



**COUNTER-MISSIONARY  
SURVIVAL SEMINAR**

Session #6

Isaiah 53 – The Suffering Servant

## ISAIAH: THE SUFFERING SERVANT

### ISAIAH 52:1-15

<sup>1</sup> Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Zion! Put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; for the uncircumcised and the unclean shall enter you no more.

<sup>2</sup> Shake yourself from the dust, rise up, O captive Jerusalem; loose the bonds from your neck, O captive daughter Zion!

<sup>3</sup> For thus says the L-rd: "you were sold for nothing, and you shall be redeemed without money."

<sup>4</sup> For thus says the L-rd G-d: "Long ago, my people went down into Egypt to reside there as aliens; the Assyrian, too, oppressed them without cause.

<sup>5</sup> Now therefore what am I doing here," says the L-rd, "seeing that my people are taken away without cause? Their rulers howl," says the L-rd, "and continually, all day long, my name is despised.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore my people shall know my name; therefore in that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here am I."

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your G-d reigns."

<sup>8</sup> Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the L-rd to Zion.

<sup>9</sup> Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the L-rd has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> The L-rd has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our G-d.

<sup>11</sup> Depart, depart, go out from there! Touch no unclean thing; go out from the midst of it,

purify yourselves, you who carry the vessels of the L-rd.

<sup>12</sup> For you shall not go out in haste, and you shall not go in flight; for the L-rd will go before you, and the G-d of Israel will be your rear guard.

<sup>13</sup> See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high.

<sup>14</sup> Just as there were many who were astonished at you, saying, "Surely his visage was marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men."

<sup>15</sup> So shall he startle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall understand.

### ISAIAH 53:1-12

<sup>1</sup> "Who would have believed what we are hearing? And to whom has the arm of the L-rd been revealed?

<sup>2</sup> For he grew up before him as a tender plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look upon him, nor appearance that we should delight in him.

<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by men; a man of pains and well acquainted with disease; and as one from whom men hide their faces; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

<sup>4</sup> Surely our diseases he did bear, and our pains he carried, but we considered him smitten of G-d and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup> But he was wounded from our transgressions, he was crushed as a result of our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed.

<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray, we turned every one to his own way; and the L-rd has laid upon him the iniquity of us all.

<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and he was afflicted, but did not open his mouth; as a lamb that is led to the slaughter and as a sheep that before her shearers is dumb, and did not open his mouth.

<sup>8</sup> From dominion and judgment he was taken away, and his history - who is able to relate? For he was cut out of the land of the living, as a result of the transgression of my people, they were afflicted.

<sup>9</sup> And his grave was set with the wicked, and with the wealthy with his kinds of deaths, although he had done no violence, neither was there any deceit in his mouth.

<sup>10</sup> And the L-rd wished to crush him, He made him ill; if he would offer himself as a guilt offering, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days. And the purpose of the L-rd will prosper in his hand."

<sup>11</sup> For the labor of his soul he shall see, he shall be satisfied. With his knowledge, the righteous one, My servant will cause many to be just, and their iniquities he shall bear.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore I will allot a portion to him with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the mighty, because he poured out his soul to the death, and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

#### **ISAIAH 54:1-17**

<sup>1</sup> Sing, O barren one who did not bear; burst into song and shout, you who have not been in labor! For the children of the desolate woman will be more than the children of her that is married, says the L-rd.

<sup>2</sup> Enlarge the site of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out;

do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes.

<sup>3</sup> For you will spread out to the right and to the left, and your descendants will possess the nations and will settle desolate towns.

<sup>4</sup> Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; do not be discouraged, for you will not suffer disgrace; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and the disgrace of your widowhood you will remember no more.

<sup>5</sup> For your Maker is your husband, the L-rd of hosts is his name; the Holy One of Israel is your redeemer, the G-d of the whole earth he is called.

<sup>6</sup> For the L-rd has called you like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, like the wife of a man's youth when she is cast off, says your G-d.

<sup>7</sup> For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great compassion I will gather you.

<sup>8</sup> In overflowing wrath for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you, says the L-rd your Redeemer.

<sup>9</sup> This is like the days of Noah to me: Just as I swore that the waters of Noah would never again go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you and will not rebuke you.

<sup>10</sup> For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the L-rd, who has compassion on you.

<sup>11</sup> O afflicted one, storm-tossed, and not comforted, I am about to set your stones in antimony, and lay your foundations with sapphires.

<sup>12</sup> I will make your pinnacles of rubies, your gates of jewels, and all your walls of precious stones.

<sup>13</sup> All your children shall be taught by the L-rd, and great shall be the prosperity of your children.

<sup>14</sup> In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you.

<sup>15</sup> If anyone stirs up strife, it is not from me; whoever stirs up strife with you shall fall because of you.

<sup>16</sup> See it is I who have created the smith who blows the fire of coals, and produces a weapon fit for its purpose; I have also created the ravager to destroy.

<sup>17</sup> No weapon that is fashioned against you shall prosper, and you shall confute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the L-rd and their vindication from me, says the L-rd.

**ACCORDING TO THE CHRISTIAN BIBLE  
IS JESUS  
THE SUFFERING SERVANT OF ISAIAH 53?**

**MATTHEW 16:21-22**

<sup>21</sup> From that time forth began Jesus to show unto his disciples how he must go into Jerusalem, and suffer many things at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. <sup>22</sup> Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it lord, this must never happen to you."

**MARK 9:31-32**

<sup>31</sup> For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, "The son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day." <sup>32</sup> But they understood not that saying, and were afraid to ask him.

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**ISAIAH 53:2-3 – DESIRABLE?**

**MARK 3:7-9**

<sup>7</sup> Jesus departed with his disciples to the sea, and a great multitude from Galilee followed him; <sup>8</sup> hearing all that he was doing, they came to him in great numbers from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, beyond the Jordan, and the region around Tyre and Sidon. <sup>9</sup> He told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, so that they would not crush him;

**LUKE 2:52**

<sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

**LUKE 4:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus, filled with the power of the spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup> He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

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**ISAIAH 53:7 – A "LAMB" LED TO SLAUGHTER?**

**JOHN 18:36**

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.

**MATTHEW 27:46**

And about three o'clock, Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My G-d, my G-d, why have you forsaken me?"

**MATTHEW 26:39**

And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is

## ISAIAH 53:9 - NO VIOLENCE OR DECEIT?

### LUKE 8:32-33

<sup>32</sup> Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. <sup>33</sup> Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

### LUKE 19:27

"But as for these enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them -- bring them here and slaughter them in my presence."

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### MATTHEW 21:18-20

<sup>18</sup> Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered. <sup>19</sup> And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said

unto it, "Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward forever." And presently the fig tree withered away. <sup>20</sup> And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How soon is the fig tree withered away."

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### MARK 11:13-14

<sup>13</sup> And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find anything thereon: and when he came to it, he found

nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. <sup>14</sup> And Jesus answered and said unto it, "No man eat fruit of the hereafter forever." And his disciples heard it.

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### MATTHEW 10:34-35

<sup>34</sup> Think not that I am come to send peace on earth; I came not to send peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

### JOHN 2:14-15

<sup>14</sup> And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: <sup>15</sup> And when he had made a whip of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

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### JOHN 18:36

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

### LUKE 22:36

He said to them, "But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one."

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## JOHN 18:20

Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret."

## MARK 4:10-12

<sup>10</sup> When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. <sup>11</sup> And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of G-d, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; <sup>12</sup> in order that they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven."

## MATTHEW 16:19-20

<sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will

be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup> Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

## LUKE 8:53-56

<sup>53</sup> And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. <sup>54</sup> But he took her by the hand and called out, "Child, get up!" <sup>55</sup> Her spirit returned, and she got up at once. Then he directed them to give her something to eat. <sup>56</sup> Her parents were astounded; but he ordered them to tell no one what had happened.

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## ISAIAH 53:10 – SEE HIS “SEED”?

### DEUTERONOMY 14

You are children (בנים) of the L-rd your G-d.

### GENESIS 15:2-4

<sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O L-rd G-d, what else will you give me, for I continue childless, and the **heir** (בן) of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no **offspring** (זרע), and so a slave born in my house is to be my **heir** (בן)." <sup>4</sup> But the word of the L-rd came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir."

### ISAIAH 45:11

Thus says the L-rd, the Holy One of Israel, and its Maker: "Will you question me about my **children** (בנים), or command me concerning the work of my hands?"

### ISAIAH 45:19

I did not speak in secret, in a land of darkness; I did not say to the **offspring** (זרע) of Jacob, "Seek me in chaos." I the L-rd speak the truth, I declare what is right.

### ISAIAH 52:13

Behold My servant will prosper (will succeed), will be exalted, lifted up, and be very high.

Who is normally referred to as G-d's servant?

#### ISAIAH 41:8-9

<sup>8</sup> But you Israel, **My servant**, Jacob who I have chosen, descendant of Abraham My friend;

<sup>9</sup> You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called from its remotest parts, and said to you, **you are My servant**, I have chosen you and not rejected you.

#### ISAIAH 44:1-2

<sup>1</sup> But now listen, **O Jacob my servant**, and Israel whom I have chosen: <sup>2</sup> Thus says the L-rd who made you, and formed you from the womb, who will help you, "Do not fear **O Jacob My servant**, Jeshurun who I have chosen."

#### ISAIAH 44:21

Remember these things O Jacob, and **Israel, for you are My servant**, I have formed you, **you are My servant O Israel**, you will not be forgotten by Me.

#### ISAIAH 45:4

For the sake of **Jacob My servant**, and Israel My chosen one, I have even called you by your name:

#### ISAIAH 43:10

You are My witnesses declares the L-rd, and **My servant** whom I have chosen: that you may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no god formed, neither shall there be after me.

#### ISAIAH 48:20

Go forth out of Babylon, flee from the Kasdim with a voice of singing declare, tell this, say it even to the ends of the earth; say, "The L-rd has redeemed **his servant Jacob**."

#### ISAIAH 49:3

and said to me, "**You are my servant, Israel**, in whom I will be glorified.

#### ISAIAH 54:17

No weapon that is formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. This is the heritage of **the servants of the L-rd**, and their vindication is from me, declares the L-rd.

#### ISAIAH 65:8-9

<sup>8</sup> Thus says the L-rd, "As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one says, 'Do not destroy it for there is benefit in it,' so will I act on behalf of **My servants** in order not to destroy all of them. <sup>9</sup> And I will bring forth offspring from Jacob, and an heir of My mountains from Judah, even My chosen ones shall inherit it, and **My servants** shall dwell there."

#### PSALM 136:22

A heritage to **Israel his servant**, for his loving-kindness is everlasting.

#### JEREMIAH 30:10

And fear not O **Jacob My servant**, declares the L-rd, and do not be dismayed, O Israel.

### JEREMIAH 46:27-28

<sup>27</sup> But as for you, O **Jacob My servant**, do not fear, nor be dismayed O Israel. For see, I am going to save you from afar, and your descendants from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return and be undisturbed, and secure with no one making him tremble. <sup>28</sup> O **Jacob My servant**, do not fear declares the L-rd, for I am with you . . .

### EZEKIEL 28:25

Thus says the L-rd G-d, "When I gather the house of Israel from the peoples among whom they are scattered, and shall manifest My holiness in them in the sight of the nations, then they will live in their land which I gave to **Jacob My servant**."

### LEVITICUS 25:55

For unto me **the children of Israel are servants, they are My servants** whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt.

### 1 CHRONICLES 16:13

O you seed of **Israel His servant**, you children of Jacob His chosen ones.

### LUKE 1:54

He has given help to **Israel his servant**, in remembrance of His mercy.

### ADDITIONAL REFERENCES TO ISRAEL AS G-D'S SERVANT:

Leviticus 25:42

Nechmiah 1:10-11

Psalms 79:10

Psalms 135:1

Isaiah 63:17

Isaiah 65:13-15

Isaiah 66:14

Deuteronomy 32:36 & 43

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### Does the Bible ever prophesy that G-d's servant Israel will be exalted and lifted up?

### ISAIAH 45:25

In the L-rd all the offspring of Israel shall find righteousness and glory.

### ISAIAH 60:14-15

<sup>14</sup> And the sons of those who afflicted you will come bowing to you, and all those who despised you will bow themselves at the soles of your feet, and they will call you the city of the L-rd, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel. <sup>15</sup> Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, with no one passing through, I will make you an everlasting pride, a joy from generation to generation.

### ISAIAH 62:2-3

<sup>2</sup> And the nations will see your righteousness and all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name which the mouth of the L-rd will designate. <sup>3</sup> You will also be a crown of beauty in the hand of the L-rd and a royal diadem in the hand of your G-d.

### ISAIAH 61:9

Then their offspring will be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples. All who see them will recognize them, because they are the offspring whom the L-rd has blessed.

**ISAIAH 60:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the L-rd has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup> For behold, darkness will cover the earth, and deep darkness the peoples, but the L-rd will rise upon you, and His glory will appear upon you. <sup>3</sup> And nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. (CF. Verse 10)

**ISAIAH 27:6**

In the days to come, Jacob will take root, Israel will blossom and sprout, and they will fill the whole earth with fruit.

**MALACHI 3:12**

And all the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land says the L-rd of Hosts.

**ZECHARIAH 8:23**

Thus says the L-rd of Hosts: In those days, ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew saying "Let us go with you for we have heard that G-d is with you."

**ZEPHANIAH 3:20**

At that time I will bring you in, even at that time when I gather you together; Indeed I will give you renown and praise among all the nations of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes says the L-rd.

**NACHUM 2:2**

For the L-rd will restore the splendor of Jacob like the splendor of Israel. Even

though devastators have devastated them and destroyed their vine branches.

**HOSEAH 14:6-8**

<sup>6</sup> I will be like the dew to Israel, he will blossom like the lily and will take root like the cedars of Lebanon. <sup>7</sup> His shoots will sprout and his splendor will be like the olive tree, and his fragrance like the cedars of Lebanon. <sup>8</sup> Those who live in his shadow will again raise grain, and they will blossom like the vine. His renown will be like the wine of Lebanon. (Note: The prophet speaks of Israel in the singular - "he", not "they".)

**ISAIAH 49:23**

Kings will be your foster fathers and queens your nursing mothers. With their faces to the ground they shall bow down to you and lick the dust of your feet; and you shall know that I am the L-rd: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.

**ZEPHANIAH 3:19**

Behold I am going to deal at that time with all of your oppressors; I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will turn their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

**ISAIAH 61:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> But you will be called the priests of the L-rd, you will be spoken of as ministers of our G-d. <sup>7</sup> Instead of the shame, you will have a double portion, and instead of humiliation they will shout for joy over their portion.

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If the servant of G-d is the nation of Israel, why does Isaiah 53 refer to the servant in the singular 'he', rather than the plural 'they'?

Actually, throughout the Hebrew Bible, the Jewish people are referred to as a corporate entity. It is very common for the Bible to refer to the nation of Israel as “he”, or as a singular entity.

**ISAIAH 43:10**

You are My **witnesses** says the L-rd, and My **servant** whom I have chosen . . .

**EXODUS 4:22**

And you shall say unto Pharaoh, Thus says the L-rd, Israel is My son, My first born.

**HOSEAH 11:1**

When Israel was a child, then I loved **him**, and called My son out of Egypt.

**HOSEAH 8:3**

Israel has rejected the good, the enemy will pursue **him**.

**HOSEAH 14:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> I will be like the dew to Israel, **he** will blossom like the lily, and **he** will take root like the cedars of Lebanon. <sup>6</sup> **His** shoots will sprout, and **his** splendor will be like the olive tree, and **his** fragrance like the cedars of Lebanon.

**DEUTERONOMY 32:8-13**

<sup>8</sup> When the most High gave the nations their inheritance, when He separated the sons of man, He set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel. <sup>9</sup> For the L-rd's portion is His people, Jacob is the allotment of His inheritance. <sup>10</sup> He found **him** in a desert land, and in the howling waste of a wilderness. He encircled **him**, He cared for **him**, He guarded **him** as the pupil of His eye. <sup>11</sup> Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that hovers over its young, He spread His wings and caught **them**, He carried **them** on his pinions. <sup>12</sup> The L-rd alone guided

**him**, and there was no foreign god with **him**.

<sup>13</sup> He made **him** ride on the high places of the earth, and **he** ate the produce of the field, and He made **him** suck honey from the rock, and oil from the flinty rock.

**PSALM 130:8**

And He will redeem Israel from all **his** sins.

**JEREMIAH 48:27**

Now was Israel a laughingstock to you? Or was **he** caught among thieves? For each time you speak about **him** you shook your head in scorn.

**JEREMIAH 50:19**

And I shall bring Israel back to **his** pasture, and **he** will graze in the Carmel and the Bashan, and **his** desire will be satisfied in the hill country of Ephraim and Gilead.

**EXODUS 19:2**

When **they** set out from Rephidim, **they** came to the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness, and there **he**, Israel, encamped in front of the mountain.

**EXODUS 1:10-12**

<sup>10</sup> Pharaoh says regarding the Jewish people: "Come, let us deal wisely with **him** (usually translated **them**) lest **he** increase, and if there will be a war, **he** will join our enemies and fight against us and go up from the land. <sup>11</sup> So they appointed task masters over **him** (usually translated **them**) to afflict **him** (see above) with hard labor. And **he** built for Pharaoh storage cities, Pithom and Ramses. <sup>12</sup> But the more they afflicted **him**, the more **he**

spread out, so that they were in dread of the sons of Israel.

**NUMBERS 22:5**

...”Behold a people came out of Egypt, and they cover the surface of the land, and they are (lit. **he is**) living opposite me.

**NUMBERS 23:21**

He has not observed iniquity in Jacob, nor has He seen trouble in Israel; the L-rd his G-d is with him, and the shout of a king is among them (lit. **him**).

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ISAIAH 52:14

Just as many were astonished at you, saying, Surely his visage was marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men.





Figure 7c. An early 18th-century Frankfort broadsheet combined the Judensau and the Simon of Trent libels. The horned Jewish devil urges the Jews to drink the sow's milk and eat its excrement, "since they are, after all, your best delicacies."

Das größte Getreide-Wucherthier der Welt.



Neueste zoologische Entdeckung des Kikeriki.

Figure 14. The Viennese anti-Semitic picture paper, *Kikeriki*, depicts the Jew as a world-devouring vampire.



Figure 15. A poster pasted on the wall of the Reichstag in Berlin in 1920 to warn Germans of the Jewish "threat" to their fatherland.



JEW S AT A LUNCHEON.  
Or a peep into Dubess Place



CONSPIRACY THEORIES: Yeltsin and Gorbachev appear as the running dogs of a Jewish devil in a 1992 right-wing Russian cartoon, which reads, 'Shame on the intelligentsia, which has betrayed the people.'



## ISAIAH 52:15 - 53:1

So shall he startle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths because of him. For that which they had not been told they shall see, and that which they have not heard, they shall understand.

Who would have believed what we are hearing? And to whom is the arm of the L-rd revealed?

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### The surprise of the nations at the elevation of the servant:

#### MICAH 7:15-16

<sup>15</sup> According to the days of your coming out of the land of Egypt will I show unto them marvelous things. <sup>16</sup> The nations shall see and be confounded, **they shall lay their hands upon their mouths**, their ears shall be deaf.

#### ISAIAH 41:11

Behold, all those who were incensed against you shall be ashamed and confounded, those

who quarreled with you shall be as naught and lost.

#### JEREMIAH 16:19

O L-rd, my strength and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come to You from the ends of the earth and say: "Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things of no benefit."

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### What is meant by G-d manifesting His holy arm?

#### ISAIAH 52:9-10

<sup>9</sup> Break forth into joy, sing together you waste places of Jerusalem, for the L-rd has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup> The **L-rd has made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations**, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of Israel.

#### ISAIAH 62:8

The L-rd swore by His **right hand** and by the **arm of his strength**: I will no longer give your grain to your enemies, and foreigners shall no longer drink your wine for which you have toiled.

#### ISAIAH 63:12

Who caused His **glorious arm** to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters

before them to make for Himself an everlasting name...

#### EXODUS 3:20

So I will stretch out **My hand** and strike Egypt with all of My miracles which I shall do in the midst of it, and after that he will let you go.

#### EXODUS 15:6,12

<sup>6</sup> Your **right hand**, O L-rd is majestic in power, Your **right hand**, O L-rd shatters the enemy.

<sup>12</sup> You stretched out Your **right hand**, the earth swallowed them.

**EXODUS 14:31**

Israel saw **the great hand** that G-d inflicted upon Egypt, and the people feared G-d, and they believed in G-d and in Moses His servant.

**DEUTERONOMY 4:34**

Or has G-d tried to take for Himself a nation from within a nation by trials, by signs and wonders and by war and by a **mighty hand and by an outstretched arm** and by great terrors as the L-rd your G-d did for you in Egypt before your eyes?

**DEUTERONOMY 7:19**

The great miracles that you saw with your own eyes, the signs, the wonders, the **mighty hand and outstretched arm** with which G-d brought you out of Egypt.

**PSALM 44:3**

For by their own sword they did not possess the land, and their own arm did not save

them, but Your **right hand, and Your arm,** and the light of Your presence, for You did favor them.

**PSALM 98:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> O sing to the L-rd a new song, for He has done wonderful things, **His right hand and His holy arm** have gained the victory for Him. <sup>2</sup> The L-rd has made known His salvation, He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered His lovingkindness and His faithfulness to the House of Israel. <sup>3</sup> All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our G-d.

**PSALM 89:10**

You Yourself did crush Rahab like one who is slain. You scattered Your enemies with **Your mighty arm.**

---

**ISAIAH 53:2**

**For he grew up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry land. He had no form or comeliness that we should look upon him, nor appearance that we should delight in him.**

**Origins of the Jewish people in desert wastelands; plant imagery.**

**DEUTERONOMY 32:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> For the L-rd's portion in His people, Jacob is the allotment of His inheritance. He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of a wilderness. <sup>10</sup> He encircled him, He cared for him, He guarded him as the pupil of His eye.

any god except me. <sup>5</sup> For there is no savior besides Me. I cared for you in the wilderness, in the land of drought.

**PSALM 80:8**

You removed a vine from Egypt, You drove out the nations and planted it.

**HOSEA 13:4-5**

<sup>4</sup> Yet I have been the L-rd your G-d since the land of Egypt. And you were not to know

**JEREMIAH 2:2**

Go and proclaim in the ears of Jerusalem saying: Thus says the L-rd, "I remember

concerning you the devotion of your youth. The love of your betrothals. Your following after Me in the wilderness, through a land that was not sown.

**PSALM 107:4**

They wandered in the wilderness, in a desert region.

**EZEKIEL 16:5-7**

<sup>5</sup> No eye looked with pity on you to do any of these things for you, to have compassion on you. Rather, you were thrown out into the open field, for you were abhorred on the day

that you were born. <sup>6</sup> When I passed by you and saw you wallowing in your blood, I said to you while you were in your blood: Live! I said to you while you were in your blood: Live! <sup>7</sup> I made you numerous **like plants of the field...**

**HOSEAH 14:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> I will be like the dew to Israel, he will blossom like the lily, and he will take root like the cedars of Lebanon. <sup>6</sup> His shoots will sprout and his beauty will be like the olive tree, and his fragrance like the cedars of Lebanon.

---

**Jewish national suffering described as sickness and wounds.**

**JEREMIAH 30:17**

For I will restore you to health and I will heal you of your wounds, declares the L-rd. Because they have called you an outcast saying: 'It is Zion, no one cares for her.'

**HOSEAH 6:1**

Come, let us return to the L-rd, for He has torn us, but He will heal us. He has wounded us, but He will bandage us.

**ISAIAH 30:26**

And the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be seven times brighter, like the light of seven days, on the day the L-rd binds up the fracture of His people and heals the bruise He has inflicted.

**MICAH 1:9**

For her wound is incurable, for it has come to Judah it has reached the gate of My people, even to Jerusalem.

## ISAIAH 53:3

**For he was despised and rejected of men, a man of pains and well acquainted with disease, and as one from whom men hide their faces; he was despised and we esteemed him not.**

---

### Israel: Despised and Rejected?

#### ISAIAH 60:14-15

<sup>14</sup> The sons of them that afflicted you shall come bending unto you, and they that despised you shall bow themselves at the soles of your feet, and they shall call you the city of the L-rd, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel. <sup>15</sup> Whereas you have been forsaken and despised with no passerby, I will make you an everlasting pride, the joy of every generation.

#### LAMENTATIONS 1:11

All her people groan, seeking bread; they have given their precious things for food to restore their lives themselves. "See, O L-rd, and look, for I am despised."

#### EZEKIEL 34:28-29

<sup>28</sup> And they will no longer be prey to the nations, and the beasts of the earth will not devour them, but they will live securely and no one will make them afraid. <sup>29</sup> And I will establish for them a renowned planting place, and they will not again be victims of famine in the land, and they will not endure the insults of the nations anymore.

#### EZEKIEL 35:5-6

<sup>5</sup> Because you have everlasting enmity and have delivered the sons of Israel to the power of the sword at the time of their calamity... <sup>6</sup> I will give you over to bloodshed and bloodshed will pursue you...

#### EZEKIEL 16:5

No eye looked upon you with pity to do any of these things for you, to have compassion on you. Rather, you were thrown out into the open field, for you were abhorred on the day that you were born.

#### ISAIAH 49:13

Shout for joy O heavens, and rejoice O earth! Break forth into joyful shouting, O mountains! For the L-rd has comforted His people, and will have compassion on his afflicted.

#### ISAIAH 54:11,14-15,17

<sup>11</sup> O afflicted one, storm-tossed and not comforted, behold I will set your stones in antimony, and your foundations I will lay in sapphires . . .

<sup>14</sup> In righteousness you will be established, you will be far from oppression, for you will not fear; and from terror, for it will not come near you. <sup>15</sup> If anyone fiercely assails you, it will not be from Me. Whoever assails you will fall because of you.

<sup>17</sup> No weapon that is formed against you shall prosper; and every tongue that accuses you in judgment, you will condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the L-rd, and their vindication is from Me, declares the L-rd.

### ISAIAH 53:4-6

**Surely our diseases he did bear, and our pains he carried, but we considered him stricken, smitten of G-d and afflicted.**

**But he was wounded from our transgressions, he was crushed as a result of our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes, we were healed. (So we thought.)**

**All we like sheep have gone astray, we turned everyone to his own way; and the L-rd has laid upon him the iniquity of us all. (So we thought.)**

---

**The nations thought that the Jewish people were rejected by G-d.**

#### JEREMIAH 50:7

All who came upon them devoured them, and their adversaries have said: We are not guilty, inasmuch as they have sinned against the L-rd who is the habitation of righteousness, even against the L-rd, the hope of their fathers.

#### JEREMIAH 30:17

For I will restore you to health, and I will heal you of your wounds declares the L-rd,

because they have called you an outcast, saying: "It is Zion, no one cares for her.

#### PSALM 94:5,7

<sup>5</sup> They crush thy people, O L-rd, and afflict Thy heritage.

<sup>7</sup> And they have said: "The L-rd does not see, nor does the G-d of Jacob take heed.

---

**The Jewish nation suffered due to the cruelty and wickedness of the nations.**

#### JEREMIAH 10:25

Pour out Thy wrath upon the nations that do not know You, and upon the families who do not call upon Your name. For they have devoured Jacob, they have devoured him and consumed him, and have laid waste his habitation.

#### PSALM 94:3-5

<sup>3</sup> How long shall the wicked, O L-rd, how long shall the wicked exult? <sup>4</sup> They pour forth words, they speak arrogantly, all who do wickedness vaunt themselves. <sup>5</sup> They crush Thy people, O L-rd, and afflict Thy heritage.

#### PSALM 83:1-4

<sup>1</sup> O G-d, do not remain quiet, do not be silent, do not be still. <sup>2</sup> For behold, Your enemies make an uproar, and those who hate You have exalted themselves. <sup>3</sup> They make shrewd plans against Your treasured ones. <sup>4</sup> They have said: "Come, let us wipe them out as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more."

#### ZECHARIAH 1:15

But I am very angry with the nations who are at ease; for while I was only a little angry, they furthered the disaster.

### **ZEPHANIAH 2:10**

This they will have in return for their pride, because they have taunted and become arrogant against the people of the L-rd of hosts.

### **PSALM 79:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> O G-d, the nations have invaded Your inheritance, they have defiled Your holy Temple. They have laid Jerusalem in ruins. <sup>2</sup> They have given the dead bodies of **your servants** for food to the birds of the heavens, the flesh of Your godly ones to the beasts of the earth. <sup>3</sup> They have poured out their blood like water round about Jerusalem; and there was no one to bury them. <sup>4</sup> We have become a reproach to our neighbors, a scoffing and derision to those around us. <sup>5</sup> How long, O L-rd? Will You be angry forever? Will Your jealousy burn like fire? <sup>6</sup> Pour out Your wrath upon the nations which do not know You, and upon the kingdoms which do not call upon Your name. <sup>7</sup> For they have devoured Jacob, and laid waste his habitation.

### **EZEKIEL 36:6-7,15**

<sup>6</sup> Therefore, prophesy concerning the land of Israel, and say to the mountains and to the hills, to the ravines and to the valleys, <sup>7</sup> This is what the L-rd G-d says: “Behold, I have spoken in My jealousy and in My wrath because you have endured the insults of the nations.” Therefore, thus says the L-rd God: “I have sworn that surely the nations which are around you will themselves endure their insults.

<sup>15</sup> And I will not let you hear insults from the nations anymore, nor will you bear disgrace from the peoples any longer, nor will you

cause your nations to stumble any longer”, declares the L-rd.

### **JEREMIAH 2:3**

Israel was holy to the L-rd, the first of His harvest; all who devour him will be guilty, evil will come upon them, declares the L-rd.

### **ISAIAH 17:12-14**

<sup>12</sup> Alas, the uproar of many peoples, who roar like the roaring of the seas, and the rumbling of nations, who rush on like the rumbling of mighty waters! <sup>13</sup> The nations rumble on like the rumbling of many waters, and He will rebuke them and they will flee far away, and be chased like chaff in the mountains before the wind, or like whirling dust before a gale. <sup>14</sup> At evening time, behold there is terror! Before morning they are no more. Such will be the portion of those who plunder us, and the lot of those who pillage us.

### **ZEPHANIAH 3:19**

Behold, I am going to deal at that time with all your oppressors. I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will turn their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

### **ISAIAH 40:2**

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the L-rd's hand, double for all her sins.

### **JEREMIAH 30:8-13**

<sup>8</sup> On that day, says the L-rd of hosts, I will break the yoke from off his neck, and I will burst his bonds, and strangers shall no more make a servant of him. <sup>9</sup> But they shall serve the L-rd their G-d and David their king,

whom I will raise up for them. <sup>10</sup> But as for you, have no fear, my servant Jacob, says the L-rd, and do not be dismayed, O Israel; for I am going to save you from far away, and your offspring from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return and have quiet and ease, and no one shall make him afraid. <sup>11</sup> For I am with you, says the L-rd to save you; I will make an end of all the nations

among which I scattered you, but of you I will not make an end. I will chastise you in just measure, and I will by no means leave you unpunished. <sup>12</sup> For thus says the L-rd: Your hurt is incurable, your wound is grievous. <sup>13</sup> There is no one to uphold your cause, no medicine for your wound, no healing for you.

## Economic Woes? Blame the Jews

Against the backdrop of a steep economic decline, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad



Prime Minister Mahathir  
(AP Photo/S. Thinakaran)

stoked the flames of antisemitism at a rally attended by some 10,000 people in the state of Terangganu, stating the government suspected that Jews had an “agenda” to block the progress of Moslems and blaming the sharp drop of Malaysia’s currency on Jews. Mahathir was also later quoted by the official Malaysian news

agency as saying he suspects Jews don’t want Malaysia to develop because it is predominantly Moslem.

“This outrageous provocation coming from a head of state will only bolster extremist forces throughout the Moslem world,” said Rabbi Abraham Cooper. “The Prime Minister would better serve his people through sound political and economic leadership and not through a veil of conspiratorial and racist nonsense.”

The Prime Minister’s explanation of both comments was to claim he was misquoted and misunderstood. Nonsense, replied U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA): “I do not want to mischaracterize Dr. Mahathir’s remarks, so I will quote them directly, as reported by the Associated Press:

‘The Jews robbed the Palestinians of everything, but in Malaysia they could not do so, hence they do this, depress the Ringgit.’”

Later, in Parliament, Malaysian leaders voted unanimously in support of motion of confidence in mahathir’s leadership after Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, told members of Parliament that Malaysia should view seriously the letter sent by 34 United States Congressmen to Dr. Mahathir, criticizing him for the anti-Semitic remarks.

### A History of Antisemitism

In 1969, in his autobiography, Prime Minister Mahathir wrote, “Jewish stinginess and financial wizardry gained them commercial control of Europe and provoked anti-Semitism... Jews are not merely hooked-nosed, but understand money instinctively.” In 1984, Malaysia’s policy against “Jewish music” resulted in cancellation of New York Philharmonic performances. In 1986, Mahathir stated, “Certain reports working for Jewish-owned foreign publications are trying to destabilize Malaysia.” He described the *Wall Street Journal* as “controlled by Jews” involved in a Zionist plot to topple the government. In 1994, the Malaysian censorship board barred “Schindler’s List” because “the story reflects the privilege and virtues of a certain race only.”

## ISAIAH 53:7

**He was oppressed and he was afflicted, but he did not open his mouth; as a lamb that is led to the slaughter and as a sheep that before her shearers is dumb, and did not open his mouth.**

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### ISAIAH 51:21-22

<sup>21</sup> Therefore, hear this, you who are wounded, who are drunk, but not with wine. <sup>22</sup> Thus says your Sovereign, the Lord, your G-d who pleads the cause of His people: See, I have taken from your hand the cup of staggering...

### PSALM 44:12-21

<sup>12</sup> You have given us as sheep to the slaughter, and have scattered us among the nations.

<sup>13</sup> You sell your people for no great gain, and have not put their price high. <sup>14</sup> You have made us a reproach to our neighbors, a scoffing and derision to those around us. <sup>15</sup> You have made us a byword among the nations, a laughingstock among the peoples. <sup>16</sup> All day long my dishonor is before me, and my humiliation is overwhelming me. <sup>17</sup> Because of the voice of him who reproaches and reviles, because of the presence of the enemy and the avenger.

<sup>18</sup> All this has come upon us, but we have not forgotten You, and we have not dealt falsely

with your covenant. <sup>19</sup> Our heart was not turned back, and our steps have not deviated from Your way, yet You have crushed us on a place of jackals, and covered us with the shadow of death. <sup>20</sup> If we had forgotten the name of our G-d, or extended our hands to a strange god, would not G-d find this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart. <sup>21</sup> But for Your sake we are killed all day long. We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.

### ISAIAH 52:4-5

<sup>4</sup> For thus says the L-rd G-d: My people went down at first into Egypt to reside there, then the Assyrian oppressed them without cause. <sup>5</sup> Now, therefore, what do I have here, declares the L-rd, seeing that My people have been taken away without cause?

### PSALM 18:28

For you will save the afflicted nation; and you will bring down haughty looks.

Have pity on us, Lord, in Your compassion, and do not hand us over to cruel oppressors. Why should the nations say, “Where is their God now?” For Your own sake, deal kindly with us, and do not delay. Please turn away from Your fierce anger, and have compassion on the people You chose as Your own.

Lord, God of Israel, turn away from Your fierce anger, and relent from the evil against Your people.

Heed our voice and be gracious. Do not abandon us into the hand of our enemies to plot out our name. Remember what You promised our fathers: “I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven” – yet now we are only a few left of many. Yet, despite all this, we have not forgotten Your name. Please do not forget us.

From the Daily Prayer Book: Tachanun

*Yet despite all this:* After the Holocaust, the concentration camp at Theresienstadt was excavated. A hidden room was discovered, which had served as a secret place in which the prisoners would pray. On one of its walls were written the words: “Yet, despite all this, we have not forgotten Your name. Please do not forget us.”

Commentary of Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

**ISAIAH 53:8**

**From dominion and judgment he was taken away, and his history - who is able to relate? For he was cut off out of the land of the living.**

**As a result of the transgression of my people, they were afflicted.**

**מִפְּשַׁע עַמִּי נִגַּע לָמוֹ**

**PSALM 116:9**

I walk before the L-rd in the land of the living.

**ISAIAH 44:15**

. . . he made a god and prostrated himself, he made a graven image and bowed to **them** (למו).

**ISAIAH 16:4**

Let the outcasts of Moab settle among you; be a refuge **to them** (למו) from the destroyer.

**ISAIAH 48:21**

They did not thirst when he led them through the deserts; he made water flow **for them** (למו) from the rock; he split open the rock and the water gushed out.

**ISAIAH 44:7**

Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let **them** (למו) tell us what to be.

**לְמוֹ**

- Genesis 9:26-27
- Deuteronomy 32:32
- Deuteronomy 32:35
- Deuteronomy 33:2
- Isaiah 16:4
- Isaiah 23:1
- Isaiah 26:14
- Isaiah 30:5
- Isaiah 35:8
- Isaiah 43:8
- Habakkuk 2:7
- Psalms 2:4
- Psalms 28:8
- Psalms 44:4
- Psalms 44:11
- Psalms 49:14
- Psalms 55:20
- Psalms 56:8
- Psalms 58:5
- Psalms 59:9
- Psalms 64:6
- Psalms 66:7
- Psalms 73:6

- Psalms 73:10
- Psalms 73:18
- Psalms 78:24
- Psalms 78:66
- Psalms 80:7
- Psalms 88:9
- Psalms 99:7
- Psalms 119:165
- Proverbs 23:20
- Job 3:14
- Job 6:19
- Job 15:28
- Job 22:17
- Job 22:19
- Job 24:16
- Job 14:21
- Job 24:17
- Job 30:13
- Job 39:4
- Lamentations 1:19
- Lamentations 1:22
- Lamentations 4:10
- Lamentations 4:15

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למד - למוד"ט

1131

nought, vanity, nonentity, ילמה, ג.  
 nothingness  
 who was reduced to שְׁהָיָה לְלִמָּה וְלֹא כְלוּם  
 nought and nothing  
 you are nought and אַתְּמָם לִמָּה וְדַבְרֵיכֶם לִמָּה |  
 your words are nought  
 llama ילמה, ג. (למות)  
 lama (Tibet) ילמה, ו.  
 Dalai Lama ידלי למה  
 To what can this be likened (compared)? למה ד - למה הדבר דומה?  
 (poet.) them, to them למו, מ"י = להם  
 (poet.) to למו, מ"י  
 trained, למוד, ה. (למודה, למודים, למודות)  
 accustomed, experienced, used to, taught

to judge unfavourably, על (קטגוריה)  
 to accuse, indict, arraign  
 from this one may deduce that מלמד ש-  
 in order to explain to ללמד ש-, ללמדך ש-  
 you that  
 to be trained, taught, schooled למד  
 מצוה אנשים מלמדה ר' מצוה  
 to learn by oneself, teach, train התלמד  
 oneself, practise, be used  
 (poet.) study, knowledge לְמַד, ו. (למוד)  
 (to be) learned; [למדה, למדים, למדות] לְמַד, ה.  
 learning, accustomed, taught; to argue, argu-  
 mentative  
 ולא הבישן למד ולא הקפדן מלמד (אבות ב, ה)  
 the shamefast man cannot learn and the impatient

THE INTERLINEAR NIV HEBREW-ENGLISH OLD TESTAMENT

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ISAIAH 53:4-12

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אלהים ומענה: והוא מחלל מפשענו  
 for-transgressions-of-us being-pierced but-he (5) and-one-being-afflicted God  
 מרפא מעונותינו מוסר שלומנו עליו  
 upon-him peace-of-us punishment-of for-iniquities-of-us being-crushed  
 ובחברתו נרפא לנו: כלנו כצאן השני  
 we-went-astroy like-the-sheep all-of-us (6) to-us he-was-healed and-by-wound-of-him  
 איש לדרךבו פנינו נהקה הפנינו בו את עון כלנו:  
 all-of-us iniquity-of ... on-him he-laid and-Yahweh we-turned to-way-of-him each  
 נש והוא נשקה ולא ופתח פיו  
 mouth-of-him he-opened yet-not he-was-afflicted and-he he-was-oppressed (7)  
 כשה לטבח ויגל ובקהל לפנינו נודה  
 ones-shearing-her before and-as-sheep he-was-led to-the-slaughter like-the-lamb  
 נאלמה ולא ופתח פיו: מעצר וממשפט  
 and-by-judgment by-oppression (8) mouth-of-him he-opened so-not she-is-silent  
 לקח ואת דורו מי וישתחן כי נגזר  
 he-was-cut-off for he-can-speak who? descendant-of-him and he-was-taken-away  
 מארץ חיים מפשע עמי נגע למו:  
 to-them stroke people-of-me for-transgression-of living-ones from-land-of  
 ויתן את רשעים קברו ואת עשיר במתו  
 in-deaths-of-him rich and-with grave-of-him wicked-ones with and-he-assigned (9)  
 על לא חמס עשה ולא מרמה בפיו:  
 n-mouth-of-him deceit or-no he-did violence no though

afflicted.  
 'But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.  
 'We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.  
 'He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.  
 'By oppression' and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken.'  
 'He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

## ISAIAH 53:9

**And his grave was set with the wicked, and with the wealthy with his kinds of deaths, although he had done no violence, neither was there any deceit in his mouth.**

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### EZEKIEL 37:11-13

<sup>11</sup> Then He said to me: son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold they say: Our bones are dried up, our hope has perished. We are completely cut off. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, prophesy, and say to them: Thus says the L-rd G-d, Behold I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves My people, and I will bring you into the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> Then you will know that I am the L-rd when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people.

### ZEPHANIAH 3:13-20

<sup>13</sup> The remnant of Israel shall neither commit injustice nor speak lies; neither shall deceitful speech be found in their mouth, for they shall graze and lie down, with no one to cause them to shudder. <sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup> The L-rd has taken away the judgment against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the L-rd, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. <sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup> The L-rd, your G-d, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach from it. <sup>19</sup> I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the L-rd.

**ISAIAH 53:10**

**And the L-rd wished to crush him, He made him ill; if he would offer himself as a guilt offering, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days. And the purpose of the L-rd will prosper in his hand.**

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**DEUTERONOMY 30:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth as witnesses! Before you I have placed life and death, the blessing and curse. You must choose life so that you and your seed will survive. If you choose to love the L-rd your G-d, to obey Him, and to attach yourself to Him. <sup>20</sup> This is the sole means of survival and long life when you dwell in the land that G-d swore to your fathers. . .

**DEUTERONOMY 28:11**

And the L-rd will make you abound in prosperity, in the fruit of your body and in the fruit of your beast...

**JEREMIAH 23:3**

Then I Myself shall gather the remnant of My flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and shall bring them back to their pasture; and they will be fruitful and multiply.

**ISAIAH 65:20**

No longer will there be an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not

live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred, and one who does not reach the age of one hundred shall be thought accursed.

**ZECHARIAH 8:4**

Thus says the L-rd of hosts: Old men and old women will again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each man with his staff in his hand because of the multitude of days.

**ZECHARIAH 10:8**

I will whistle for them to gather them together, for I have redeemed the; and they will multiply as they multiplied.

**GENESIS 22:16-18**

<sup>16</sup> ...because you have done this thing, and not withheld your son, your only son: <sup>17</sup> Indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies; <sup>18</sup> And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.

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**ISAIAH 53:11**

**From the labor of his soul he shall see, he shall be satisfied. With his knowledge, the righteous one, My servant will cause many to be just, and their iniquities he shall bear.**

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**GENESIS 28:14**

Your descendants shall also be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread out to the west ant to the east and to the north and to the south,

and in you and your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

**ISAIAH 49:3,6**

<sup>3</sup> And he said to me: You are My servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified. . .

<sup>6</sup> I will also make you a light unto the nations so that My salvation may reach the ends of the earth.

**EXODUS 19:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> Now, then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My special treasures among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine.

<sup>6</sup> And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation...

**ZECHARIAH 8:23**

Thus says the L-rd of hosts: In those days it shall come to pass that ten men from all the languages of the nations shall take hold of the

garment of a Jew saying, We will go with you, for we have heard that G-d is with you.

**ISAIAH 55:5**

. . . nations that knew you not shall run to you because the L-rd your G-d, the holy one of Israel has glorified you.

**ISAIAH 62:12**

And they will call them “The holy people” “the redeemed of the L-rd” and you will be called “Sought out, a city not forsaken”.

**ZECHARIAH 8:13**

And it shall come to pass that as you were a curse among the gentiles, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so will I save you, and you shall be a blessing. Fear not, may your hands be strengthened.

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**ISAIAH 53:12**

**Therefore I will allot a portion to him with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the mighty, because he poured out his soul to the death, and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.**

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**ISAIAH 60:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> Then you will see and be radiant, and your heart will thrill and rejoice; because the abundance of the sea will be turned to you, the wealth of the nations will come to you.

<sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels will cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah, all those from Sheba will come, they will bring gold and frankincense, and will bear good news of the praises of the L-rd.

**JEREMIAH 29:7**

And see the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the L-rd on its behalf; for in its welfare you will have welfare.

**ORIGEN CONTRA CELSUM**  
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"Behold, my servant shall have understanding, and shall be exalted and glorified. . ."

Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12

**I remember that once in a discussion with some whom the Jews regard as learned I used these prophecies. At this the Jew said that these prophecies referred to the whole people as though of a single individual, since they were scattered in the dispersion and smitten, that as a result of the scattering of the Jews among the other nations many might become proselytes. In this way he explained the text: 'Thy form shall be inglorious among men'; and 'those to whom he was not proclaimed shall see him'.**

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**THE NEW ENGLISH BIBLE**  
**OXFORD STUDY EDITION**

**52.13-53.12: Fourth servant song. The suffering servant.** See 42.1-4 n. Israel, the servant of God, has suffered as a humiliated individual. However, the servant endured without complaint because it was vicarious suffering (suffering for others). **13-15:** *Nations* and *kings* will be surprised to see the servant *exalted*. **53.1:** The crowds, pagan nations, among whom the servant (Israel) lived, speak here (through v. 9), saying that the significance of Israel's humiliation and exaltation is hard to believe. **2:** In traditional Hebrew thought, the good man prospers like a tree by water but the wicked is like a *plant* growing in *parched ground*; see Ps.1.3-6. **3:** *Turn away their eyes*: lit. hide their faces, an expression used in relation to lepers, whose sickness, considered a sign of sin, made them *despised*. **4-5:** The vicarious suffering expressed here is in contrast both to the traditional solidarity in guilt of Exod.20.5 and to individual responsibility proposed by the prophets at the time of the Exile; see Jer.31.30; Ezek. ch.18. **5:** *Health for us*: lit. "our peace," which means "general welfare." **6-7:** The servant is *led like a sheep* in contrast to the peoples going their *own way*. **8:** Although some legal process seems to be involved, the servant does not receive *justice*; see Jer.39.5-6. **9:** The death probably refers to the destruction and Exile of Israel. Compare Ezek. ch. 37. **10-12:** The theme of 52.13 is resumed. Israel, which has suffered for all mankind, will now be granted her rightful place. **10:** *Long life* and *children's children* are the signs of a final vindication before God; see Job 42.16-17. **11:** *Bathed in light*: enjoying God's favor; see Ps.80.3.

**52.13-53.12** The last and most striking of the so-called servant songs (see note on 42.1-9). The early church identified the servant in this passage with Jesus (Acts 8.32-35), and Jesus' own sense of identity and mission may have been shaped by this figure (Mk 8.31; 9.30-32; 10.33-34). In the original historical context, however, the servant appears to have been exiled Israel. 52.13-15 God's deliverance and exaltation of Israel will astound the nations who formally despised this disfigured slave (49.7). **53.1-6** The nations speak, expressing their astonishment at the deliverance of Israel, which forces them to revise their assessment of Israel. **53.1-3** The servant's outward appearance suggested nothing special. **53.2** There may be an allusion in the term *root* to Israel's messianic expectations (11.1,10), but the servant had no *majesty* to suggest a royal status. **53.3** The servant was *despised* by the nations. **53.4-6** Israel's suffering suggested God had rejected it. Now, however, contrary to the nations' original impression, they see that the servant's suffering was vicarious. God's surprising way of restoring all people to himself

The Harper Collins Study Bible, 1989  
 Commentary to Isaiah by J.J.M. Roberts, Ph.D.  
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**52:13-53:12** The fourth, last, and longest of the so-called "Servant Songs" (42:1-4; 49:1-6; 50:4-9; 52:13-53:12) is also the most difficult because of its distinctive theology of vicarious suffering and because of its appropriation in NT and later Christian tradition (see the excursuses: "The Servant Songs in Christian Tradition," 1011-12, and "Vicarious Suffering," below). **52:13-15** The LORD speaks, promising that the servant Israel, although disfigured because of the agonies of exile, will be exalted so that the nations will be astonished. Paul uses the LXX of v.15 to justify his Gentile mission (Rom 15:21). **53:1-3** The nations respond, describing both Israel's seeming insignificance and the suffering it endured at their hands. The description of Israel coming forth *like a root out of dry ground* shows how unprepossessing the nation appeared. **53:4-6** The nations, although they once took Israel's suffering as a sign that God had rejected the nation, now proclaim a new understanding: that Israel's suffering was to atone for their sins so that they can be made righteous (*whole*) and brought into relationship with God.

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 2003