

The Successful Servant

Isaiah 52:13-15

(LSB) **Is. 52:13-15** Behold, My Servant will prosper; He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted. Just as many were appalled at you, - So His appearance was marred more than any man and His form more than the sons of men. Thus 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.

Gen. 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

Is. 1:4-5 Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly! They have forsaken the LORD, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged. Why will you still be struck down? Why will you continue to rebel? The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

Is. 1:15-16 When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil.

Is. 8:22 - 9:1 And they will look to the earth, but behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish. And they will be thrust into thick darkness. **But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish...**

Is. 9:6-7 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, **on the throne of David** and over his kingdom, **to establish it and to uphold it with justice** and **with righteousness** from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Is. 11:1-4 There shall come forth **a shoot from the stump of Jesse**, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And **the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him**, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but **with righteousness he shall judge the poor**, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and **with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked**.

Is. 16:5 Then a throne will be established in steadfast love, and on it will sit in faithfulness in the tent of **David one who judges and seeks justice and is swift to do righteousness**.

Is. 28:16-17 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, 'Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, **a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation**: whoever believes will not be in haste.' And **I will make justice the line**, and **righteousness the plumb line**.

Is. 32:1 Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule in justice.

Is. 32:4 The heart of the hasty will understand and know, and the tongue of the stammerers will hasten to speak distinctly.

Is. 33:22-24 For **the LORD is our judge**; the LORD is our lawgiver; **the LORD is our king**; he will save us...And no inhabitant will say, 'I am sick'; the people who dwell there **will be forgiven their iniquity**.

Is. 42:1-4 Behold **my servant**, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; **I have put my Spirit upon him**; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he **will faithfully bring forth justice**. He will not grow faint or be discouraged **till he has established justice in the earth**; and the coastlands wait for his law.

Is. 50:5-7 The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; **I turned not backward. I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.** But the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

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I. The Glory of God's Servant

Is. 52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'

Is. 52:8-10 The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Is. 52:8-9 **The voice of your watchmen**—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for **eye to eye they see** the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people;

The watchmen—those who are alert and waiting—will see with their own eyes the LORD returning to Zion. During Christ's first coming, there were many people who were waiting for the Messiah. Among them was Simeon, an elderly man, who met Jesus and His parents in the temple, when he saw this special infant, he said, "for my eyes have seen your salvation" (**Luke 2:30**, ESV).

Is. 52:8-9 The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has **comforted** his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.

Mc. 9:1-2 But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

Is. 52:8-9 The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; **he has redeemed** Jerusalem.

Is. 52:9-10 ... for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. **The LORD has bared his holy arm** before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see **the salvation of our God**.

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Is. 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, **high and lifted up**; and the train of his robe filled the temple.

John 17:4-5 I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

Is. 52:15 So shall he sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

II. The Suffering of God's Servant

(LSB) **Is. 52:13-15** Behold, My Servant will prosper; He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted. **Just as many were appalled at you, - So His appearance was marred more than any man and His form more than the sons of men**. Thus 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.

Is. 53:2-3 For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and **no beauty that we should desire him**. He **was despised and rejected** by men, **a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief**; and as one from whom men **hide their faces** he **was despised**, and **we esteemed him not**.

Is. 53:4-5 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him **stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted**. But **he was pierced** for our transgressions; **he was crushed** for our iniquities.

Is. 53:7-8 He **was oppressed**, and he **was afflicted**, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that **is led to the slaughter**, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. **By oppression and judgment** he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he **was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken** for the transgression of my people?

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The theology of true glory is inseparably connected with the theology of suffering.

Phil. 2:6-11 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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Conclusions:

- **The Bible is an astonishingly precise book.**
- **The Messiah is an incredibly great Person.**
- **Salvation is an astonishingly magnificent work.**
- He was disfigured, so that we might be made beautiful in Him.
- He suffered, in order to deliver us from eternal suffering.
- He endured humiliation, so that we might be glorified through Him.