

The Suffering Servant Isaiah 52:13-15, 53

The gospel according to the prophets

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The Mystery of the Suffering Messiah

No OT *prooftext* is given by Peter in Acts 3:18 or Jesus in Mark 9:12 or Luke 24:26 for a *suffering Messiah*

Closest we get is Daniel 9:26 which says "*an anointed one*" (Messiah) "*shall be cut off*" (ESV, euphemism for death)

Mystery of 1 Corinthians 2:8 "*hidden ... from rulers of this age*" else "*they would not have crucified the Lord of glory*"

Cross is veiled (John 2:19, 3:14, Luke 5:35) in Gospels before Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem (Peter's confession) "*He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things..*" (Mark 8:31, Matthew 16:21, Luke 9:22)

"Servant" (not משיח "mashiach") in Isaiah 53

The Righteous Servant and the Unfaithful Servant

Isaiah 42:1-7 : Faithful, righteous, gentle; brings justice, opens eyes of blind, releases captives from prison.

Isaiah 42:18-25 : Unfaithful, disobedient, deaf, blind, imprisoned.

Isaiah 49:1-7 : *Israel* who will bring Jacob back and regather *Israel* and become a light for the Gentiles.

Isaiah 50:1-3 : Sold into captivity because of sin and transgression.

Isaiah 50:4-11 : Listens to God, not rebellious, and willingly suffers because he trusts that God will be the final arbiter.

Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12

<p>52:13-15 Exaltation / Disfigurement "lifted up" John 3:14, 8:28, 12:32,34 Philippians 2 6 11 7 10 8 9</p>	<p>53:1-3 Unbelieved, Rejected, Man of Sorrows John 12:37-41 The blind eyes, hardened heart</p>	<p>53:4-6 He carries our sorrows, takes our punishment, and bears our sin.</p>	<p>53:7-9 Slaughter of the innocent Lamb</p>	<p>53:10-12 Victorious resurrected Servant</p>
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John 12:41 *Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him*

Isaiah 52:13-15 (NIV)

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

High and Lifted Up

Isaiah 6:1 Isaiah's vision of the Lord

Isaiah 57:15 *I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit.*

Isaiah 33:10 *now I will lift myself up; now I will be exalted.*

Contrast with wicked man

Isaiah 2:12-14 proud and lofty are brought low

Son of Man “lifted up” John 3:13-18, John 8:28

The bronze serpent (Numbers 21:4-9) foreshadows Christ *lifted up* on the cross.

“lifted up” as cryptic allusion to His crucifixion

Who lifts Him up?

As in Isaiah, there is a *dual* meaning in the term “lifted up:”

humiliation (He would be stripped and His brutalized body and His degrading suffering would be put on open display)

exaltation (triumph over, disarm, and make a public spectacle over the powers and authorities and procure our salvation — Colossians 2:14-15)

Son of Man must be lifted up John 12:23-43

John 12:32,33 : Jesus again alludes to the cross using the term *“lifted up.”*

He will despised and appalled by men (Isaiah 52:13; 53:3), yet He will *“draw all people”* to Himself.

The crowd claims *“the Christ will remain forever”* (v34)

How is this compatible with death?

John 8:38 / Isaiah 53:1 Lack of belief

John 8:40 / Isaiah 6:10 The blind servant (Isaiah 42:18-19)

Philippians 2:6-11

Humiliation

...he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Exaltation

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Exaltation of Christ

Ephesians 1:20-22 *...he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come...*

Daniel 7:13-14 Son of Man is given an everlasting dominion.

Mark 16:61-65 *"Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power"*

1 Peter 3:18-22 *...has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.*

Isaiah 52:13-15, 53:1 NET Bible

*Look, my servant will succeed!
He will be elevated, lifted high, and greatly exalted –
(just as many were horrified by the sight of you)
he was so disfigured he no longer looked like a man; his
form was so marred he no longer looked human –
so now he will startle many nations.
Kings will be shocked by his exaltation,
for they will witness something unannounced to them,
and they will understand something they
had not heard about.
Who would have believed what we just heard?
When was the Lord's power revealed through him?*

English Translations of Isaiah 52:15 opening

Issue is with Hebrew verb יָזַח (yazzeh) which evidently is a *homonym* which can mean "sprinkle" or "startle" (?)

<i>sprinkled</i>	<i>startled</i>
NIV	
KJV	
ESV	
ASV / NASB	
Orthodox Jewish Bible	
AMP	
Wycliffe	
YLT	
	LXX (wonder / marvel)
	Darby (astonish)
	RSV
	NLT
	NET (shocked)

Sprinkled vs Startled Isaiah 52:15a

Sprinkling of blood from his marred visage expresses His priestly act of atoning and cleansing of the nations

Consistent with message of The Suffering Servant

Startling of the nations highlights the astounding method God has chosen to reveal Himself to the nations

No one would predict or conceive that God would offer His Son as a sacrifice to redeem mankind

The marks of the crucifixion will still be evident when Christ returns and every eye will see Him (Revelation 1:7, Zechariah 12:10)

Kings shut their mouths in astonishment (Isaiah 49:7, compare with Micah 7:16)

Those who have not seen nor heard Isaiah 52:15b

God reveals Himself to the Nations

The servant is a light for the Gentiles and *opens the eyes of the blind* (Isaiah 42:7)

Jesus opening eyes of blind (Matt 9:27-30, Mark 8:22-25, John 9:1-7)

Brings justice to the nations (42:1,4)

Israel is deaf and *blind* (42:18, 19)

Blindness of Pharisees (John 9:39-41)

Paul's mission to the Gentiles (**Romans 15:21**)

Fulfillment of Promise to Abraham (Genesis 12:3)

Who has believed our message? Isaiah 53:1

Those who should have believed their Messiah

John 12:37-38 : Unbelief in the face of miracles

John 12:39-41 : Danger of unbelief is that it can become a permanent condition

Careful how you hear: Luke 8:18, Mark 4:23-25

Those who do believe

Tax collectors and prostitutes (Matthew 21:28-32)

God hides Himself from the "wise," but reveals Him Himself to children (Matthew 11:25)

"I don't seek the righteous but the sinners" (Mark 2:17)

Spreading of The Gospel Romans 10:14-21

10:15 (From Isaiah 42:7) The beauty of those who carry the Gospel message.

10:16 Rejection by Israel (echo of Isaiah 53:1)

10:18 They heard the message

The whole earth has heard (Psalm 19:4)

God placed each of us in a place where we could find Him
(Acts 17:26-27)

10:19 : Nations are envy of Israel (Deuteronomy 32:21)

10:20 : God is found by those who did not seek Him (Isaiah 65:1)

10:21 : Israel has been disobedient and obstinate