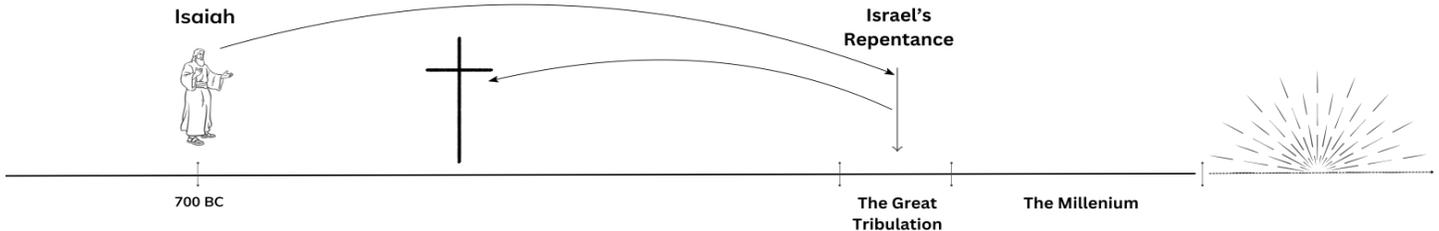


The Power of the Righteous One

Isaiah 53:7-9

(LSB) **Is. 53:9** 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.

(LSB) **Is. 53:11** As a result of the anguish of His soul He will see it and be satisfied; by His knowledge **the Righteous One, My Servant**, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities.



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.

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.

(LSB) **Is. 53:7-9** He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open 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, that for the transgression of my people striking was due to Him? So His grave was assigned with the 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.

I. The Power of Humility

(LSB) **Is. 53:7** He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth.

The Passions of Jesus

- The intense agony of His prayer in the garden
- The indifference of the disciples during that prayer
- The betrayal of Judas
- The terror of His arrest
- The fear and flight of the disciples
- The shameless search for false witnesses
- The beating at the high priest's house
- The mocking humiliation: "Prophecy—who is it that struck you?"
- Peter's denial
- Humiliation and mockery by Herod
- The scourging by Pilate's soldiers
- The crowd's demand: "Crucify Jesus, release Barabbas!"
- Pilate's cowardice—washing his hands
- The soldiers' mockery
- Crucifixion on the cross
- The mockery of passersby
- The mockery of the Jewish leaders: "Come down from the cross"
- The mockery of the criminals
- Being forsaken by the Father
- A painful death

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Mat. 26:52-54 Then Jesus said to him, 'Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that **it must be so**?'

John 19:11 Jesus answered him, 'You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above.'

Phil. 2:7-8 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.

"Emptied himself... humbled himself"—these were deliberate actions of Jesus Christ, by which He willingly placed Himself in the position of a servant.

Reasons for Christ's Humility

- **Obedience to God—the primary expression of righteousness**

1 Pet. 2:23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

The injustice we experience often becomes, in our minds, a powerful justification for a sinful response – This is the devil's strategy for our defeat.

- **Acceptance of the Father's will—an essential part of true wisdom**

Rom. 8:28-29 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son...

- **Full harmony with the Father—an essential condition for the working of the Father's power**

We do not control God's power; we can only become its conduits by submitting to its direction and action.

1 Pet. 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you.

2 Cor. 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

II. The Power of Service

(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?

^{NET} **Is. 53:8** He was led away after an unjust trial— **but who even cared?**

^{NIV} **Is. 53:8** By oppression and judgment he was taken away. **Yet who of his generation protested?**

(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?

- **This was the power of victory over the devil**

Col. 2:13-15 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. **He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.**

- **This was the power of victory over sin**

Col. 2:13-15 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, **having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands.** This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

1 Cor. 15:55-57 "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, **who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

- **This was the power of the salvation of people**

Heb. 2:14-15 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

1 Pet. 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

- **This was the power that created the Church.**

Mat. 16:18-21 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it...From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

1 Pet. 2:19-21 For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because **Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.**

1 Pet. 2:22-24 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

III. The Power of Glory

(LSB) **Is. 53:7-9** He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open 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, that for the transgression of my people striking was due to Him? **So His grave was assigned with the 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.**

Mat. 27:57-60 When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away.

John 19:39-42 Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

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Prayer Reflections

- Christ's humility and complete submission to the Father became the source of His strength and His victory.
- Our humility and our submission to God in Christ grant us access to that same divine power—the power for life, for victory, and for godly influence.