

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

The Riddle Who Solves
All Riddles

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Theme: Place your trust in the Servant who solves the problem of our sin.

Introduction: This passage is the high point of the OT, one of the most famous passages in Scripture, and at first read it presents a riddle: who is this man, this servant? He seems to offer a series of riddles, but they all relate to his great mission.

This passage examines the riddles of the Servant over 5 points:

1. He's Exalted But Marred (52:13–15)

Everyone is tempted to think that good people are exalted and bad people are punished; but here we see a surprising reversal.

The Servant is both highly (thrice) exalted and inhumanly deformed.

2. He's the Arm of the Lord But Given No Majesty (53:1–3)

The Servant fulfills the promise of the Lord's mighty redemption (cf. 52:10). He is the arm of the Lord.

But he's also like a root out of dry ground—he has no form or majesty. He is despised and rejected.

3. He's Sinless But Punished for Sins (53:4–6)

These verses begin to answer why the servant suffers: not for his own sins but for those of his people.

This is the heart of the gospel: substitutionary atonement. In his death, Jesus accomplishes what was symbolized by the 2 goats on the Day of Atonement (Lev 16). He bore the penalty for our sins and he removed our sin and God's wrath.

4. He's Obedient But With the Wicked (53:7–9)

Jesus did no wrong yet he was lumped in with the wicked.

The One with no deceit received the death that deceivers—like us—deserved.

5. He's Rewarded But Crushed (53:10–12)

It was the will of the Lord to crush his Servant—it's his design. And the crushing is our salvation.

Those who trust him are 'accounted righteous' now, in this age. Jesus *is* righteous, and in him we are *accounted* righteous.

Though he is crushed, he is also rewarded. His obedience leads to a great exaltation.

Questions:

1. From what do you need to be saved?
2. What has Jesus done to save you?
3. Do you trust in him for the forgiveness of your sins? Do you know that your sins are forgiven? How would you like to grow in trusting him?