

Jesus The Messiah: Session 7 – The Servant of the Lord

Review: Jesus, the special Servant of YHWH

Isaiah contains at least four of what we call “Servant Songs,” in which a special servant of YHWH brings out the victory of God – mostly through the suffering which the Servant accomplishes at YHWH’s command on behalf of the people. These songs are found in Isaiah 42:1-7, 49:1-6, 50:4-11, and 52:13-53:12.

1. Look at My Servant! Isaiah 42:1-7

(1) Behold my servant, whom I uphold; my elect, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

(2) He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. (3) A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth.

(4) He shall not fail nor be discouraged, until he has set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.

(5) Thus says God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which comes out of it; he that gives breath to the people upon it, and spirit to those who walk in it:

(6) I the LORD have called you in righteousness, and will hold your hand, and will keep you, and give you for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles...

2. To The End Of The Earth: Isaiah 49:1-6

(1) Listen, O isles, to me; and hearken, you people, from far; The LORD has called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother he has made mention of my name.

(2) And he has made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he has hidden me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver has he hidden me; (3) And said to me, “You are my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”

(4) Then I said, “I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing, and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the LORD, and my work with my God.” (5) “And now,” says the LORD that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, “though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength.”

(6) And he said, “It is a light thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give you for a light to the Gentiles, that you may be my salvation to the end of the earth.”

3. He gave His back to the smiters: Isaiah 50:4-11

(4) The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he awakens morning by morning, he awakens my ear to hear as the learned.

(5) The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back. (6) I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to those who plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.

(7) For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. (8) He is near who justifies me; who will contend with me? Let us stand together: who is my adversary?

Let him come near to me. (9) Behold, the Lord GOD will help me; who is he that shall condemn me? See, they all shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up.

(10) Who is among you that fears the LORD, that obeys the voice of his servant, that walks in darkness, and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God. (11) Behold, all you who kindle a fire, that surround yourselves with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that you have kindled. This you shall have from my hand; you shall lie down in sorrow.

4. Wounded For Our Transgressions: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

52:13 Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.

52:14 As many were astonished at you, his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men;

52:15 So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.

Isa 53:1 Who has believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

Isa 53:2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground; he has no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

Isa 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Isa 53:4 Surely he has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

Isa 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Isa 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isa 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he opens not his mouth.

Isa 53:8 He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who shall declare his generation? For he was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

Isa 53:9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

Isa 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he has put him to grief; when you shall make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

Isa 53:11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied; by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

Isa 53:12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he has poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.