

Isaiah 52 A Prelude to Isaiah 53

Introduction: My intention this morning was to preach on Isaiah 53. It is one of the most important prophecies in the Old Testament. Quoted a number of times in the New Testament.

Isaiah	New Testament
53:1 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?	John 12:37 But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, 38 that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?"
	Romans 10:16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?"
. 53:4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.	Matthew 8:16 When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, 17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: " He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses. "
53:3 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 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. 8 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.	Acts 8:32 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." Acts 8:34 So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?"
Isaiah 53:12 And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.	Luke 22:37 "For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: 'And He was numbered with the transgressors.' For the things concerning Me have an end."

Isaiah 53 was a very well-known passage among the Jews, similar to our knowledge of Acts 2. But Isaiah 52 is really an important passage and we want to look at it this morning.

I) Isaiah 52

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A) A time when Jerusalem will be clothed in beautiful garments.

Isaiah 52:1 Awake, awake! Put on your strength, O Zion; Put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city! For the uncircumcised and the unclean Shall no longer come to you. 2 Shake yourself from the dust, arise; Sit down, O Jerusalem! Loose yourself from the bonds of your neck, O captive daughter of Zion!

1. Jerusalem is personified and told to awake out of sleep – and put on clean and beautiful garment.
2. Free from the uncircumcised (unholy, defiled) and the unclean (sinful).
3. Cast off the chains around her neck (sin which so easily entangles us).

B) She will be redeemed without money

Isaiah 52:3 For thus says the LORD: "You have sold yourselves for nothing, And you shall be redeemed without money." 4 For thus says the Lord GOD: "My people went down at first Into Egypt to dwell there; Then the Assyrian oppressed them without cause. 5 Now therefore, what have I here," says the LORD, "That My people are taken away for nothing? Those who rule over them Make them wail," says the LORD, "And My name is blasphemed continually every day. 6 Therefore My people shall know My name; Therefore they shall know in that day That I am He who speaks: 'Behold, it is I.'"

1. To be redeemed means to be “bought back” which implies there was a need, a debt, which needed to be paid off.
2. Speaks of them going down into Egypt.
3. God is calling to them “Here I am”

C) The Beauty of Good News

Isaiah 52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!" 8 Your watchmen shall lift up their voices, With their voices they shall sing together; For they shall see eye to eye When the LORD brings back Zion. 9 Break forth into joy, sing together, You waste places of Jerusalem! For the LORD has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. 10 The LORD has made bare His holy arm In the eyes of all the nations; And all the ends of the earth shall see The salvation of our God.

1. Quoted in Romans.

Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

1. A time when news either traveled by foot, carrier, or not at all. A person would come into town and call everybody around in order to make a pronouncement.
2. The Good News or Gospel.

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a. A message of peace- wholeness, in this message the peace is between God and man.

b. Happiness – good

c. Salvation – deliverance

D) The New Exodus

Isaiah 52:11 Depart! Depart! Go out from there, Touch no unclean thing; Go out from the midst of her, Be clean, You who bear the vessels of the LORD. 12 For you shall not go out with haste, Nor go by flight; For the LORD will go before you, And the God of Israel will be your rear guard.

1. Depart – leave behind, Egypt a place of uncleanness, bondage, “the iron furnace”

2. The Lord will go before you, and be your rear guard.

3. Not speaking of the physical Egypt but the spiritual bondage of sin.

E) The success of the Servant “My Servant”

Isaiah 52:13 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; 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.

1. He would prosper- deal prudently, act wisely

2. Lifted up and exalted – a double meaning in the New Testament.

3. His appearance marred – He was tortured, abused in the most inhumane way possible.

4. He will “sprinkle” many nations.

a. Law of Moses contained many sprinklings. Blood in order to purify people, altar, the mercy seat, etc.

b. Sprinkle water of purification – Numbers 8.7

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

5. My Servant will purify you – later on we read of our redemption through His blood, Ephesians 1.7

II) My Servant

A) His exaltation- being lifted up.

1. On the cross

John 12:32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." 33 This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

2. To the right hand of God.

Acts 2:33 "Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

B) His grief –

C) His ill treatment and vicarious suffering –

D) His total commitment to the Lord’s will

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E) His victory and renewal

III) The Message of Goodness

Most of us like spreading good news – makes people happy, want everyone to know what you know. Imagine a runner going from town to town with a message of victory. Then others go out with that same message to another group of people.

A) It is a message of peace

Isaiah 52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace

1. Suggest a time of conflict and war
2. Peace drawing near to God through the Messiah.

Luke 2:13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

B) It is a message of salvation

Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation

1. Jeremiah spoke of a time when sins will be remembered no more.
Jeremiah 31:34 "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."
2. Jesus came to seek and save the lost, Matthew 1.21. /

C) It is a message about God's reign.

Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

1. God is leading His people- those who are submissive to Him, to do His will, to His Kingdom.
2. He will redeem His people
3. All will see the salvation of the Lord.

10 The LORD has made bare His holy arm In the eyes of all the nations; And all the ends of the earth shall see The salvation of our God.

Conclusion: Jesus died to redeem us from sin, to lead us to God, to provide us peace, salvation, and fellowship with God. Are you listening to the Good News today?