

Isaiah's Ancient Song for Today: The Servant Suffers for Straying Sheep Introduction & Information

Introduction

Words collapse before the enormity of Isaiah's Fourth Servant Song. The text takes us on a journey beginning with Christ's eternal relationship with his Father (Is 52:13), through the events of Holy Week (Is 52:14–53:10), and toward the message of the empty tomb on Easter (Is 53:11–12). Commenting on this powerful section of Isaiah, Martin Luther writes, "This is the foremost passage on the suffering and resurrection of Christ, and there is hardly another like it. Therefore we must memorize this passage." This five-part study considers the song's context within Isaiah 40–55 and how it impacted New Testament authors like Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Paul. The discussion also takes up the how the Suffering Servant gives his gifts of peace and righteousness as well as what all of this means for Christians today.

Meet the Professors

Professors Jeff Gibbs and Reed Lessing both teach *exegetical theology / exegesis* –Exegetical theology is the study of Scripture working through the verses and passages of the Bible. Exegetical theologians translate and interpret the books of the Bible to bring out the full meaning of God's Word to us. Jeff teaches New Testament classes with an emphasis on Matthew, while Reed's specialty is in the Old Testament, especially in the book of Isaiah.

Outline of Isaiah's Fourth Servant Song

- Yahweh Describes the Servant's Exaltation (52:13)
- Yahweh Reports the Servant's Humiliation (52:14–15)
 - We Confess our Sins (53:1–11a)
 - We Rejected the Servant (53:1–3)
 - The Servant Carried our Transgressions (53:4–6)
 - The Servant Suffered Unjustly for Us (53:7–9)
 - The Servant is our Guilt Offering (53:10–11a)
- Yahweh Announces the Servant's Victory (53:11b–12)

PowerPoint presentations are available by emailing a request to Pastor Gary J. Ellul at: gellul@sbcglobal.net