

<u>Isaiah 1-5</u> Introduction How can one be spared judgement and live happily ever after?	<u>Isaiah 6-39</u> New Creation God will rule over a new, perfect and eternal creation	<u>Isaiah 40-55</u> New relationship God will restore his people from exile to a permanent relationship	<u>Isaiah 56-66</u> Who God will choose the humble and reject the proud
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Isaiah 40-55 explained in under 60 seconds:
youtu.be/z-S3q76crLM

Isaiah 40-48
'I'm coming to get you!'
 YHWH tells his people he will act to fix their relationship

Isaiah 49-55
'Here's the plan!'
 YHWH's suffering servant will bear the penalty for sin, permanently fixing their relationship

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 (NIVUK)

Sunday 22 March 2026

¹³ See, my servant will act wisely;^a
 he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.

¹⁴ Just as there were many who were appalled at him^b –
 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,^c
 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.

53 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;

Jacob's Champion (Jesus Christ):

- wise and exalted, yet extremely beaten up
- surprisingly unloved and unremarkable
- rejected and suffers
- took God's punishment to bring sinners 'peace'

'sprinkle'
 likely an OT priestly atonement of sin and purification from uncleanness

^a Or *will prosper*

^b Hebrew *you*

^c Or *so will many nations be amazed at him* (cf. LXX)



Isaiah 49-55 'Here's the plan!'

YHWH appoints JC who will bear the penalty for sin,
permanently fixing their relationship
(JC = Jacob's Champion = Jesus Christ)

49:1-13

JC will accomplish
God's global
salvation

49:14-50:3

'I haven't
forgotten you – I
will restore you!'

50:4-11

JC will suffer but
will ultimately be
vindicated

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^d 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.^e

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^f 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^g and be satisfied;^h
by his knowledgeⁱ my righteous servant will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,^j
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,^k
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.

- suffered without complaint
or resistance

- innocent yet punished
in place of sinners

- God's will:
i. suffering

ii. followed by vindication!

^d Or From arrest

^e Or generation considered / that he was cut off from the
land of the living, / that he was punished for the
transgression of my people?

^f Hebrew though you make

^g Dead Sea Scrolls (see also Septuagint); MT does not
have the light of life.

^h Or (with MT) ¹¹ He will see the fruit of his suffering /
and will be satisfied

ⁱ Or by knowledge of him

^j Or many

^k Or numerous

<u>51:1-8</u> 'I will restore you permanently!'	<u>51:9-52:12</u> 'I should wake up? No, you should wake up, to your wonderful future!'	<u>52:13-53:12</u> JC will bear God's wrath for the sins of many	<u>54:1-17</u> 'You will flourish in a safe and secure relationship with me!'	<u>55:1-13</u> 'So, will you come back to me?'
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Luke 22:37; 23:32-33

³⁷ It is written: "And he was numbered with the transgressors"; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfilment.'

³² Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals – one on his right, the other on his left.

Luke 23:4, 14-15, 22

⁴ Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, 'I find no basis for a charge against this man.'

...¹⁴ and said to them, 'You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. ¹⁵ Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death.

²² For the third time he spoke to them: 'Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him.'

Luke 23:47

⁴⁷ The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, 'Surely this was a righteous man.'

Luke 23:8-9

⁸ When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform a sign of some sort. ⁹ He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer.

Luke 23:18-19, 24-25

¹⁸ But the whole crowd shouted, 'Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!' ¹⁹ (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)

²⁴ So Pilate decided to grant their demand. ²⁵ He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

Luke 23:35-39

³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One.'

³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.'

³⁸ There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews.

³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: 'Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!'

Isaiah reference:

- 53:12 direct quote

- 53:12 fulfilment

- 53:9 innocence

- 53:11 righteous one

- 53:7 silence in suffering

- 53:5-6, 12
substitutionary suffering

- 53:3 despised and rejected

For reflection on Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Thematic diagnosis (<i>'If there were 100 waking hours in the week, for how many minutes...?'</i>)	1. <u>Sin</u> (esp. 53:4-6) All Christians must profess that they are sinners. But to what extent are you consciously aware of your sinfulness? How does the way Isaiah depicts sin help you?
	2. <u>Brutality of suffering</u> (esp. 52:14-15, 53:2-5) Why does the <i>brutality</i> of Jesus' suffering evade our awareness? How does Isaiah help us to imagine it?
	3. <u>Substitutionary suffering</u> (esp. 53:4-6, 8-9) For what reasons does Jesus' substitutionary suffering lose its emotional significance? How does Isaiah's depiction of substitutionary suffering impact you emotionally?
	4. <u>Vindication of JC</u> (esp. 53:10-12) Jesus' vindication is a lesser-mentioned idea in Christian circles. Why do you think this might be? And why does Jesus' vindication matter?
Textual meditation	5. How does Isaiah 52:13-53:12 help you to appreciate Jesus more? 6. Which descriptions of JC do you appreciate most? Why? 7. Which descriptions of JC do you need help to appreciate? 8. How confident are you in reading the whole of 52:13-53:12 and appreciating the flow/form of Isaiah's writing?
Luke 22-23	9. How does you feel to read Isaiah 52:13-53:12 fulfilled in Luke's gospel?

Matthew 18:21-35 (NIVUK)

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?' ²² Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'¹

²³ 'Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold^m was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶ 'At this the servant fell on his knees before him. "Be patient with me," he begged, "and I will pay back everything."²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go. ²⁸ 'But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins.ⁿ He grabbed him and began to choke him. "Pay back what you owe me!" he demanded. ²⁹ 'His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, "Be patient with me, and I will pay it back."³⁰ 'But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³² 'Then the master called the servant in. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ 'This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

¹ Or *seventy times seven*

^m Greek *ten thousand talents*; a talent was worth about 20 years of a day labourer's wages.

ⁿ Greek *a hundred denarii*; a denarius was the usual daily wage of a day labourer (see 20:2).

Next Sunday (29 March):

- Isaiah 54-55

- No car parking restrictions