

# ISAIAH

Key Chapters of the Prophet

## The Suffering Servant Lesson 7

Isaiah's Ministry  
739-698 BC

Return to  
Jerusalem  
538 BC



Abraham  
2000 BC

Moses  
1500 BC

King David  
1000 BC

Israel  
Destroyed  
701 BC

Jerusalem  
Destroyed  
586 BC

## The Suffering and Glory of Servant

Luther wrote, "[Isaiah] prepares and disposes his [people] to expect the coming kingdom of Christ, of which he prophesies more clearly and in more ways than any other prophet. In chapter 53 Isaiah even describes Christ's passion together with his resurrection from the dead, proclaiming his kingdom as powerfully and plainly as if it had just happened, already at that time."

### "We esteemed him not..."

Read **Isaiah 52:13-53:3**

What tone does verse 1 set?

52:13 can be translated more literally, "Look, my servant will succeed. He will rise. He will be lifted up. He will be highly exalted."

As you read the following verses, does the servant appear to be successful and exalted?

What can we learn from this?

Note: Verse 14 more likely refers to Jesus' disfigurement as a result of beatings following his arrest and as result of the gruesome crucifixion rather than a lifelong deformity. The opening verses of chapter 53 refer to the Servant's appearance in general. What do we learn about Jesus' outward appearance from these verses?

Notice how Isaiah even says, "...we esteemed him not" (53:3). What is the significance of Isaiah speaking in the first person?

## *“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted...”*

Read **Isaiah 53:4-9**

Notice how Isaiah continues to use the first-person plural.

It makes sense that Jesus bore our sins. What does it mean that he also took up our “infirmities and sorrows?” (or more literally, “he bore our sickness and carried our pains...”)

Verse 4 indicates there was a misunderstanding: “we thought it was because of \_\_\_\_\_ that he was stricken, smitten, and afflicted...” But (verse 5) it was really because...

If we’ve read this section and haven’t taken personally our transgression, our undervaluing of Jesus, then what else would we fail to take personally?

It’s easy to simply summarize the gospel as “God forgave my sins.” How do these verses help us describe and appreciate God’s forgiveness more specifically?

## *“He will see the light of life...”*

Read **Isaiah 53:10-12**

Note the shift in tone from verse 9.

How is Jesus’s resurrection depicted in these verses?

Isaiah has come full circle back to the promise made in 52:13: The Servant will succeed. Mission accomplished. And what exactly did he accomplish?

1. Verse 5 -
2. Verse 5 -
3. Verse 10 -
4. Verse 11 -
5. Verse 11 -
6. Verse 12 -

## Further Study

**Read Isaiah 56:9-66.** Since this study covers select chapters of Isaiah, each lesson suggests chapters to read at home. By the end of the course, you will have read all of Isaiah. You’ll have time at the beginning of each class to share insights from your personal reading or ask questions.