

# The Suffering Servant

## Lesson for Sunday, April 9, 2023

### INTRO/REVIEW:

Genesis 1:31 – God created it all

Genesis 1:27 – We are all created in God’s image.

Genesis 3:6 – The Fall changed it all.

Genesis 3:15 – God’s promise of redemption

Genesis 12:2-3 – The Seed of Abraham

Genesis 49:10 – Judah’s Royal Seed

Exodus 12:23 – The Passover Lamb

2 Samuel 7:13 – The Line of David

⇒ We’ve come to a place in these lessons where it seems like the Bible story is at an impasse.

⇒ But don’t forget – God made a promise in Genesis 3:15. He reiterated the promise to Abraham and to David. And God always keeps His promises.

### BIBLE STUDY:

#### 1. A Sinful Scene

- a. Consider where we are in the Story of the Bible.
- b. Two lessons ago, we saw the need for the Passover lambs and the sacrifices required by the Mosaic law.
- c. In our overview of King David and the subsequent kings, we saw that each king failed to obey God perfectly and the sacrifices were needed more than ever.
- d. But there seems to be an even bigger issue: Those sacrifices were not solving the sin problem. Throughout Israel’s story there looms a cloud of sin over them and the surrounding nations.
  - i. Israel was constantly being led deeper and deeper into idolatry.
  - ii. The nation actually divided into two kingdoms for a period. Both the northern kingdom (referred to as Israel) or the southern kingdom (Judah) did any better.
  - iii. In fact, it’s not as if they were trying and failing to keep God’s law. They were not trying at all!
- e. The result of Israel’s disobedience? The judgment of God. And God’s judgment usually came through captivity.
  - i. Assyria conquered Israel in the north.
  - ii. 250 years later, the Babylonians conquered Judah and led the people into captivity for 70 years.
- f. *The people of God needed a long-term solution.*

#### 2. A Suffering Servant

- a. About 150 years before Judah went into exile, God gave the prophet Isaiah a vision that pointed forward to a definitive solution to the sin problem.
- b. Read Isaiah 53:6. Does the description of wandering sheep sound familiar? The history of Israel (and of us) is perfectly described as sheep that “have gone astray...turning every one to his own way.”
- c. God’s plan was not to send another animal sacrifice. Instead, He would send a Suffering Servant.
- d. Read 53:3-6, 10 to learn about the Suffering Servant:
  - i. These verses provide us with an understanding of what God had in store.
  - ii. This passage describes the horrible task that God set before His Servant.
  - iii. Vs. 3: He is despised and rejected of men...
  - iv. Vs. 3: He is a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief...
  - v. Vs. 4: It was His calling to be stricken (plagued) by God and afflicted...’

- e. But in verse 5 we begin to see hope as we read that the suffering of the servant would bring peace and healing.
- f. In Isaiah 53, all the covenant penalties come to a head in verse 6 when it reads that God has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
- g. What is God saying? *The suffering of the Servant as the representative of God's people would finally take away the punishment that they all rightfully deserved.*
- h. Look back at verse 10. Do you see the phrase, "thou shalt make His soul an offering for sin?" The Suffering Servant, as the representative of the nation, would step in and do what all of the sacrifices could never do.
  - i. He would bring peace and healing.
  - ii. He would absorb the sin and guilt of the nation.
  - iii. He would bear the sin of may (see vs. 12).
- i. His role would be to finally and fully deal with the problem of sin and guilt once and for all. He sounds a lot like the seed of the woman from way back in Genesis 3!
- j. Living on this side of the Cross, we know the Suffering Servant to be the Lord Jesus Christ!

#### CONCLUSION:

As wonderful as the hope for the Suffering Servant is, there is still one problem with this picture. To reverse the effects of the curse, it was not just sin that needed to be defeated. Death was still the great enemy lurking in the background. And it seems that for the seed/Servant to complete His mission, death needed to be defeated as well. Come back next week...

Be sure to add: "Isaiah 53:5 – The Suffering Servant" to the timeline.