



August 19, 2018
“Jesus the Messiah”
Isaiah 53
Pastor Gary Hamrick

In 700BC, Isaiah provided vivid details about the suffering, crucifixion, and resurrection of the long-anticipated Messiah. We have the advantage of looking back in time to see that all of what Isaiah prophesied was fulfilled entirely and exclusively by Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Messiah of Isaiah 53, and he came to earth to save us from our sins. Why would God announce his coming with such specificity 700 years in advance if not because he loves us and wants us to recognize Jesus and accept him as Savior? Pastor Gary’s message today will help us understand more about Isaiah’s prophecy regarding the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Historical Background

1. The account of Philip and the Ethiopian official is found in [Acts 8:26–35](#).
 - a. This man was made a eunuch because he served in the palace of the queen.
 - b. He was in charge of the queen’s treasury.
 - c. The trip from Ethiopia to Jerusalem was approximately 1,000 miles, so this was not only a spiritual journey – he was seeking God – but a physical journey too.
 - i. He most likely went through the Sudan, Egypt (probably following the Nile River), the Sinai Peninsula, and then into Israel.
 - d. Remarkably, as he was returning to Ethiopia, he was reading his personal scroll of the book of Isaiah, and Philip, who was sent by the Lord, came to explain Jesus to him.

2. Isaiah prophesied about Jesus about 700 years before his incarnation.
 - a. Jesus has always existed, because he is God and he is co-equal with God and the Holy Spirit.
 - b. [Isaiah 7:14](#) – *“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will*

- be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”*
- c. **Isaiah 9:6** - *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Might God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*
3. Pastor Gary said: “What you find in chapters 50 through 53, in stunning detail, [is Isaiah’s description of the beating, humiliation, crucifixion, suffering, death, and] the resurrection of Jesus Christ. ... The Bible presents Christ from cover to cover. When we speak about Messiah, which literally in the Hebrew, [means] Anointed One, and the Greek equivalent [is] Christos. [When we say Messiah or Christ, we are talking about the Anointed One]. Jesus is himself, that long-anticipated, long-awaited Messiah, about [whom] Isaiah spoke about 700 years before [he came].”
 4. Jesus willingly submitted to the will of the Father and gave himself a sacrifice on the cross for the sins of the world.
 - a. **John 10:17-18** - *“[Jesus said,] The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life- only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”*
 - b. **Acts 2:23** - *“[Jesus] was handed over to you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.”*
 - c. **1 Peter 1:20** - *“[Jesus] was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.”*
 5. Pastor Gary said: “The Old Testament previews Jesus; the New Testament reviews Jesus; all of the Bible overviews Jesus. [The Bible] is all about Christ!”
 6. “Cut the Bible anywhere, and it bleeds.” - William Graham Scroggie
 7. Jesus suffered cruel beatings and horrific suffering before he was nailed to the cross.
 - a. **Isaiah 50:6** - *“I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.”*
 - b. **Isaiah 52:14** - *“Just as there were many who were appalled at him - his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness...”*
 - c. **Mark 14:65** - *“Then some [from among the priests, elders and teachers of the law] began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, ‘Prophecy!’ And the [temple] guards took him and beat him.”*
 - d. **Mark 15:16-19a** - *“The [Roman] soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They*

put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and they spit on him."

- e. Pastor Gary said: "There's just no statistical way that what we're about to read [in Isaiah 53] could just coincidentally be fulfilled in any one person. ... [All] of these details were completely and exclusively fulfilled by Jesus Christ. Even the ancient Jewish rabbis... acknowledged that this chapter was about the coming Messiah. ... But oddly enough, today in Jewish synagogues Isaiah 53 is intentionally omitted from Sabbath readings. Why is that? ... [Claude Montefiore wrote,] 'Because of the Christological interpretation given to the chapter by Christians it is omitted from the series of prophetic lessons for the Deuteronomy Sabbaths... the omission is deliberate and striking.' ¹ In other words, they would even say that their own Jewish history points to fact that Isaiah 53 was written about Messiah, about the Anointed One, but because Christians see that too, as fulfilled in Jesus, [they] don't want to read this chapter in [their synagogues]!"

Isaiah Predicted That The Servant Would Be Rejected By Many

8. **Isaiah 53:1, 3** - *"Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ... He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not."*
9. Prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus 700 years later!
 - a. **John 12:37-38** - *"Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet: 'Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?' "*

Isaiah Predicted That The Servant Would Come From Humble Beginnings

10. **Isaiah 53:2** - *"He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him."*
11. Jesus came from Nazareth, which was nothing more than a Podunk town of about 200 people.

¹ Rabbinic Anthology, C.G. Montefiore & H. Loewe, (New York: Schocken Books, 1974) p. 544 - <https://jewsforjesus.org/publications/issues/issues-v13-n06/whos-the-subject-of-isaiah-53-you-decide/>

12. Prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus 700 years later!

- a. [John 1:46](#) - “ ‘Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?’ Nathaniel asked.”

Isaiah Predicted That The Servant Would Experience Suffering

13. [Isaiah 53:3](#) - “He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”

14. Prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus 700 years later!

- a. [Luke 9:22](#) - “And he said, ‘The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.’ ”

Isaiah Predicted That The Servant Would Bear Our Sins
And Take Our Punishment Upon Himself

15. [Isaiah 53:5-6](#) - “But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

16. Prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus 700 years later!

- a. [1 Peter 2:24-25](#) - “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. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

Isaiah Predicted That The Servant Would Keep Silent During His Suffering

17. [Isaiah 53:7](#) - “He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.”

18. Prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus 700 years later!

- a. [Mark 15:3-5](#) - “The chief priests accused him of many things. So again Pilate asked him, ‘Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.’ But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.”

Isaiah Predicted That The Servant Would Die With The Wicked
And Be Buried With The Rich

19. **Isaiah 53:9** - *“He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.”*
20. Prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus 700 years later!
 - a. **Matthew 27:38, 57-60** - *“Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ... As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away.”*

Isaiah Predicted That The Servant Would Rise From The Dead

21. **Isaiah 53:10-12** - *“Yet it was the LORD’S will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”*
22. Prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus 700 years later!
 - a. **Acts 2:31-32** - *“[Jesus] was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.”*

The Conclusion

23. Pastor Gary said: “All of these things were fulfilled exclusively by Jesus Christ. You have to look at this list and ask yourself, ‘Could that just be coincidence?’ And, if it’s not coincidence, then here’s the larger question that each of us must ask, because we have to move from the theoretical to the practical: ‘If in fact, Jesus [fulfilled] all these things spoken about his life 700 years in advance, what does his crucifixion and resurrection mean for me?’ Why would God take the time hundreds of years in advance to spell out the details of the coming Messiah who would die for the sins of the world, if it wasn’t for the fact that God cares about

you, and God cares about me? [You] don't warn someone in advance about an imminent threat and also give the remedy as to how to avoid it, unless you love somebody. And that's what God has done. He's [telling us that we are sinners and we need a Savior, so he's telling us way in advance that his son, Jesus, was going to come to die for the sins of the world, so that as many as receive him and believe on his name, he would give each one the right to become children of God]. This is the Jesus of Isaiah 53. This is the Jesus who loves you and died for you."

Discussion Questions

1. Read and discuss [Acts 8:26-35](#) to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
2. Read and discuss [Isaiah 7:14](#) and [Isaiah 9:6](#). (See #2 above)
3. Spend time talking about the Scriptures Pastor Gary shared concerning Jesus willing submission to the will of God. (See #4 above)
4. Spend time talking about Pastor Gary's remarks concerning the fact that there's no statistical way that the Messiah could be anyone other than Jesus Christ. (See #7 above)
5. Use Pastor Gary's outline for a time of reading Scripture and reflecting on the remarkable nature of Isaiah's predictions concerning Jesus.
 - a. Rejected by many (See #8 and #9 above)
 - b. From humble beginnings (See #10 through #12 above)
 - c. Experience suffering (See #13 and #14 above)
 - d. Sin bearer (See #15 and #16 above)
 - e. Silent in his suffering (See #17 and #18 above)
 - f. Die with the wicked and buried with the rich (See #19 and #20 above)
 - g. Resurrection (See #21 and #22 above)
6. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's remarks concerning every person's need for a Savior and our need to respond. (See #23 above)
7. Close your time in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).