

THE PROPHET OF PROPITIATION

July 29, 2012

Introduction

A. Propitiation: How many of you have ever heard this word before? Propitiation means to appease or to satisfy an offended party.

B. We are continually reminded that we live in a world filled with disappointment, heartache, and tragedy. Why do mass killings like we have just seen in Aurora, Colorado occur? Why do people cheat, steal, lie, deceive to get ahead? Why are there so many religions claiming that they have the truth or at least most of the truth?

The Lord God of the Bible has inspired the prophet Isaiah to write The Servant Song which is found in Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12. If you will open your heart and mind to it, I believe that you will discover The Gospel of the Old Testament.

The Bible tells us God's relationship with humankind up to Isaiah's life was continually filled broken relationships. His covenant people have divided into two countries. Israel, the northern kingdom composed of 10 of the 12 tribes, has been unable to resist mixing pagan religions practiced by neighboring nation with the covenant faith entered into with Jehovah God at Mt. Sinai. He sent prophets to encourage repentance and to lead to restoring their relationship with a loving God. They did not respond and continued in their selfish lifestyles and looked to pagan gods for approval and blessing. God answered by sending a super power known as Assyria to conquer Israel and deport to other countries a large proportion of their population. To replace those deported Israeli's, people from other nations in the east were brought in to insure peace.

God also revealed to Isaiah that in the future a strong nation known as Babylon would conquer Judah, the southern kingdom, and much of the population would go into captivity.

God had a plan to restore His relationship with His covenant people and all of humanity. He gave it to Isaiah and it is outlined in the Messianic Servant Song. I am inviting you to come with me as we walk through this song of hope and blessing. This song has 5 stanzas, each stanza containing 3 verses.

I. Stanza 1, Isa. 52:13 – 15, is a preview of The Servant’s humiliation followed by his exaltation.

A. 52:13

1. prosper – He will be a man able to accomplish his objectives.
2. His success will result lifted up higher than other men.
3. exalted – This same word is used to describe God in Isa. 6:1.

B. 52:14

1. His appearance was marred – not human.
2. The Servant will undergo inhuman treatment – Pilate’s soldiers.
3. People are astonished at His appearance.

C. 52:15

1. He will sprinkle many nations .
2. Num. 19:18-21 – process of cleansing before entering the tabernacle.
3. The Servant is disfigured when He cleanses (spiritual cleansing) Israel and the nations.

4. The kings are speechless at His exaltation

II. Stanza 2 – The Servant will be despised and rejected.

A. 53:1

1. Only a few would recognize Jesus as the Servant during His first appearance.

2. During His first coming the nation did not recognize the power of God incarnate in the Servant.

B. 53:2

1. before Him – Jesus would grow up under the watchful eye of His Heavenly Father as He ordered the events of His life.

2. parched ground - Messiah would come from a lowly background – a working class home.

3. no stately form or majesty – He did not appear to be royalty.

C. 53:3

1. despised and forsaken – see Luke 18:31 – 34.

2. we did not esteem Him – Isaiah speaks for the people who did not want to accept a crucified Messiah.

III. Stanza 3 – The Messiah Servant is our Redeemer.

A. 53:4

1. Jesus suffered (vicariously) for our sins.

a. griefs – lit. sicknesses. This refers to our sins as well as sickness.

b. sorrows – lit. pains

2. we ourselves esteemed Him stricken – The people thought that Jesus was being punished for His own sins.

B. 53:5

1. pierced – A term suggesting crucifixion.

2. transgressions – rebellion against God.

3. crushed – may refer to the spiritual and psychological suffering Jesus sustained.

4. chastening – Jesus took our place and received the punishment (wrath) from God which we deserved for our own sins. This is key to the Servants mission to redeem us. We can't live good enough.

5. *Illustration.* There is a movement growing in some churches which is called "Reinventing Christianity". The basic idea is to make Christianity more acceptable to the public. Rob Bell is one of the pastors involved. He has written a book entitled, *Love Wins*. In this book he denies the reality of eternal punishment. He says:

If your God will punish people for all of eternity for sins committed
In a few short years, no amount of clever marketing or compelling
Language or good music or great coffee will be able to disguise
That one, true, glaring, untenable, unacceptable, awful reality.

(Bell, p. 175)

The Bible says in Heb. 9:27, . . . it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment. In John 14:6 Jesus said, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but through Me.

There are false teachers in the church and they must be silenced and disciplined. They do not believe that the Bible is the inerrant, infallible word of God.

C. 53:6

1. This verse describes the effect of sin in our lives.
2. Our way seems right and best.
3. iniquity of us all to fall on Him – “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29

IV. Stanza 4 – The Death of the Servant

A. 53:7

1. Jesus submitted Himself to those who were oppressing Him.

B. 53:8

He lost His life to receive the wrath of God because of our sin.

C. 53:9

1. Because the Servant was crucified with two criminals, the Jews intended Him to have a disgraceful burial. In reality Jesus was buried with the rich.
2. Jesus was an innocent, sinless man who died for others.

V. Stanza 5 – The Servant is exalted

A. 53:10

1. It was the Lord’s will for the Servant to die.
2. He will see His offspring (seed).
3. He will prolong His days – This verse suggests resurrection.

B. 53:11

By His knowledge – Jesus knew how to handle the sin problem.

C. 53:12

1. The Servant accomplished a great victory.

2. **New Testament believers believed that Jesus was the Messiah predicted in this Servant Song. See Acts 8:35 – Philip shares the gospel with the eunuch.**

Invitation