

Acts Series

Lesson #76

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Dean Bible Ministries

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The Acts of the Apostles “To the end of the earth” Acts 1:8

The Exaltation and Suffering of “My Servant” Acts 8:26–40; Isaiah 52:13–15



The Ethiopian, Isa. 53, and Evangelism

- 1. The Ethiopian already believes in the God of the Torah, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.**
- 2. The Ethiopian already believes in the authority of the Hebrew Scriptures.**
- 3. The Ethiopian already believes in the reality and veracity of biblical prophecy.**
- 4. The Ethiopian believes in the validity of animal sacrifice.**
- 5. The Ethiopian already accepts the need for a sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins.**

The Ethiopian, Isa. 53, and Evangelism

- 6. The Ethiopian already believes in the need for redemption and atonement.**
- 7. The Ethiopian already believes in the validity of substitutionary atonement.**
- 8. God the Holy Spirit is already working in the life and thinking of the Ethiopian eunuch.**
- 9. The Ethiopian already has a concept of a literal, human Messiah.**
- 10. The Ethiopian is not yet informed about the incarnation of God the Son, Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and resurrection, and the fulfillment of the Isaiah prophecy.**

Modern Unbelievers, Isa. 53, and Evangelism

- 1. Uncertain at best if there is a God.**
- 2. If they have a concept of God, it is not the biblical, Creator God who is Righteous, Just, and Love, but a God who overlooks people's flaws and peccadilloes.**
- 3. Few believe in the legitimacy of biblical prophecy.**
- 4. They don't believe in sin, or total depravity.**
- 5. They have no concept of the need for atonement for sin.**

Modern Unbelievers, Isa. 53, and Evangelism

- 6. They either don't believe in substitutionary payment for sin, or reject it as utterly unfair.**
- 7. They certainly don't believe animal sacrifice is a good thing.**
- 8. They don't understand anything about the need for a substitutionary atonement.**
- 9. They may not have God the Holy Spirit illuminating their minds to the truth of Scripture at that point.**
- 10. Establishing the truth of many of these points may take time depending on where they are in their prior understanding.**

1 Pet. 3:15, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense [*apologia* a reasoned, organized rationale with evidence] to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;”

1 Cor. 2:14, “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

Isa. 52:13, “Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high.

Isa. 52:14, “Just as many were astonished at you, so His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men;

Isa. 52:15, “So shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; for what had not been told them they shall see, and what they had not heard they shall consider.”

The Identity of the Servant?

- 1. A historical figure? Isaiah himself, Elijah, Hezekiah, a prophet**
- 2. The nation/people of Israel?**
- 3. The future Messiah?**

According to Isaiah 52:14–15, God's Servant

- **suffers for the people of Israel,**
- **and His blood will sprinkle many *nations*.**
- **Thus, He is the Savior of *both* the Jews and the Gentiles.**

The Context of Isaiah 40–66

Isa. 40–48: The future deliverance of Israel

The first “song”: Isa. 42:1–9

Isa. 49–55: The future Deliverer of Israel

The second “song”: Isa. 49:1–13

The third “song”: Isa. 50:4–11

The fourth “song”: Isa. 52:12–53:13

Isa. 56–66 The future delivered of Israel

Who is the Servant?

Isa. 41:8, “But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the descendants of Abraham My friend.

Isa. 41:9, “You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest regions, and said to you, “You are My servant, I have chosen you and have not cast you away:”

Who is the Servant?

Isa. 44:2, “Thus says the LORD who made you and formed you from the womb, who will help you: ‘Fear not, O Jacob My servant; and you, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.’”

Isa. 44:21, “Remember these, 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!”

However, Israel is too corrupt and sinful to be the Servant ...

Isa. 1:4, “Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a brood of evildoers, children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked to anger the Holy One of Israel, they have turned away backward.”

Isa. 29:10, “For the LORD has poured out on you the spirit of deep sleep, and has closed your eyes, namely, the prophets; and He has covered your heads, namely, the seers.”

Isa. 48:1, “Hear this, O house of Jacob, who are called by the name of Israel, and have come forth from the wellsprings of Judah; who swear by the name of the LORD, and make mention of the God of Israel, but not in truth or in righteousness;”

**Instead, only the Servant can deliver
Israel ...**

**Isa. 52:9, “Break forth into joy, sing together, you waste
places of Jerusalem! For the LORD has comforted His
people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.”**

**Isa. 42:7, “To open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners
from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the
prison house.”**

**Isa. 53:11, “He shall see the labor of His soul, and be
satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall
justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.”**

A -The Servant's Glory in View of Suffering (52:13–15)

B -The Servant's Submissive Character (53:1–3)

C -The Servant's Atoning Sacrifice (53:4–6)

B' -The Servant's Submissive Character (53:7–9)

A' -The Servant's Glory in View of Suffering (53:10–12)

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הִנֵּה (*hinnēh*) behold, lo, see.

An interjection demanding attention, “look!” “see!” It occurs over a thousand times. See also the shorter form, הֵן.

See!! Pay attention!! Look at this!!!

Jer. 23:5, “ ‘Behold, the days are coming,’ says the LORD, ‘that I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.’ ”

Jer. 33:15, “In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David a Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.”

The Messiah is also spoken of as the Branch and related to these

The Branch of Yhwh, Isa. 4:2

The Branch of David, Jer. 23:5, 6

My Servant, the Branch, Zech. 3:8

The Man whose name is the Branch, Zech. 6:12

The Man, the Servant, the Son of David, the Son of God.

Isa. 52:13, “Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high.”

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**Eight other English words translate the verb:
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נָזַף (nāzâ) I, *sprinkle.* (ASV and RSV the same except at 2 Kings 9:33 [RSV superior]) and **Isa. 52:15**