

WINDOW ON THE WORD

TAPES AND LITERATURE BY WORD OF TRUTH

July 2023

Proverbs 25:11 observes, "Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken in right circumstances." It is the aim of this Word of Truth newsletter to say those words that will give you a "window on the word."

Chester A. McCalley

Sound Doctrine

The Miracle of Fulfilled Prophecy

PART 4

Isaiah 53 is the prophetic gem of the Old Testament. Augustine called it the "fifth gospel"; and Polycarp, the disciple of John the Apostle, called it "the golden passion of the Old Testament." Martin Luther said every believer should be able to quote it by heart.

To understand the suffering servant spoken of by Isaiah as fulfilled in Jesus is beyond question. In Acts 8 we are told that an Ethiopian official returning from Jerusalem was reading Isaiah 53, especially verses 7 and 8. As Philip approaches the chariot, he says, "Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself, or someone else?" And Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture (Isaiah 53) he preached Jesus to him." Here is the key to Isaiah's great prophecy—Jesus is the servant of whom the prophet spoke.

The prophecy falls into three parts: *summary* of the Messiah's suffering (52:13-15), *facts* about the Messiah's suffering (53:1-9), and *fruit* of the Messiah's suffering (53:10-12). We will discuss those portions of the prophecy that find dramatic and precise fulfillment in the New Testament.

Isaiah Prophesied of the Resurrection, the Ascension, and the Exaltation of Jesus Christ

Speaking of the Messiah as *My servant*, the prophet says, "He will be high and lifted up, and greatly exalted." These three verbs anticipate three great events in the career of Jesus Christ. First, the verb *be high* is literally *rise*

Suggested Studies

Morality in an X-rated Society

This short series from the book of Proverbs covers the basic concepts of absolute morality as taught in God's word. Sexual morality is emphasized five times in the first eight chapters of Proverbs. Since our society rejects this biblical truth, we, our children, and our grandchildren need to be well established in divine morality. These messages are entitled:

Things God Hates
Sexual Morality, parts 1 and 2
Setting for Sexual Temptation
Tactics of Sexual Temptation
Lady Wisdom Beckons, parts 1-4

This short series is available on CD as well as on our website, www.WordofTruthKC.org. On the website, these classes are found under the Old Testament menu in the series "Proverbs: An Exposition of Chapters 1-9" and are coded as N-Pro 35-43. You can order these classes by mailing the enclosed form, calling and leaving a message at 1-800-326-4414, or the best way is to email your order to wtruth@kc.rr.com. □

"Grace of God" Booklet

There is no truth more essential to true Christianity than the concept of the grace of God. Chester's teaching concerning the doctrine of grace appears in a small booklet called *The Grace of God*. This booklet measures approximately 4 x 6 inches and is just the right size to include in a note to a friend or relative who needs to hear about God's incredible grace. Order a couple today.

up, which predicts His resurrection. Second, the verb *lifted up* means to *raise oneself up*, which anticipates His ascension. Third, *greatly exalted* describes a state or condition. Jesus ascended and was seated at the Father's right hand where He now remains. This position is sometimes called the *session* of Christ. Delitzsch, the well known Old Testament commentator, translates as follows: "He will rise up (Christ's resurrection), He will raise Himself still higher (Christ's ascension), He will stand on high (Christ's session)."

"Fulfilled Prophecy" continued on page 2

Isaiah Prophesied of the Physical Conditions in which Jesus Christ Would Live

"For He (the Messiah) grew up before Him (God the Father) like a tender shoot, and like a root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty...nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him."

The metaphor *tender shoot* means *twig, sapling, or suckling*. It pictures something of little or no value, except to be trimmed away. It describes the lowly and humble manner of living that characterized Jesus. From man's viewpoint, He was born in the wrong town; He was raised in the wrong town; He was considered an illegitimate child, and was finally condemned with criminals with whom He died. All of this was done *before Him*, which reminds us of Jesus' words, "My food is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to accomplish His work" (John 4:34).

He was *like a root out of parched ground*. How can a root grow out of ground that contains no water? It cannot. What then, does this prophecy mean? Jesus received no sustenance from His environment. Jesus could not be explained by His environment. In spite of a totally hostile environment that could contribute nothing to His growth, He grew. How so? Jesus is the Son of God, and all of His sustenance was derived from His heavenly Father.

Among the Greeks and Romans, beauty and physical attractiveness are prerequisites of greatness. However, as to the physical appearance of Jesus, the Gospels are absolutely silent! The greatness of Jesus was in His person and His message, and to deny them is to be unattracted to Him at all.

Isaiah Prophesied of the Oppression of His Trials and His Silence Before His Judges

In His trials before both the Jewish and Roman courts, we are told "He was oppressed and He was afflicted." These words are especially significant when

one considers the illegality of the religious and civil trials of Jesus. He was arrested and tried at night—this was illegal. False witnesses were sought and found, an obvious miscarriage of justice. He was even struck by a Roman soldier and ridiculed by the court—all before a verdict was even reached. In the face of all this, Matthew 26:63 says, "Jesus kept silent"—a remarkable fulfillment of Isaiah's words, "yet He did not open His mouth" (Isaiah 53:7).

Isaiah Prophesied the Details of the Burial of Jesus

"His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet He was with a rich man in His death."

The plan of Rome for the burial of Jesus was simple: He died between two thieves and would likewise be buried with them. But this was not the plan of God nor did it fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah, for He must be "with a rich man in His death." Matthew tells us that on the evening of His crucifixion, a rich man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. The request was granted; and Jesus was taken by Joseph, prepared for burial, and placed "in his own new tomb" (Matthew 27:57-60).

The word of God knows nothing of inaccuracy or error. Its prophecy is true; its doctrine is pure; and its truths are eternal. Isaiah 53 is the purest truth and a most accurate doctrine. In His suffering, He took the sins of men and paid their debt to the fullest. Isaiah 53 is a gem of grace: The straying sheep for whom He died are the same sheep who put Him to death! □

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