

Handout 1: Isaiah Lesson 20

For Christians Isaiah 52:13-53:12 is probably the best known and most often quoted passage in the Old Testament. Quotes from Isaiah 52:13-53:12 in the New Testament:

Isaiah Verses	New Testament Quotes
52:15	Rom 15:21
53:1	Jn 12:38; Rom 10:16
53:4	Mt 8:17 (fulfillment statement for Jesus)
53:7-8	Acts 8:32-33 (Septuagint)
53:9	1 Pt 2:22
53:12	Lk 22:37

The fifteen verses that comprise the fourth Song of the Servant divide evenly into five sets of three verses:

1. Introduction (52:13-15)
2. Rejection (53:1-3)
3. Suffering (53:4-6)
4. Death (53:7-9)
5. Triumph (53:10-12)

In verses 13-15 Isaiah describes the Servant's:

1. Wisdom (verse 13a)
2. Exalted status (verse 13b)
3. Appearance (verse 14)
4. Relationship with Gentile nations (verse 15)

Isaiah 53:4-6

1. The Servant's suffering is substitutionary—suffering for others and not because of any wrongdoing he has done.
2. The Servant's vicarious suffering is ordained by God.
3. His suffering will bring peace and well-being.

The blessings to the people through the works of the Servant in each of the verses in 53:4, 5 and 6:

Verses	The People	The Servant
53:4	<i>our sufferings our sorrows</i>	<i>he was bearing he was carrying</i>
53:5	<i>for our rebellions because of our guilt reconciling us we have been healed</i>	<i>he was wounded [pierced] [he was] crushed [he was] punishment by his bruises</i>
53:6	<i>the acts of rebellion of us all</i>	<i>to bear on him</i>

God's unnamed Servant is called to bear sufferings that are not due to his own personal sins but are taken up in atonement for the sins of others. St. Matthew will quote Isaiah 53:4 as a fulfillment statement applied to Jesus and His mission in Matthew 8:17.

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The prophecies of the Servant dying vicariously for the sins of the people according to the will of God are fulfilled in the death of Jesus Christ:

1. Like the Servant Jesus came into the world to do the will of God the Father (Jn 6:38; Heb 10:5-10).
2. Like the Servant Jesus embraced the Father's plan of divine salvation in His redemptive mission (Jn 4:34; 10:27).
3. Like the Servant the plan was for God the Son, Jesus the Messiah, who knew no sin to sacrifice himself for the sins of the world—offering His life as a ransom for many (Mk 10:45; Jn 10:17; 14:31; Rom 3:24-26; Heb 9:26; 1 Pt 2:21-25; 3:18a; 1 Jn 2:2; 1 Jn 3:5).

In Jesus' mission He fulfilled all the verses in the fourth Song of the Servant:

Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Description of the Servant	Fulfillment in Jesus Christ
52:13	He is raised, lifted up, exalted	God exalted Jesus in His Resurrection and Ascension and will exalt Him fully at the Second Coming (Phil 2:9-11)
52:14	His appearance is disfigured	Jesus was scourged and beaten at His trials before the Sanhedrin and Pilate (Mt 26:67)
52:15	He will sprinkle many nations	Sprinkling of His blood brings forgiveness (1 Pt 1:2); nations will come into His kingdom in the Sacrament of Baptism (Mt 28:19)
53:4-6	He suffered for our sins by God's command	Jesus died for our sins according to God's plan (1 Cor 15:3)
53:7	Silent before his oppressors	Jesus was silent before His accusers at His trial (Mk 14:60-61)
53:8	He is killed for the sins of his people	Jesus died for the sins of Israel and all mankind (2 Cor 5:14-15)
53:9	He is assigned a grave with the wicked and a tomb with the rich but he did no wrong	Jesus was crucified between 2 criminals, and He was buried in a rich man's tomb (Mk 15:27-28, 43-46)
53:10	It was God's will to crush him; he will see his offspring	It was God's plan that Jesus should be an offering for sin (Rom 5:9; 2 Cor 5:21)
53:12	He will receive a great reward because he gave up his life according to God's plan	Jesus received a great reward because He poured out His life on the altar of the cross (Phil 2:9-11; Heb 1:3-4)

See the complete list of the four Servant Songs and Jesus' fulfillment of the mission of the Servant of God in each song in the #2 handout for this lesson.

Handout 2: Isaiah Lesson 20

The Four Songs of the Servant Fulfilled in Jesus Christ	
The First Song of the Servant Isaiah 42:1-7	Jesus Christ
He is the “chosen one” (Is 42:1)	Jesus is the “chosen one” of God: Mt 3:16; 12:18-21; Jn 1:32-34
He brings fair judgment to the nations (Is 42:2-3)	Jesus will be given the authority to judge the nations in His Second Coming: Jn 8:45; Mt 25:31-46
He is meek and mild (Is 42:2-3)	Jesus was meek and mild: Mt 11:29; 21:5
He will not be crushed until he has established fair judgment on earth (Is 42:4)	Jesus was ordained to complete His mission: Jn 5:30; Acts 3:14; 7:52; Rom 14:10; 2 Cor 5:10
He is a covenant of the peoples (Is 42:6)	Jesus declared a New Covenant: Lk 22:20; 1 Cor 11:23-25
He opens the eyes of the blind (Is 42:7)	Jesus opened the eyes of the blind among other miracles: Lk 7:22; Jn 8:12; Jn 9
I AM Yahweh, that is my name (Is 42:7)	Jesus proclaimed Himself the “I AM”: Jn 8:24, 58; 18:5, 8
The Second Song of the Servant Isaiah 49:1-7	Jesus Christ
He is called from the womb (Is 49:1, 5)	Call from the moment of His Incarnation: Lk 1:26-33
God made his voice authoritative (Is 49:1)	Jesus’ authority came from God: Mt 7:29; Heb 4:12; Rev 1:116; 19:15
God gave him his mission	Jesus’ mission was ordained by God: Lk 1:32-33; Jn 14:10
God concealed him in early life (Is 49:2)	Jesus was hidden from the world in His childhood: Lk 2:39-40
God manifested His glory through him (Is 49:3)	God manifested His glory through Jesus: Mt 3:17; Jn 11:4; 14:13
The difficulty of his mission (Is 49:4)	Jesus faced a difficult mission in that He was rejected by many of His own people: Jn 6:36, 64; 9:18
His reward was with God (Is 49:4)	Jesus’ reward was with God: Jn 13:31-32
His mission is to bring back Jacob/Israel (Is 49:5)	Jesus was sent to gather in the “lost sheep” of Israel: Mt 15:24
He is honored in God’s eyes (49:5)	God the Father honored God the Son: Jn 17:5
He is a light to the nations; universal salvation (Is 49:6)	Jesus’ mission was bring universal salvation through His kingdom of the Church: Mt 28:19; Lk 2:32; Lk 24:47-48; Acts 13:47; 2 Cor 6:2
He is despised, detested, the slave of despots (Is 49:7)	His own people arranged for His death and He was condemned by a foreign despot: Mt 26:4; 27:22-25; Mk 3:6; Lk 22:2; Jn 5:18; 7:1; 11:57
The Third Song of the Servant Isaiah 50:4-11	Jesus Christ
He had a disciple’s tongue (Is 50:4)	Jesus spoke the words of God: Jn 3:11
He gave comfort to the weary (Is 50:4)	Jesus offered comfort to the meek and afflicted: Mt 11:29-30
He offered back to those who struck him; his cheeks to those who plucked his beard (Is 50:6)	Jesus did not defend Himself: Mt 26:67; 27:26-30; Mk 14:65; 15:15-19; Lk 22:63-65; Jn 19:1

He did not turn away my face from insults and spitting (Is 50:6)	Jesus did not respond to insults: Mt 26:67; 27:30
The Fourth Song of the Servant Isaiah 52:14-53:12	Jesus Christ
He was rejected by his people (Is 52)	Jesus was rejected: Mt 8:17; 27:1-2, 12-14, 38:13-53:12
He will grow great, rise to great heights, be exalted (Is 52:13)	Mt 8:17; 27:1-2, 12-14, 38 = resurrection and ascension; fully exalted at Second Coming = Phil 2:9-11
People were aghast at him; disfigured (Is 52:14)	Scourging; crucifixion Mt 26:67; 27:29-31; Jn 19:5 Phil 2:9-11
He will sprinkle many nations (Is 52:15)	Sprinkling of His blood brings forgiveness: 1 Pt 1:2; nations will come into His kingdom in the Sacrament of Baptism: Mt 28:19-20; Jn 3:3-5; Rom 15:21
He is a revelation of Yahweh (Is 53:1)	Jesus is God's revelation to mankind: Jn 12:38; Rom 10:16
He is despised, lowest of men, man of sorrows (Is 53:3)	Crucifixion; see description in Ps 22 centuries before this form of capital punishment existed
He bore our sufferings at God's command (Is 53:4-6)	Jesus bore our sufferings: Mt 8:17; Mk 15:3-4, 27-28; Lk 23:1-25, 32-34; Heb 2:10; He died for our sins according to God's plan: 1 Cor 15:3
He is wounded for our rebellions, crushed because of our guilt (Is 53:5)	Jesus was wounded for our sins: Rom 4:25; 2 Cor 5:21; Gal 3:13
Reconciling us fell on him and we have been healed by his bruises (Is 53:5)	We have been healed by Jesus' atoning sacrifice: 1 Pt 2:24
Our acts of rebellion fell on him (Is 53:6)	Jesus died for our sins: 2 Cor 5:21
Forcibly after sentence he was taken (Is 53:6)	Jesus's arrest and trials by Sanhedrin and Pilate: Mt 26:47-57; 26:59-68; 27:1-26; Mk 14:1, 43-47, 53-65; 15:1-15; Lk 22:54, 66-22:1; Jn 18:12-13, 19:12-16
He never opened his mouth—like a lamb to the slaughter (Is 53:7)	Jesus did not defend Himself at His trials: Mt 26:63; 27:14; Mk 14:60-61; Jn 1:29; Acts 8:32-33; 1 Pt 2:23
He was struck dead for his people's rebellion (Is 53:8)	Quoted in Acts 8:32-33
He was given a grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich (Is 53:9)	He was crucified with criminals and buried in the tomb of a rich man: Mt 27:38, 60; Acts 10:43; 13:38-39; 1 Cor 15:3; 1 Pt 2:21-25; 1 Jn 1:7, 9
Although he had done no violence, had spoken no deceit (Is 53:9)	Jesus was an innocent victim: 1 Pt 2:22
He gave his life as a sin offering; bearing the sins of many; taking their guilt on himself; interceding for the rebellious (Is 53:10, 11, 12)	Jesus took mankind's sins upon Himself: Mt 20:17-19; 26:28; Mk 15:28; Lk 22:37; Jn 1:29; Acts 2:38; 3:19; Rom 3:26; 4:25; Gal 4:1; Eph 1:7; Heb 9:28; 1 Pt 3:18; 2 Pt 2:24
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