

Israel's Repentance

Isaiah 53:1-3

The Rejection of Christ by Israel

Is. 53:1-3 Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? 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.

Substitutionary Atonement

Is. 53:4-6 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; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. 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.

The Righteousness of Christ

(LSB) **Is. 53:7-9** 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, That for the transgression of my people, striking was due to Him? So His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

Suffering according to God's will

Is. 53:10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

The Victory of Christ and Salvation in Him

Is. 53:10-11 When his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied.

Is. 53:11-12 By **his knowledge** shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

John 5:39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me.

2 Tim. 3:15 And how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

I. Israel's Unbelief in the Past

Is. 53:1 Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

John 12:37-38 Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 'Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?'

Mat. 23:37-38 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you desolate.

Is. 53:1 Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

זְרוֹעַ, זָרַע – **zeroa** – arm, shoulder, strength
זָרַע – **zera** - seed, offspring

John 1:11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

A. The Messiah Seemed Unimpressive

Is. 53:2 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.

John 1:45-46 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.' Nathanael said to him, '**Can anything good come out of Nazareth?**' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.'

Mat. 13:55-57 Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" And they took offense at him.

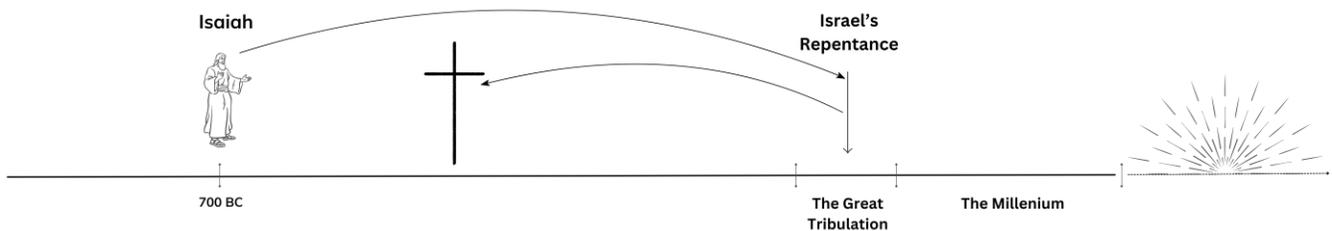
Is. 53:2 For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and **no beauty that we should desire him**.

B. The Messiah Was Humiliated

Is. 53:3 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.

II. Israel's Repentance in the Future

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 Surely he has borne **our griefs** and carried **our sorrows**; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

Is. 53:5 But he was pierced for **our transgressions**; he was crushed for **our iniquities**; upon him was the chastisement that **brought us** peace, and with his wounds **we are healed**.

Is. 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**.

Is. 53:8...stricken for the transgression of my people.

Rom. 11:25 Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: **a partial hardening has come upon Israel**, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

Is. 6:8-10 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here I am! Send me.' And he said, 'Go, and say to this people: "Keep on hearing, but do not understand; **keep on seeing, but do not perceive**." Make **the heart of this people dull**, and their ears heavy, and **blind their eyes**; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.'

Is. 6:13 And though a tenth remain in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak, whose stump remains when it is felled. **The holy seed is its stump.**

Zech. 12:9-11 And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, **when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.**

Zech. 12:12-14 The land shall mourn, each family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the Shimeites by itself, and their wives by themselves; and all the families that are left, each by itself, and their wives by themselves.

Mat. 23:38-39 See, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again, **until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'**

Rom. 9:4-5 They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

Jer. 31:31-32 Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when **I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,** not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD.

Jer. 31:33 For this is **the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel** after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Rom. 11:17-18 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you.

Rom. 11:23-24 And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, **will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again.** For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, **how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.**

Rom. 11:25-26 I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way **all Israel will be saved,** as it is written, 'The Deliverer will come from Zion, **he will banish ungodliness from Jacob.'**

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.

Practical Implications

- The Bible is an amazingly precise book, foretelling in detail both Israel's rejection of Christ and their future repentance.
- God's providence is an incomprehensible aspect of God's character that brings together millions of factors—seemingly acting independently—yet unfailingly directs them toward the purpose determined by God.
- Israel is God's people, who continue to live in unbelief today but who will one day be saved.
 - We should pray for the people of Israel.
 - We should preach Jesus Christ to them.
 - We should bless Israel.