

SALEM HEIGHTS

THRIVING

IN THE WORD . IN PRAYER . IN FELLOWSHIP

HOPE IS THE EAGER ANTICIPATION AND CONFIDENT EXPECTATION
OF A FUTURE GUARANTEED BY GOD.

“Dr. Eitan Bar, of ONE for Israel, has this to say about Isaiah 53:

“The 17th century Jewish historian, Raphael Levi, admitted that long ago the rabbis used to read Isaiah 53 in synagogues, but after the chapter caused “arguments and great confusion,” the rabbis decided that the simplest thing would be to just take that prophecy out of the Haftarah (Jewish scripture readings paired with the Torah) in synagogues. That’s why today when we read Isaiah 52, we stop in the middle of the chapter and the week after we jump straight to Isaiah 54.

What happened to Isaiah 53, you might be wondering?

In the Bible, in the book of Isaiah chapter 53, the prophet prophesies about the Messiah that he would be rejected by his people, suffer and die in agony, and that God would see his suffering and death as an atonement for the sins of humanity. Isaiah lived and prophesied about 700 BCE. According to his prophecy in chapter 53, the leaders of Israel would recognize they had made a mistake at the end of days when they rejected the Messiah, so Isaiah put the prophecy in past tense and because he saw himself as part of the people of Israel, he used third person plural (we).

(To Summarize the prophecy of this passage), we did wrong, the Messiah was punished. We sinned, and He suffered. We deserve death, and He was crucified in our place. A perfect God took on the likeness of a Servant in order to reveal Himself to us as one of us. He allowed us to humiliate Him, reject Him, and to torture Him to death in order to take our sins upon Himself. So it’s also up to us to suffer for the good of others who sin against us. If God, who is perfect can forgive us, imperfect as we are, how much more should we forgive one another? This is the wonderful message of the Suffering Servant: The God who loves us has done for us what we could never do for ourselves!”— Pastor Justin

edited from: <https://www.oneforisrael.org/bible-based-teaching-from-israel/inescapable-truth-isaiah-53/>

Isaiah 52:13 — 53:12

The Servant’s Suffering and Exaltation

¹³ See, my servant will be successful; he will be raised and lifted up and greatly exalted. ¹⁴ Just as many were appalled at you—his appearance was so disfigured that he did not look like a man, and his form did not resemble a human being—¹⁵ so he will sprinkle many nations. Kings will shut their mouths because of him, for they will see what had not been told them, and they will understand what they had not heard.

53 Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² He grew up before him like a young plant and like a root out of dry ground. He didn't have an impressive form or majesty that we should look at him, no appearance that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of suffering who knew what sickness was. He was like someone people turned away from; he was despised, and we didn't value him. ⁴ Yet he himself bore our sicknesses, and he carried our pains; but we in turn regarded him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds. ⁶ We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the LORD has punished him for the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth. Like a lamb led to the slaughter and like a sheep silent before her shearers he did not open his mouth. ⁸ He was taken away because of oppression and judgment, and who considered his fate? For he was cut off from the land of the living; he was struck because of my people's rebellion. ⁹ He was assigned a grave with the wicked, but he was with a rich man at his death, because he had done no violence and had not spoken deceitfully. ¹⁰ Yet the LORD was pleased to crush him severely. When you make him a guilt offering, he will see his seed, he will prolong his days, and by his hand, the LORD's pleasure will be accomplished. ¹¹ After his anguish, he will see light and be satisfied. By his knowledge, my righteous servant will justify many, and he will carry their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will give him the many as a portion, and he will receive the mighty as spoil, because he willingly submitted to death, and was counted among the rebels; yet he bore the sin of many and interceded for the rebels.

1. What do you see about hope in this passage?

2. What does it teach us about God?

3. What does it teach us about man?

4. What should we do in light of this passage?