

# Jesus: The Suffering Servant

**Primary Text:** Book of Isaiah 52:13–53:12

**Key Fulfillment:** Gospel of Matthew 27, Gospel of Luke 23, Gospel of John 19

## Introduction

One of the greatest prophetic pictures of the Messiah in the entire Old Testament is found in **Isaiah 53**. Written over **700 years before the birth of Jesus**, the prophet describes a servant of God who would suffer, be rejected, bear sin, and ultimately bring salvation.

This servant is none other than **Jesus Christ**.

While many expected a conquering king, God sent a **suffering servant**.

The cross was not a tragedy.  
It was **God's plan of redemption**.

As the Apostle wrote in First Epistle of Peter 2:24:

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.”

We will look at four truths about **Jesus the Suffering Servant**.

## I. The Servant Would Be Rejected

**Text:** Isaiah 53:3

“He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain...”

### Explanation

The Messiah would not be welcomed by the world.

Instead of honor, He would receive rejection.

This prophecy was fulfilled when **Jesus was rejected by His own people**.

As written in Gospel of John 1:11:

“He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.”

## Examples of His Rejection

- Rejected by religious leaders
- Betrayed by Judas Iscariot
- Denied by Simon Peter
- Condemned by Pontius Pilate
- Mocked by Roman soldiers

The world looked at Jesus and saw **nothing of value**.

But God saw the Lamb who would redeem humanity.

The Savior stood before them, and they crucified Him.

## II. The Servant Would Bear Our Sins

**Text:** Isaiah 53:4–6

“Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering... he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities.”

This passage explains **why Jesus suffered**.

He was not dying for His own sins.

He was dying for **ours**.

### Substitutionary salvation

The servant becomes our substitute.

He takes our punishment.

The Apostle Paul explains this in Second Epistle to the Corinthians 5:21:

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

## The Great Exchange

Jesus took:

- our sin
- our guilt
- our punishment

And gives us:

- His righteousness
- forgiveness
- eternal life

## III. The Servant Would Suffer Silently

**Text:** Isaiah 53:7

“He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter...”

When Jesus was arrested and tried, He did not defend Himself.

In the trial before **Pontius Pilate**, He remained mostly silent.

As recorded in

Gospel of Matthew 27:12–14:

“But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer.”

Why?

Because the Lamb had come to die.

Just as the Passover lamb in Book of Exodus 12 was sacrificed for Israel, **Jesus became the final sacrifice for sin.**

This is why John the Baptist declared in Gospel of John 1:29:

“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

## IV. The Servant Would Be Vindicated

The suffering servant story does not end with death.

Isaiah 53:11 declares:

“After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied.”

This is a prophecy of the **resurrection**.

Three days after the crucifixion, God raised Jesus from the dead.

The resurrection is recorded in:

- Gospel of Matthew 28
- Gospel of Mark 16
- Gospel of Luke 24
- Gospel of John 20

The suffering servant became the **victorious Savior**.

As Epistle to the Philippians 2:8–9 says:

“He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place...”.

## Application

The suffering servant demands a response.

There are only two options:

1. Reject Him like the crowds did
2. Receive Him as Savior and Lord

Isaiah ends with this promise:

“The righteous servant will justify many.”

Anyone who trusts in **Jesus Christ** can be forgiven and made new.