

The Servant (Isaiah 52:13-53:12)

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When I was a sophomore in College I took a Physics class that made a field trip to Fermi Labs in Batavia, Illinois where they accelerate sub-atomic particles to over 99.999% the speed of light and smash them together, resulting in even smaller particles like bosons, leptons and quarks whizzing around. Some scientists have exclaimed with a gleam in their eye that if they could collide particles with high enough speed that the result would be sub-atomic particles so small that they could unlock the key to what happened in those first moments the universe was formed- in other words, they could find God! If they ever do, I have a name for that particle- a "peon"- for their god is too small for me! People are looking in so many different places for the meaning of life. I'd like to share with you a prophecy given through the prophet Isaiah approximately 2700 years ago that in my opinion is the most amazing prophecy ever in history- a prophecy that affects us all, and will unlock the meaning of life- it is *Isaiah 52:13-53:12*. The prophecy is about a man who is given a title from the prophet as "My Servant". Here's the prophecy- read it with these questions in mind:

- 1) Who is the Servant?
- 2) What did the Servant do and why?

¹³ Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. ¹⁴Just as many were astonished at you, so His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men; ¹⁵So shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; for what had not been told them they shall see, and what they had not heard they shall consider.

¹ Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. ³He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

⁴Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. ⁸He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of My people He was stricken. ⁹And they made His grave with the wicked- But with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.

¹⁰Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. ¹¹He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities. ¹²Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

How did you answer the questions:

- 1) Who is the Servant?
- 2) What did the Servant do and why?

I've had Muslims, Jews, New Agers, Hindus, Buddhists, atheists and agnostics read this passage- and most people came up with similar answers: the prophecy is about Jesus Christ, and He would die for the sins of the world- is that the conclusion that you came to? Some have written off this passage for various reasons- we're going to take a closer look at the who the servant is and what He did, but first let us look at "Why" He died for our sins.

Why Did the Servant Die for Sins?

Notice in this passage a repeated theme: the purpose of the Servant's death:

1) He Died for Payment for Sin

52:15, "So shall He *sprinkle many nations*"

53:10, "You make His soul an *offering for sin*"

53:12 "He *bore the sin* of many"

His blood shed is payment for our sins. The word "sprinkle" in Hebrew is "Nazah"- it always has to do with cleansing from sin. If a person sinned unintentionally against any of the Lord's commandments, he was to offer a bull to be killed at the tabernacle, "The priest shall dip his finger in the blood and *sprinkle* some of the blood seven times before the Lord, in front of the veil of the sanctuary." (*Leviticus 4:1-6, cf. 4:17, 5:9, and 16:14-16*) The blood was an awful reminder of the price of sins- the wages of sin was death- the animal was a substitute for death in place of the guilty party, but it was a temporary substitute- the final substitute would be the sinless sacrifice of Jesus Christ, whose blood was shed for "*many nations*"- this is amazing, since the sacrifices done in the tabernacle/temple were not for "*many nations*" but rather for Israel's sins- God had not yet opened the door for many nations.

The word, "sin" in these two passages is "*chet*"- a fault, flaw, disobedience, "to miss the mark"- it's a hunting term referring to missing the bull's-eye- anything less than moral perfection is sin.

2) He Died for Our Transgressions

53:5 "He was wounded for our *transgressions*"

53:8 "for the *transgressions* of My people He was stricken." The Hebrew word for "*transgressions*" is "*pesha*", which means a *willful* deviation from the path of righteousness, a *premeditated* crossing of the line of God's Law, a *rebellious rejecting* of God's authority.

3) He Died for Our Iniquities

A similar word to "transgressions" is "iniquities", the Hebrew word, "avon", which means a depraved action, perversity, guilt, fault, an infraction of moral law.

53:5 "He was bruised for our iniquities"

53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the *iniquity* of us all."

53:11 "My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities"

Notice that He died for "all" of our iniquities- all our rebellion against God, going our own way instead of God's way. In summary, eight times in this passage the Servant died for our sins, iniquities or transgressions- God must be extremely serious about sin. Because of this, it is critical that we understand what God's definition of sin is and see where we stand before the holiness of God. He has given us His standard in the two stone tablets of the Law, the 10 Commandments given to Israel on Mount Sinai. As the tablets were brought down from Mount Sinai, there was a thick cloud, the mountain shook greatly with thundering and lightning and God's trumpet blasted loudly as the people trembled greatly with fear (*Exodus 19*).

We will cover the Ten Commandments in reverse order- as you contemplate the meaning of each of the Commandments, ask yourself the following questions in all sincerity:

- 1) Would I be angry if someone broke this Commandment against me?
- 2) Have I ever broken this Commandment?
- 3) Have I ever felt guilty for breaking this Commandment?

Before starting, I'll admit I didn't stack up well against the Ten Commandments. Let's see how well you stack up against the holy Law of God:

10) You Shall Not Covet- you shall not desire in your heart another person's spouse, servant, ox, donkey or anything they own. The heart of this Commandment is contentment (*Heb 13:5-6*) - have you always been content with what you have? Have you ever been jealous or envious of what another person had? What do people have that others can covet?

- a) A relationship- a spouse, a boyfriend, a girlfriend, a friend or popularity
- b) A position- have you ever been discontent with your position in life, such as your career?

c) A possession- an ox, a house, clothes, jewelry, a car or a boat?

The apostle James tells us the damage that coveting has in relationships, “Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses!” (*James 4:1-5*)

Be honest- have you ever coveted?

9) You Shall Not Bear False Witness

Jesus said, “Let your ‘yes’ be ‘yes’ and your ‘no’ be ‘no’- anything more than this comes from the evil one.” (*Matthew 5:37*) Have you always been a person of truth? If not, then by definition, you are a liar.

8) You Shall Not Steal

Stealing is taking something that doesn’t belong to you and that you don’t have permission to take. The value is irrelevant- if I reached into your purse or wallet and took two cents- it still would be stealing. Stealing includes illegally downloading music off the internet, illegally avoiding taxes or fines from government, taking materials for your own use from your workplace without permission, stealing answers for a homework assignment, quiz or test, and taking credit for ideas or work that others did. Those who have stolen are called a “thief” by definition.

7) You Shall Not Commit Adultery

God has given us the standard for sexual purity: only the marriage bed is holy (*Hebrews 13:4*) but God will judge the fornicator, the adulterer and the homosexual offender- why? Our God is a covenant-keeping God who has designed marriage and sex for relationships that are stable, secure and permanent, “till death do us part”, from which stable, godly families can spring forth. Our covenant is to be public- that is why the marriage vows are so important- we commit before God and man. God hates divorce (*Malachi 2:14-16*) for it is the breaking of a covenant that was meant to be permanent. Likewise God hates fornication, for it dilutes the purity of the covenant before it even begins.

Sex is like fire- it is wonderful in the fireplace, in the place where it belongs, but it is a raging forest fire outside of the fireplace, leading to a form of idolatry- the worship of pleasure as a substitute to the worship of God (*Ephesians 5:3-5*, *Colossians 3:5*). Sex is like a finely tuned race car- as long as it stays on the track, it is a thing of great beauty, but the moment it veers off the track, tragedy is the result. Sex is like duct tape- you stick duct tape to something, and it sticks, but if you tear it off again and stick it to something else, it loses its’ stickiness, and so, the person who whores around from one person to the next loses all intimacy.

More than that, God demands sexual purity, not just externally, but in the heart. Jesus said that if you lust after a woman, you have committed adultery of the heart (*Matthew 5:28*). God is serious about sexual purity. Be honest, search your conscience, have you ever violated the 7th Commandment in heart or in deed? If so, you are an adulterer by definition.

6) You Shall Not Murder

Jesus and the Apostles made clear that unrighteous anger (selfish anger and rage) was murder of the heart, as well as vengeful, hateful thoughts, and that we can gossip and slander and thus murder with our lips. Jesus said if we even call someone a fool, we’re in danger of the fires of hell. By God’s standards, have you ever murdered?

5) Honor Your Mother and Father

Have you always obeyed your mom and dad- both in action and in attitude?

4) Keep the Sabbath Day Holy

Have you taken one day in seven to rest from your labors and honor God? Do you make it a habit to fellowship with others who worship Him? The scriptures are clear- we need each other. If you had a fire burning brightly in a fireplace and took a tong and placed a burning ember from the fire on the ledge, away from the other embers, it would eventually lose its’ fire and cool down. Such is the man or woman who doesn’t make it a habit to come to church- their fire for God wanes with time.

3) Do Not Take the Lord's Name in Vain

Have you ever substituted God's name for a cuss word? What if I used your mother's name in that way- would you be upset? How much worse to use the holy Name of the One who created you and who sustains your life as a cuss word? "The Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain." (Exodus 20:7) Even to use His name flippantly, when you're not even talking about God, such as saying, "O God!" is to abuse His name. To abuse His name is called blasphemy.

2) You Shall Not Commit Idolatry

Idolatry is substituting a false god for the real God. When we say or think things like, "My God would never send people to hell" we commit idolatry- we invent a god in our minds that we're comfortable with instead of believing the One true God. As we saw with sexuality and covetousness (the 7th and 10th Commandments), it is possible for any obsession to become an idol in our life- a relationship, substance abuse, the pursuit of illicit pleasures, possessions or money. What does your mind think of when you have idle time? That may be your idol. Have you ever committed idolatry?

1) You Shall Have No Other Gods Before Me

Has God always been first in your life? When asked what the most important Commandment was, Jesus quoted *Deuteronomy 6:5*, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." Have you done that, always? If your answer is "yes", then God says you are a liar, "There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one." (*Romans 3:10-12*) The prophet Isaiah graphically describes our own goodness before God, "But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags (used menstrual cloths)." (*Isaiah 64:6*)

If you've violated these commandments, by definition you're a covetous, lying, thieving, adulterous, murderous, blasphemous, idolater at heart. Would you deserve heaven or hell on Judgment Day if you were judged by God's Law?

The Purpose of the Commandments

God tells us the purpose of His Commandments: "The Law of the Lord is perfect, *converting the soul*" (*Psalms 19:7*) "Now we know that whatever the Law says, it says to those who are under the Law, *that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God*. Therefore by the deeds of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for *by the Law is the knowledge of sin*." (*Romans 3:19-20*) Sinner, do you see the predicament you are in before the holiness of God's law? The Ten Commandments should have devastated in you any possibility of entering into heaven on your own goodness, and given you a deep longing for the Servant- Jesus Christ, who paid the price for all your sins.

The good news is this, "But now the righteousness of God apart from the Law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe." (*Romans 3:21-22*) On the day you die, you will need righteousness to enter into heaven and escape the just judgment of God in hell for your sins. This is witnessed by the prophets, as we have truly seen in the prophet Isaiah!

The Holiness of God

Some will say, "God will forgive. Therefore I don't need to put my trust in Jesus Christ, repent (turn from my sin) and give Him my life." To say such is to misunderstand the holiness of God. Your sins are attached to you. Consider in a court of law- you have been convicted of a serious crime and you ask the judge to pardon you. He would be a corrupt judge to do such. If he fined you \$1,000,000 or life in prison, and you didn't have the money, you'd go to jail, but if someone paid the fine for you, then justice would be served and you'd be free to go. You would be justified before the court of law. That is what Jesus did for you. Isaiah prophesied, "By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall *justify many*, for He shall bear their iniquities." (*Isaiah 53:11*)

Earlier in the book of Isaiah, the prophet Isaiah had a vision of God's throne that forever changed his life- he got a glimpse of the holiness of God. He saw angels surrounding God's throne, crying to each other, "*Holy, holy, holy* is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His *glory!*" (*Isaiah 6:3*) When Isaiah saw the Lord sitting on the throne, he cried, "Woe is me, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes

have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.” (*Isaiah 6:5*) What will you do on Judgment Day when you stand before the Lord of the entire heavenly host, who is wrapped in unapproachable light, who knows your every motive, every thought, every word and every deed? You will need the Servant as your Advocate, who paid the price for your sins.

The Four Servant Songs:

There are a total of four Servant Songs in Isaiah:

- 1) Isaiah 42:1-9
- 2) Isaiah 49:1-13
- 3) Isaiah 50:4-11
- 4) Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Main Themes in the Four Servant Songs

Let us look briefly at some main themes of these Servant Songs to whet our appetites for further study of prophecy in Isaiah.

1) Prophecies of Events Leading Up to the Crucifixion:

In the 3rd Servant Song, the Servant describes His willingness to suffer at the hands of sinners, “I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.” (*Isaiah 50:6*) Compare this to the gospel accounts of Jesus’ trial, mocking and scourging:

- a. He was betrayed by a kiss from Judas (*Mark 14:45*)
- b. They sought false testimony about Him- yet He remained silent (*Mark 14:53-61, 15:5*). In the fourth Servant Song, Isaiah prophesied, “He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.” (*Isaiah 53:7*)
- c. They spat upon him and struck Him, “Then some began to spit on Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him, and to say to Him, ‘Prophesy!’ And the officers struck Him with the palms of their hands.” (*Mark 14:65*) To be struck when blindfolded is to get the full force of a blow- His face must have been a swollen, bloody mess from these blows- as prophesied by Isaiah, “There were many that were astonished at you, so His visage [appearance] was marred more than any man.” (*Isaiah 52:14*)
- d. He was tried by the Sanhedrin and before Pilate and Herod.
- e. Afterwards, He was mocked, struck and scourged- in scourging, He was tied to a post and His back was whipped with a cat-o-nine tails with bits that tore ribbons of flesh off His back and exposed His vital organs- the lost blood from the scourging alone would have brought Him to a point of near-death. “Pilate...delivered Jesus, after He had scourged Him...They twisted a crown of thorns, put it on His head, and began to salute Him, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ Then they struck Him on the head with a reed and spat on Him; and bowing the knee, they worshiped Him.” (*Mark 15:15-20*)

2) His ministry to the Gentiles.

God separated the Jewish people from the other nations for a specific purpose. To see this purpose let us go back to 2000 B.C. where God first speaks of this to Abraham in *Genesis 12:1-7*: “I will make you a great nation...and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed...to your descendants I will give this land.” Through the Jews, all peoples on earth would be blessed- how? Through the Servant, who would be born from them in the land of Israel. “Behold! My Servant...He will bring forth justice [by His death on the cross] to the *Gentiles* [non-Jews]” (*Isaiah 42:1*) “I will also give You as a light to the *Gentiles*, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.” (*Isaiah 49:6*)

3) The Servant to be a Covenant to the World

“I will keep You and give You as a *covenant* to the people, as a light to the *Gentiles*” (*Isaiah 42:6,8-9, 49:8*) The prophet Jeremiah around 580 B.C. prophesied of this covenant (*Jeremiah 31:31-34*)- it was a New Covenant that was necessary because the Jews (and none of us, as we have seen) could keep the Old Covenant, the Ten Commandments. This New Covenant, which would be accomplished through the Servant, would accomplish two things that the Old Covenant never could: it would forgive their sins and bring them into an intimate relationship with God.

4) The Meekness of the Servant

The Servant would come in meekness, supporting those who are bruised and hurting “a *bruised reed* He will not break, and *smoking flax* He will not quench” (*Isaiah 42:2-3*) Reeds grew in the river and were used for writing. Bruised reeds were worthless and would be burned up in the fire, but the Servant would not destroy such a bruised reed. A smoking flax is a candle on its’ last gasp that is smoldering but not producing a flame. What a comfort these passages are to me- I’ve been that bruised reed- I’ve been bruised by sin and I have bruised others as well. I’ve been that smoking flax. In all my weaknesses, Jesus Christ has been my Servant, supporting me, forgiving me when all hope was lost, and granting me a new lease on life and the power and encouragement to live a life holy and separated onto Him. Are you that bruised reed or smoking flax? Jesus said, “Come to Me all you who are weary and heavy laden [with sin] and I will give you rest.” (*Matthew 11:28*)

5) The Servant’s Humble Entrance into the World

Through the prophet Isaiah, Jesus Christ speaks of His incredible birth, “The Lord has called Me from the womb; from the matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name.” (*Isaiah 49:1*) Earlier in Isaiah it was prophesied, “The Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the *virgin* shall conceive and bear a *Son*, and shall call His name *Immanuel* [which means “God with us”] (*7:14, cf. 8:8, 10*) “For unto us a *Child* is born, unto us a *Son* is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (*Isaiah 9:1-7, cf. Psalm 22:9-10*)

The fourth Servant song also speaks of this Child-Servant, “He shall grow up before Him as a *tender plant*, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.” (*53:2*) God humbled Himself, was born of a virgin and entered into the world as a man- not some towering, handsome giant, but just a baby, born of a virgin, with all the frailties of a baby. He was born in Bethlehem as the prophets proclaimed (*Micah 5:1-4*) but would grow up in Nazareth, a humble, hillbilly town in “Galilee of the Gentiles” as prophesied (*Isaiah 9:1*).

The virgin birth was first prophesied approximately 4000 years before Jesus Christ was born. Immediately after Adam and Eve disobeyed God and the curse of sin separated them from God, God held out hope of a future Seed who would come and destroy Satan and sin. God prophesied to Satan, “I will put enmity [division, strife] between you and the woman [Eve] and between your seed and her *Seed* [Jesus Christ]; He [Jesus Christ] shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” (*Genesis 3:15*) Satan would be crushed by Jesus Christ, but in the process, Jesus Christ would be bruised- He would suffer, bearing the sins of the world on that cross. Isaiah later picks up on this word “bruise”: “He was *bruised* for our iniquities” (*Isaiah 53:5*). Jesus would be born of the “Seed” of the woman. Nowhere else in scripture does “seed” come from a woman, for “seed” represents sperm- but Jesus Christ was born of a virgin.

Why would God become a man? Why would God arrive on the scene in such a meek way? Why was the virgin birth necessary? The virgin birth makes Jesus Christ the God-man. He’s 100% God and 100% man. All of humanity was born of Adam and Eve, and ever since their sin, sin has reigned in all mankind. But Jesus Christ had no earthly father. Spiritually speaking, God the Father was His Father- and thus Jesus was born into humanity without a sin nature. He was tempted in every way, yet was without sin. Because He was human, He can identify with all our weaknesses, suffering and tragedy. Because He is God, who sits at the right hand of the Father, He is able to empower us and intercede for our behalf- what an amazing mystery.

6) God Hides His Servant

“And He [the Lord] has made My mouth a sharp sword; in the shadow of His hand He has *hidden* Me, and made Me a polished shaft; In His quiver He has *hidden* Me.” (*Isaiah 49:2*) As I talk with unbelievers about the good news of Jesus Christ, some say things like, “Tell you what, if God does some miracle before my eyes, I will believe. Take me through the cancer ward and heal everyone, and I’ll believe. Let Him write it in the stars, “Jesus is Lord” and I’ll believe! Show me some irrefutable evidence, and I’ll believe. Why is God hiding? Let Him show Himself plainly to me, and I’ll believe.”

Is God hiding? In the fourth Servant Song, God says, “Who has believed Our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” (*53:1*) God *is* hiding His incredible message about His Servant from some people, but why? He has revealed Himself through Creation and our conscience to show us enough evidence to want to seek Him and find Him- if we are willing. The Apostle Paul preached to a crowd of Greeks- some who were seeking truth and others who scoffed at his words, “God, who made the world and everything in it...He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, *so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us...*" (Acts 17:24-27)

Are you earnestly seeking the Lord? If not, maybe you haven't found Jesus for the same reason a crook can't find a policeman? Jesus often spoke in mysterious stories (parables) to keep the meaning hidden to those who weren't truly seeking, knowing the seeker would be determined to find the truth (Matthew 13:12-15)

7) The Servant's Total Submission and Reliance on God

God describes His Servant as the One whom He upholds and delights in (Isaiah 42:1). In the 3rd Servant Song, we see the total reliance and submission the Servant has for God the Father to meet His need. Jesus spoke through the prophet Isaiah, "The Lord God has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to hear as the learned. The Lord God has opened My ear; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away... For the Lord God will help Me; therefore I will not be disgraced; therefore I have set My face like a flint, and I know that I will not be ashamed." (Isaiah 50:4-5, 7)

Jesus Christ, the God-man, was completely reliant and submissive to the will of the Father in having Him beaten, falsely accused, tried and crucified. His whole life was lived in reliance to the Father giving Him the necessary strength to sustain Him. Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does." (John 5:19-20) "I can of Myself do nothing... I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me." (John 5:30) It was this reliance and trust in the Father that sustained Jesus in the midst of the most horrendous persecution, shame and condemnation.

7) Judgment of the Wicked, Exaltation of the Servant

To those who disobey the voice of the Servant and reject the gospel of Jesus Christ, the message of Isaiah is clear: they will be consumed. The urgent plea is to leave our life of darkness and trust in the Servant: "Who among you fears the Lord? Who obeys the voice of His Servant? Who walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord and rely upon his God." (Isaiah 50:10) For those who reject the message of the Servant, God is clear to the consequences, "This you shall have from My hand: You shall lie down in torment." (Isaiah 50:11)

"Kings will shut their mouths at Him; for what had not been told them they shall see, and what they had not heard they shall consider." (Isaiah 52:15) The leaders of the world in their struggle for power make little to no consideration of Jesus Christ. There will come a day when the tables are reversed- their mouths will be shut as they are judged by the Son of God for their rebellion. God spoke a prophecy through King David approximately 300 years before Isaiah, "I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel. Now therefore, be wise, O kings, be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him." (Psalm 2:7-12)

This same Servant will reign as King over all the earth, "He will bring forth justice for truth. He will not fail nor be discouraged, till He has established justice in the earth." (Isaiah 42:3-4) "He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high" (Isaiah 52:13)

His sacrifice will bring Him great joy to see the results- souls saved and God the Father glorified, "When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied." (Isaiah 53:10-11) When one sinner repents and receives salvation, there is joy in heaven, to the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ, who paid the ultimate price for that seed- you and me, His spiritual offspring, demonstrating the ultimate sacrifice and infinite grace, mercy and love- what an awesome God we serve!

The saving of wretched sinners like me brings ultimate glory to the character of God- this is the ultimate "why" of the suffering Servant that unlocks the key to the universe- to magnify the greatness of who He is- how worthy He is of our adoration and obedience.

The 5th Servant Song

We've pondered four servant songs- what's your song?

Approximately 30 years after Jesus Christ was crucified and rose from the grave, Paul copied a song that was sung (or chanted as a creed) by the early church into his letter to the church at Philippi. I'd like to call it the 5th Servant song: "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (*Philippians 2:6-11*)

Does that song express the desire of your heart- to offer your life to God, to follow in the passion, surrender and humility of Jesus Christ, sacrificing all to follow hard after Him?

The Eternal Servant Song

Servants of the Lord Jesus Christ will gather around His throne in eternity and sing songs like this incredible Servant song in the book of Revelation: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth." (*5:9-10*)

What's your song? You're still breathing- it's never too late to change your tune. He gave His all- He is your Servant- will you be His Servant, or will you continue serving yourself, your sin and the devil? Like Bob Dylan sang, "You're gonna have to serve somebody, well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord, But you're gonna have to serve somebody."

In Christ,
Mike Porter