

Isaiah: Revealing the Rescuer

Seeing Jesus in Isaiah: A Servant Suffering

? What was something you “suffered through” that you didn’t mind doing and/or something that you “suffered through” that you would avoid at all cost having to do again?

The Book of Isaiah reveals to us many things about a rescuer who will be sent from God to redeem, save, and restore lost people and religious hypocrites. The expectant words of Isaiah come into full bloom in the New Testament where it is clearly revealed that it is Jesus who has come on a mission from God to rescue humanity and restore all of creation. This series will help us behold the beauty of Jesus as he is revealed in the words of the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah Jesus-sightings

Isaiah 52:13-15 (NIV)

See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.

¹⁴ Just as there were many who were appalled at him— his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness—

¹⁵ so he will sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him.

For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand.

Isaiah 53 (NIV)

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

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.

³ He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

⁴ Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

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 its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested?

For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished.

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.

¹⁰ Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

¹¹ After he has suffered, 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.

¹² 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.

? A prophet's role was to pass along a message from God to his people. This could include an important message or sharing a vision about present and future events. What important messages do we see in this Isaiah passage?

Possible answers: It sounds terrible for the servant described - despised, took our pain, suffering, oppressed, etc...

? What else sticks out to you in these passages?

Possible answers: answers will vary

New Testament Isaiah-sightings

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Luke 22: 39-44 (NIV)

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." ⁴¹ He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ⁴² "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." ⁴³ An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴ And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

? Where do we see connections between these New Testament passages and Isaiah?

? How do these passages show Jesus as the suffering servant?

Possible answers: he endured, he prayed for God to take it away - and angel came and gave him strength to continue

For Discussion and Accountability

? Take some time to pray and thank God for being the one willing to suffer for you.

? How do you respond to suffering? How can we encourage you in the midst of suffering this week?