let Him. **(Eph 2:4-6)**

The account of the Servant will be one of extremes (52:13-15)

- **Ephesians 2:4-6** - But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

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- The account of the Servant will bring extreme reactions in all men
- They will hear of that which before was inconceivable.
- Even the proud will close their mouths and marvel.

The account of the Servant will be one of extremes (52:13-15)

- Who *will actually believe* this report? Many fought it!

***The appearance of the Servant caused many
to look down and despise Him (53:1-3)***

- The Servant in fact had *the “arm of the Lord”*
with Him. **(Isa 53:1)**

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

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- Too many people assume they know where the “arm of the Lord” is working.
- God reminds us it has to be “revealed.”
- Where does God’s power work today? It is not to the “wise” and “powerful” but to His suffering servants! We are like Him!
(Rom 8:36-37; 2 Cor 12:9-10)

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- **Romans 8:36-37** - As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

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- **2 Corinthians 12:9-10** - And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

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- The Servant would be a “root out of dry
ground.” (53:2)

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- **Isaiah 53:2** - For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him.

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- This was a *distinctive description* of the Messiah. (Isa 11:1, 10)

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- **Isaiah 11:1** - There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

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- **Isaiah 11:10** - “And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious.”

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- “...It means that he would start, as it were, from a decayed stock or stump, as a shoot springs up from a root that is apparently dead. It does not refer to his manner of life ... but to his starting as it were out of a dry and sterile soil where any growth could not be expected, or from a stump or stock that was apparently dead” – Barnes

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- Men wrote off the Servant because of His suffering. **(53:3-4)**

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- **Isaiah 53:3-4** - 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; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.
4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

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- We all tend *to judge men by appearance.*
What would Jesus look like if He came today?

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- We all tend *to judge men by appearance.*
What would Jesus look like if He came today?
- Jesus made it very clear that His followers *would not be caught up* in the things that men find so great. **(Mk 10:42-44)**

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to look down and despise Him (53:1-3)***

- **Mark 10:42-44** - But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.

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- 43 "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. 44 "And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all.

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- Are we judging others by the standards that men judged the Lord? (Jas 2:1-7)

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- **James 2:1-4** - My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. 2 For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes

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- 3 and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," 4 have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

***The Servant was a sacrifice for the sins of
all men (53:4-6)***

- **Isaiah 53:4-6** - Surely He has borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed
Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5
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.

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all men (53:4-6)***

- 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.

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- How does a man's suffering heal others? How does God lay sins of mankind upon another man?

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- How does a man's suffering heal others? How does God lay sins of mankind upon another man?
- Only temple sacrifices of animals were connected to forgiveness of sins.

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all men (53:4-6)***

- In the complete plan of God the sacrifice of the King would provide forgiveness to all men, *both in the past and in the present!*
(Heb 9:14-15; Rom 3:25)

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- **Hebrews 9:14-15** - how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

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- 15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

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- When John the Baptist began to preach baptism for the remission of sins *apart from the temple and the priests*, then it was obvious that change was coming!
- This was all part of God's eternal plan!
(Mk 11:29-30)

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- **Mark 11:29-30** - But Jesus answered and said to them, "I also will ask you one question; then answer Me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things: 30 "The baptism of John -- was it from heaven or from men? Answer Me."

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- God placed our sins *upon this Servant!*
(2 Cor 5:21; 1 Jn 2:1-2)

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- **2 Corinthians 5:21** - For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

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- Our sacrifice *lives and now acts* on our behalf!
(Rom 5:10)

***The Servant was a sacrifice for the sins of
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- **Romans 5:10** - For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

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- Jesus did not want anyone to die in their sins!
(Jn 8:21-24)

***The Servant was a sacrifice for the sins of
all men (53:4-6)***

- Jesus did not want anyone to die in their sins!
(Jn 8:21-24)
- This Servant truly cares for each of us.

***This Servant would be raised from the dead.
(53:7-12)***

- These passages were widely used in converting others! **(Acts 8:30-35)**

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- **Acts 8:32-35** - The place in the Scripture which he read was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth. 33 In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth."

***This Servant would be raised from the dead.
(53:7-12)***

- 34 So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.

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(53:7-12)

- It was widely known that He was denied justice, that known criminals were placed around Him and that they struck and cursed Him.
- He was buried in a rich man's grave!
- The *death of this servant* is clearly foretold.

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- He suffers and is *disfigured in an extreme way*. He was afflicted to the point of being a lamb “led to the slaughter.” (Isa 52:14; 53:7)

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- **Isaiah 53:7** - 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.

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- He was *spit upon and slapped.*
(Isa 50:6-7; Mt 26:67)
- He is *killed and buried in a grave.*
(Isa 53:8-9; Mt 27:57-60)

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- **Isaiah 53:8-9** - He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. 9 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.

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(53:7-12)***

- He *poured out His soul unto death!*
(Isa 53:12)

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- **Isaiah 53:12** - 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...

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- He *never struck back* or spoke against those that did this! (1 Pt 2:21-25)

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- **1 Peter 2:21-24** - For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:
22 "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth";

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- 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness -- by whose stripes you were healed.

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(53:7-12)***

- He remained silent when others would have spoken out!

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- He remained silent when others would have spoken out!
- When He spoke it showed love for those that hated Him. **(Lk 23:34-35)**

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(53:7-12)***

- **Luke 23:34-35** - Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots. 35 And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God."

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(53:7-12)***

- Even though He dies, *He then lives again!*

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- Even though He dies, *He then lives again!*
- His days will be prolonged! **(Isa 53:10)**

This Servant would be raised from the dead.
(53:7-12)

- **Isaiah 53:10** - Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.

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- He will *live again to see this sacrificial death
bless many!* (Isa 53:11)

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(53:7-12)

- **Isaiah 53:11** - 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.

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- He will reign as *a victor dividing the spoils* of His defeated enemies. **(Isa 53:12)**

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- **Isaiah 53:12** - 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.

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- Indeed, the “pleasure of the Lord” prospered in His hands! *Is that true of us?*
(Isa 53:10; Gal 1:10)

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- **Galatians 1:10** - For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

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- Shall we yield and become a servant of the Servant!