



# ISAIAH: THE MESSAGE OF HOPE

## Lesson 8 - A Prophetic Song: God is Majestic

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### INTRODUCTION

🔑 When Philip first approached the Ethiopian Eunuch in Acts 8, the Eunuch was reading from a passage in Isaiah 53. The passage contained a description about a suffering servant who would go through torture, agony, and pain for another's sake. The Eunuch's one question "Who is this speaking about?" allowed Philip to teach Jesus to him.

1. The song from which the Eunuch read (Isaiah 52 and 53) is among the scriptures most cherished by Christians.
2. This song graphically portrays the sufferings of God's Servant and emphasizes the marvelous sacrifice that was given so that mankind could be reunited with God in fellowship.
3. Throughout this song we find emphasis on God's grace, man's atonement, and Christ's critical role in the scheme of redemption.
4. One cannot read this song without realizing the marvelous grace of God, the supreme love of the Lord Christ, and the hopeless predicament of mankind being held hostage by sin.

This final song is perhaps the best-known passage in Isaiah's prophecy.

1. This final "song" depicts an overall view of the Servant's life and death on behalf of His Master.
2. Although His life would end with a victorious coronation as the Messiah, this song helps show a wonderful summary of the Servant's life leading up to that coronation.
3. The Servant would face opposition, endure great suffering, yet He would be victorious.

🔑 Elements regarding this song...

1. This song is a message of cheer that must be heralded throughout the world.
2. This song is the catalyst for evangelism and the spark to energize God's Church to remain focused upon her objective.

A careful reading and contemplation of this Servant Song is a humbling exercise.

1. Understanding the principles of this final song will urge one to share the message of Good News with all known friends and family (2 Corinthians 5:14-15, "For the love of Christ constrains; propels) us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf").
2. Read this passage and ask: Do I appreciate the sacrifice of the Lord Christ for MY sins? Do I respect the planning of God that brought about Christ's sacrifice so that the sin-problem could be resolved?



3. This portrait is repeated again in the New Testament by John in his Revelation (Revelation 5:6-10).

“And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain...and He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth’.”

Look closer at this final song and consider its majestic lessons. Study the text and apply it personally so that you will appreciate the gracious love of God that has offered salvation to all in the world.

1. Events of the coronation of Kings are festive times when the life of the one to be enthroned is reviewed and his strengths are highlighted.
2. As the celebration of the coronation of a new Regent is exercised close attention is paid to every aspect of the King's life and career. Everything is festive and the optimism of the future causes all to rejoice. In earthly coronations all is focused upon the strength, power, and triumph that the new Regent's reign brings.
3. Even though the Messiah's coronation is announced and triumph is assured, there is a definite mention of pain and suffering that is critical to the success of this new Regent.
4. Look closely and see how Inspiration reveals critical points that unite to validate the Messiah as the One anointed to rule and reign in His Kingdom of righteous saints.

## THE CORONATION OF THE SERVANT KING (52:13-53:12)

As the section of Scripture is studied it will be noticed that the Suffering Servant will be marked by five points that summarize the Messiah's reign. These discuss the historical aspect of His reign. If one comprehends these five points then he comprehends the Savior's role. He should demonstrate appreciation for the masterful scheme of redemption planned, purposed, prepared, and presented by God! Look closely at each of these five points.

### I. *THE SERVANT'S EXALTATION (Isaiah 52:13-15).*

#### 🕊️ A. *There is WISDOM* (Isaiah 52:13).

1. The very first thing about this Servant is that He deals wisely.
  - a. The translation “will prosper” is not accurate.
  - b. This verb communicates intelligent and effective action (Joshua 1:7,8; 1 Samuel 18:5, 30; 1 Kings 2:3).
  - c. Hence the better translation is “prudent” (Young, vol. 3, 335).



2. The exaltation results because He acts wisely.
  - a. All that He does is done with serious thought and consideration.
  - b. Some would say the Servant's actions are "unwise" behaviors. But God praises Him as "wise."
3. God planned "wisdom" to characterize the Servant's role.
  - a. ☞ This wisdom would be different than the world's wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:18-31).
  - b. ☞ This wisdom would be evidenced by the Church that the Servant would establish (Ephesians 3:10, "the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church").
  - c. ☞ This wisdom would be evident in the lives of those saved by the Servant's sacrifice (Ephesians 5:7-17).

"Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth)...learn what is pleasing to the Lord...Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead expose them...it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them...be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."  
(Ephesians 5:7-17)
4. The Servant's wise action will result in the three consequences mentioned by the verbs in the latter part of verse 13.
  - a. ☞ He will "rise" and not remain in his condition of humiliation—although He may suffer, He will not only get through that suffering but He will get through it in an amazing way.
  - b. ☞ He will "stand out" because as He rises through the sufferings, He is distinguished from everyone else. He thus will definitely be different than all others.
  - c. ☞ He will "be high exceedingly" in that He will tower above all others. These three verbs definitely apply to Christ (Philippians 2:9-11; Acts 2:33; 3:13, 26).
5. The verbs in verse 13b assure us that Jesus Christ is far beyond any other "hope" for salvation.
6. Christ is incomparable. Those who follow this Servant will also be identified as distinctive and above all others in morality and righteousness.







☞ **B. There is ASTONISHMENT** (Isaiah 52:14).

1. The degradation of the Servant is shocking.



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- a. The Servant will face the harshest and cruelest punishments in order to accomplish His objectives.
  - b. Some would look at these punishments and conclude that the Servant was unworthy to fulfill His task because such punishment was reserved only for the guilty.
  - c. The astonishing fact is that the suffering was not because of the Servant's sins but for those who had misunderstood Him!
  - d. So great were His sufferings that His physical body was disfigured to the extent that He did not look like a human being.
2. The fact that One was willing to undergo such torture and cruelties when He was innocent and those who dealt the cruelties were guilty is beyond our comprehension (Romans 5:1-11, "while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us").
- a.  Do we fully contemplate this Truth? Do we truthfully understand our damned condition and realize our hopeless future?
    -  Many become a "Christian" without ever knowing the "pricked heart" of conviction.
    -  Many never comprehend the emptiness and pain of the sinner condemned to die.
    -  Many fail to appreciate the struggles that others have in "becoming" righteous children of God (Luke 18:9-14, "some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt").
  - b.  How many sing the hymns of conviction yet never comprehend their true situation before God? How many truly identify with Paul's confession and reliance upon the grace of God? (1 Corinthians 15:10, "by the grace of God I am what I am"). Have you ever "seen" the grace of God in another's life? (Acts 11:23).
3. The Servant was destined by the planning of Jehovah God to live so that others would be astonished by the grace of God that was evident in His life.
4. That Servant calls upon all today to follow His example so that others will watch and be astonished at the grace of God as well (Acts 13:43; Colossians 1:6; Hebrews 12:15).
-  C. There is ATONEMENT (Isaiah 52:15).

"He will sprinkle many nations, Kings will shut their mouths on account of Him; for what had not been told them they will see, and what they had not heard they will understand" (Isaiah 52:15).



The success of the Servant is stated in this verse. ☞ He was willing to suffer humiliation and degradation because He had one objective in mind—the cleansing of man's soul!

## 1. ☞ The Action—"sprinkle"

- a. The Servant's action is selfless—it focuses on what He can do for others!
- b. "Sprinkling" refers to an act that purifies the corrupt and makes it acceptable for fellowship with God.
- c. This term was used in the Mosaic Law to describe the cleansing of the defiled (Leviticus 14:7a; 4:6; 8:11).
- d. The Servant's action would fulfill this shadow of this Old Testament ritual to describe the cleansing of sin from man:

1 Peter 1:1-2, "To those...who are chosen...by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood"

Hebrews 10:22, "let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water"

Hebrews 12:24, "to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel").

It is used to describe those who are pure in heart and attitude. Psalm 51:9, "Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities"

Ezekiel 36:25, "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols").

*Note:* The One who sprinkled had to be pure before He could sprinkle others. The priestly action is here considered. The work of the priest was to purify the defiled worshiper and provide the means for cleansing so acceptance to God would be possible.

This priestly work of the Servant will...

... demonstrate God's "wisdom."

... exalt the Servant.

## 2. ☞ The Application—"many nations"

- a. The work of cleansing will be offered to the entire world.
- b. "Many nations" encompasses all humanity.
- c. The Servant's atonement was never designed to be restricted to just one nation.



d. The message of this offered cleansing is to be heralded throughout the world.

### 3. 🕊️ The Awe—"Kings will shut their mouths"

a. The reaction of those who hear this offer of cleansing is total awe.

➤ They are speechless.

➤ They cannot find words to speak.

b. When one comprehends the incredible cruelty willingly accepted and the amazing cleansing that made possible by the sacrifice, the person is completely unable to speak! 🕊️ One who thought himself too "dirty" or "sinful" to approach the Creator can now enjoy fellowship with the Holy God! (Ephesians 2:1-11).

c. It is a tragedy that 🕊️ some will hear of this gracious cleansing but will not be moved to submission or astonished silence (Acts 26:24-29).

d. How tragic are 🕊️ those who obey and enjoy God's wonderful cleansing but then turn away and treat it with contempt by their disobedience (Hebrews 10:26ff).

e. The Servant will be rejected but eventually "many" will repent and turn to Him.

1) Even those of the highest earthly rank will stand in awe.

2) Those who have been cleansed MUST take this message to others who have not experienced God's gift.

3) Many who have not heard will be persuaded to obey and find salvation.

### 4. 🕊️ The Acceptance—"see" and "understand"

a. When the message is heralded, the message will bring results.

b. The gospel will always be effective (Isaiah 55:1-13). What mortal would dare say there is no use in efforts that spread the Gospel Word?

c. 🕊️ Many who have never heard, will obey if they are only told. 🕊️ Many who have never understood, will understand and conform to Truth if they are only taught.

d. 🕊️ How tragic that many will stand in Judgment and hear their souls condemned to Hell's eternity because someone did not tell them the Truth so they could understand, believe, and obey! (2 Thessalonians 1:7-8, "the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus").

e. Do modern Christians comprehend this fact? Are we convinced that if people can hear the Truth, they will understand and believe the Truth? Are we "bold" in our stand for the gospel? "pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of



my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak” (Ephesians 6:19-20).

## II. 🕊️ THE SERVANT'S CAREER

- A. The purity, power, majesty, and might describing this Suffering Servant were unknown.
  - 1. The world had seen a corrupt power in Assyria, Egypt, Babylon, and other nations.
  - 2. A world Regent who wielded power and rule from righteousness was unknown.
  - 3. This prophecy promised that which many dreamed but none expected.
  - 4. The nation of Israel longed for such a King because her national pride would be restored and worldwide rule would be experienced. Israel thus nurtured a national expectation but unfortunately it was from a distorted and selfish hope!
- B. Jesus Christ was the Servant whose destiny was to reign with righteousness.
  - 1. He came to earth and was shrouded with the majesty of the Almighty God Himself.
  - 2. This majestic power enabled the withered and useless legs to gain strength; the decayed and rotten flesh to become new; the blinded eyes received vision; sorrowful mothers received children back from death; and even the natural elements were under His control as the savage winds and waves were stilled.
  - 3. So marvelous were the powers of Christ Jesus that all who witnessed Him were perplexed. Why? Because it was all *impossible* (Matthew 7:28; Luke 8:25).
- C. 🕊️ Isaiah's prophecy announced that this powerful Regent would utilize His power in a most unusual manner (Mark 10:45; Luke 22:27a).
  - 1. Jesus Christ - the majestic King, the destroyer of Satan, the Mighty Opponent, the awesome Judge - would perform His duties as a “suffering Servant!”
  - 2. This was as unbelievable as the suggestion that a worldwide Emperor would rule with righteousness.
- D. The career of this King demonstrated the following remarkable points:
  - 🕊️ Isaiah 53:1 - His rule was an incredible message. Few would ever believe that a majestic Sovereign would be disguised as a Servant. Even fewer would believe that the disguised Servant would actually serve! (1 Corinthians 1:23; 2 Corinthians 6:8).
  - 🕊️ Isaiah 53:3 - His career would be characterized by these terms: despised, rejected, forsaken because mankind perceived Him as “weak.”





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- 🕊️ Isaiah 53:5 - His power would naturally lead others to expect that He would vanquish all opponents but Isaiah prophesied that the long-sought Servant would be “crushed” (v. 7).
- 🕊️ Isaiah 53:9 - One would expect His righteousness and purity to secure Him an honored place among the respected but He will be numbered with the “transgressors.” Instead of being identified with the godly, He will be viewed with the dishonorable! Following His death, His grave would be expected to be with the wicked who have died, but He will be buried in the location reserved for a rich man.
- 🕊️ Isaiah 53:10-11a - The sufferings that this Servant endured were to be of no ordinary manner. He would be inflicted for a cause that was far different from the ordinary causes.
- 🕊️ Isaiah 53:11b-12 - After the great suffering, this Servant was to revive, prolong His days, erect a spiritual Kingdom, sprinkle many nations, and advance above all other Kings.

### E. The Servant's career is foretold with extraordinary facts.

1. This Servant would certainly surpass and excel the histories, character, power, and reigns of all other worldly Rulers.
2. The extraordinary success and magnificence of this Servant-King resulted from the Servant's submission to the terrors detailed in the first verses.
3. 🕊️ We find an incredible lesson – the Servant's blessings and His omnipotent reign would offer blessings ONLY because of the Servant's willing attitude and submission (Isaiah 53:12—“I will allot Him a portion with the great, and He will divide the booty with the strong because He poured out Himself to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors”).

### III. 🕊️ **THE SERVANT'S SUFFERING (Isaiah 53:4-6).**




- A. In practice the Servant did exactly what was prophesied by Isaiah. When Christ came to earth the prophecy regarding the Servant-King of Isaiah 53 was fulfilled in every aspect. Notice how Isaiah's prophecy was exactly correct:
1. Christ was received with incredulous minds (Mark 6:3; Matthew 27:40-43).
  2. Christ was 🕊️ despised (Luke 7:36-50 especially verses 39, 44, 45, 46).
  3. Christ was 🕊️ forsaken (John 6:66; Matthew 26:56).
  4. Christ was 🕊️ burdened with sorrow (Luke 19:41-42; 22:24, 44).









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5. Christ  served by accepting the penalty for sins that we chose to commit (Isaiah 53:5, 11b, “But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed...My Servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities”).
  6. Christ served without  fault — He was perfect (Isaiah 53:9b, “He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth”).
- B.  The suffering of the Servant did not diminish His power—it magnified it!
1. Everything Christ did was done from an attitude of serving so others could benefit (Philippians 2:1-11).
  2. His teaching and healing originated because Christ sought to serve.
  3. Wearing by physical exertion, fatigued with emotional stresses, and exhausted by masses who failed to grasp His true purpose, Christ continued to serve just as Isaiah had prophesied!
  4. The Lord's spirit of servanthood stands today as the exemplary model for all to follow (Philippians 2:5-11).

### IV. **THE SERVANT'S REWARD (Isaiah 53:10-12).**

- A. Once again prophetic words discuss the Servant's activities.
1. The service that would be rendered would justify many.
  2. The Servant's suffering would enable Him to fulfill a position as intercessor of transgressors.
  3. Centuries in the future would find the writer of the Hebrew Epistle looking at this Servant and discussing His service (Hebrews 9:11-15; 10:12).
- B. Isaiah's prophecy emphasizes the servanthood of the Messiah. Through the words of prophets long ago it was announced that  the eternal King and Prince of Peace would be a Servant-King and reign as Lord over a Kingdom of Servants! This prophetic emphasis was fulfilled in the very actions of our Lord.
1.  Christ demands that citizens of His Kingdom practice the attitude of servants (Luke 9:23; John 13:12-16).
  2.  Christ's anger burns hottest against those who have cast aside the attitude of the servant's humility (Matthew 23).
  3.  The emblems of Christ's Kingdom are atypical—not a crown of splendid jewels but one of painful thorns; not a scepter of tyranny but a towel of submission; not a throne of exalted status but a cross. In His Kingdom there is equality (Galatians 3:28). In His Kingdom



there is acceptance and willing submission (Philippians 2:4, “do not look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others”).

4. 🕊 In Christ’s Kingdom those most visible are required to be the most serving!
  - a. The “minister”— **διάκονος** (“daikonos”) literally “servant; one who waits on tables.”
  - b. The “elders”—these are shepherds who serve the flock’s best interests.
  - c. The “deacons”—these are special servants who are known for their unselfish actions on behalf of the congregation.
5. 🕊 Jesus Christ sits in the position today as the Servant-King who is ruling a Kingdom of servants! What a wonderful fact announced by Isaiah centuries ago!

## V. 🕊 THE SERVANT’S IMPACT

- A. As this last servant song concludes we are left pondering the incredible Personality that was described by Inspiration. How does the world react to these “servant songs” today?
  1. Many continue to disbelieve.
    - a. They, like Israel long ago, continue to yearn for the hardened brutality of a world Ruler that will shatter all opposition and elevate them to positions of exaltation and prominence.
    - b. These cannot bring themselves to admit that Jesus Christ is the “Servant-King” reigning only over a Kingdom of “servants.”
    - c. They want their power. They crave their clout. Their pride prevents them from submissive service and humble obedience (Romans 1:21-22—“the vanity of their minds”).
    - d. Their love for the things in this world divides their hearts and hinders their full commitment and consecration (Galatians 6:14, “may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world”).
  2. Many submit to the Servant-King but fail to live as one of His beloved “servants.”
    - a. They have rendered obedience. They have bowed their heads but not their hearts!
    - b. They fail to offer service. Pride, empty excuses, and half-hearted commitment often prevents them from being the devout servants that God expects.

🕊 I’ll go where you want me to go dear Lord,  
Real service is what I desire.



I'll sing a solo any time dear Lord,  
☞ But don't ask me to sing with the crowd.  
I'll do what You want me to do dear Lord,  
I like to see things come to pass.  
☞ But don't ask me to teach boys and girls O Lord,  
I'd rather just stay in my class.  
I'll do what You want me to do, dear Lord,  
I yearn for thy Kingdom to spread galore.  
I'll give You my nickels and dimes dear Lord,  
☞ But please do not ask for any more.  
I'll go where You want me to go dear Lord,  
I'll say what You want me to say.  
☞ I'm busy just now with myself dear Lord  
☞ So, I'll help you some other day.

B. The suffering Servant ought to have a “life-changing” impact upon all who read His songs in Isaiah’s prophecy.

1. This survey of the Servant Songs should impress everyone.

2. Such a study ought to cause all to realize the power that servanthood has and the call to servanthood that is announced (1 Peter 2:21).

C. We cannot miraculously heal a withered arm, or feed 5,000 with a little boy’s lunch, or open blind eyes to see. We can never emulate our Lord in these miraculous ways.

BUT we can emulate the Lord’s pattern in serving others—You can dry a tear, give cups of cold water, overcome pride, and love your enemies. When you do these things you will resemble the Servant that Isaiah foretold.

D. The Servant in Isaiah would receive great honor for His obedience. The rewards that the Servant received are offered to those who follow this Servant in living as God expect.

1. ☞ God will SHOW Him the “seed” of His work (Isaiah 53:10).

2. God will SUSTAIN Him with long days (Isaiah 53:10).

3. God will SATISFY Him with the knowledge of the results of His suffering (Isaiah 53:11).

4. God will SHARE with Him the victory over sin and suffering (Isaiah 53:11-12).

Revisiting Acts 8... ☞ The Eunuch understood and was compelled to surrender!

☞ After studying this fourth Servant Song your understanding compels and exact response!

☞ “Rightly Spoke” is a strong moral phrase—It is absolutely right! There should be no questioning and no justification for non-compliance!