

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

APRIL 20TH, 2025 // RESURRECTION WEEKEND

## ISAIAH

Isaiah was a prophet of Israel in the 8th century BC. During his time as a prophet (around 64 years) he served several kings of Judah.

- It was a time of crisis and chaos for all Israelites as the nation was divided into two kingdoms: the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah).
- Both kingdoms were facing attacks from other nations as they were turning further away from God.
- As a nation divided, injustice, idolatry, immorality, and wickedness were more obvious than righteousness. Sound familiar?
- Isaiah's role as prophet was to warn God's people to turn back to God or face even worse consequences.
- Pain, suffering, injustice, death and separation from God are the result of sin entering the world.
- Even when we try to live "good" lives, we still suffer. WHY?
- Better than "Why?" is: "How can I be restored to God and live life with joy, peace, and confidence?"

## HUMAN AND DESPISED (ISAIAH 53:1-3) WHO HAS BELIEVED?

Isaiah had spent his life exposing sin and calling people to repentance. Now, he begins to tell them that God would send a suffering servant to change everything.

- For the next 700 years and even today, many try to identify this servant as someone other than Jesus Christ.
- **A Christ follower, through the power of the Holy Spirit, will easily see Christ in Isaiah 53.**

## HE GREW UP... UNIMPRESSIVELY

700 years before Jesus' birth, Isaiah told of a boy who would start weak as a baby plant and, as He grew, would not physically impress anyone.

- Being from the tribe of David had lost its luster because the Romans dominated the Jews.
- **The glory of Jesus was visible only to Believers, who saw His sinless life.**

## DESPISED AND REJECTED

Although He was plain, humble, and sinless, people still underestimated His value and rejected Him as a person and a savior.

- **If we have ever wondered if God understands our circumstances, we should remember that Christ was rejected, ridiculed, and devalued. He did not deserve it.**
- **Does this life feel like a journey of one rejection to another? God understands!**

## OUR SINS AND HIS SUFFERING (ISAIAH 53:4-6)

### OUR PROBLEMS

This suffering servant could see our circumstances and consequences.

- **Sickness, pain, rebellion, iniquities**
- **This is who we were: full of rebellion, self-serving desires, deserving a death penalty, at war with God, and needing deep healing. We were broken and blaming everyone except ourselves.**

### HIS RESPONSE

This suffering servant not only experienced rejection, He carried our experiences.

- **Sickness, pain, rebellion, iniquities**
- **He became sickness, carried our pain, was struck down by God, and crushed under the weight of sin. He was broken, received our punishment, and took the blame.**

### OUR RESPONSE

The world still judges Christ as weak.

- **We continue to ignore what He did for us on that cross like it was just a thing that some people do for other people.**
- **When we live like it is not a big deal, we really are just turning to our own way... again. Do we realize just how much it cost Him when God punished Him for "the iniquity of us all?"**

## INNOCENT AND SLAUGHTERED (ISAIAH 53:7-9)

### OPPRESSED AND AFFLICTED

This is Christ being overpowered, beaten to a bloody pulp, spat on, mocked with the crown of thorns and purple robe, led through the streets of Jerusalem, screamed at by the crowd, stripped, nailed, lifted up, crucified, and in agony.

- **It was the single greatest human injustice in all history.**

### HE DID NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH

In all of this human injustice, Jesus did not open His mouth; He remained silent and accepted the punishment because, as our substitute, He was acting as if He were truly guilty.

- **This is Jesus making a conscious decision to willingly lay down His life for us all and be cut off from the land of the living and His Father.**

### HE WAS A RICH MAN AT HIS DEATH

Isaiah makes the claim that Jesus would die for sin, but not for His own. Jesus died an innocent, sinless man.

- **This great injustice was based on Jesus being sinless. If He had not been sinless, suffering in our place would not have accomplished anything.**
- **His sacrifice became the greatest display of God's justice in all history.**

## CRUSHED RISEN AND JUSTIFIED (ISAIAH 53:10-12)

### PLEASED TO CRUSH HIM

This is not The Father enjoying the cross. This is about the glory it would bring and salvation for the countless followers from every nation on Earth.

- **Jesus agonized, as did the Father, as He showed by darkening the skies and shaking the ground when His Son died.**
- **It was immeasurable pain, followed by infinite pleasure and joy.**

### RESULTS

Jesus, resurrected and alive forever, could see the light—the success of God's plan.

- **Jesus has justified the ungodly. New life is available to anyone who would follow Christ in surrender.**
- **Christ endured the suffering so we could live this life now and forever with Him, in a restored relationship with the Father.**

### HE WILL CARRY THEIR INIQUITIES

This is an amazing truth: Jesus not only died and rose again to make us right with God (righteous), He continues to intercede for us.

- **Those Jesus died for He also prays for.**
- **We still battle against the world, the flesh, and the devil, but we must see ourselves as delivered from the enemy and stop battling against God.**

### REBELS

- We are all rebels.
- **We were born that way and choose to rebel against so many things.**
- **Our problem is we choose to rebel against God and His plan for a relationship with His creation. This is called sin, and God will not allow sin into any relationship with Him.**

### STUCK

- We become stuck in a sin cycle.
- **We know it, and there is no reason to deny it.**
- **When we deny it, we try to fake it to make ourselves look better, cleaner, less responsible, above others, and somehow "good enough."**

### JUSTICE

- We like justice. We want it. We cry for it.
- **When we look at ourselves compared to the Holiness of God, justice doesn't look so good.**
- **Justice can't be faked and must be carried out. God created justice and won't compromise. Jesus was born, experienced life, paid the price for our sin, died, and rose again so every follower would be forgiven and seen by the Father as righteous. Grace justifies the ungodly when they trust Jesus Christ. How?**

### SURRENDER

- Jesus surrendered Himself for us.
- **Are we willing to take the time today, tomorrow, and every day, to remember what He has done and is still doing for us?**
- **This isn't a life of regret, sorrow, guilt, and shame. This is surrender and believing that we are forgiven. Are we living lives of joy, peace, and confidence? Are we wasting this opportunity? What is our next step?**