



## Lesson 177

# Isaiah's Visions of the Messiah – Part 2

### Story Elements

- **Text:** Isaiah 7:1-16; 9:1-7; 11:1-10; 52:13-53:12
- **Setting:** ca. 739 B.C. in Jerusalem
- **Main Characters:** God and Isaiah
- **Plot:** Isaiah receives several prophetic visions that describe the coming Messiah.
- **Key word(s):** “\_\_\_\_\_” is a word that appears in two of the visions (9:7; 53:5) and is a major theme of the vision recorded in chapter 11. The Messiah’s mission was to bring peace by defeating sin.

- **Climax:** *Isaiah 53:3* *He is despised and rejected of men; A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: And we hid as it were our faces from him; He was despised, and we esteemed him not.* Though not technically a climax, since these three visions are not a linear narrative, nevertheless this verse creates an anticipation of a conclusion that is a surprise to the reader. (namely, the redemptive mission of the Messiah).

## The Branch (Isaiah 11:1-10)

1. (v 1) Isaiah prophesied that the coming Messiah will be like a rod (or a plant shoot) from the stem (or stump) of Jesse, and *a Branch shall grow out of his roots*.
  - a. This teaches us that the Messiah would be of the royal family of Judah – a descendant of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. This also prophesied that the house of David would be greatly diminished in power and influence.<sup>1</sup> Matthew Henry notes, “The house of David was reduced and brought very low at the time of Christ’s birth, witness the obscurity and \_\_\_\_\_ of Joseph and Mary.”<sup>2</sup>
  - c. The Messiah would be the start of new growth in the House of David. *Luke 1:32* *He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David.*
2. (vv 2-3) Isaiah described the character of the Messiah.
  - a. He would be filled with the Spirit of the LORD. “Seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are specified, to imply that the \_\_\_\_\_ of them was to be in Him. Compare “the seven Spirits” (Rev 1:4), that is, the Holy Ghost in His *perfect fulness: seven* being the sacred number. The prophets had only a portion out of the ‘fulness’ in the Son of God (Jn 1:16; 3:34 Col 1:19).”<sup>3</sup>
  - b. He would have an appetite for the fear of the LORD. The Hebrew for *quick understanding* means literally “quick \_\_\_\_\_” and evokes the idea of someone enjoying the scent of something they love.
3. (vv 3-10) Isaiah described the reign of the Messiah.
  - a. The Messiah will execute justice with perfect understanding and equity, and not by man’s perception or \_\_\_\_\_ (v 3). *Romans 2:16* *In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.*
  - b. The Messiah will destroy the wicked with his word, *he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, And with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.* (cf. 2 Thess. 2:8) Matthew Henry reminds us that, “He will do it easily, with a word’s speaking, as he laid those flat who came to seize him, by saying *I am he*, Jn. 18:6.”<sup>4</sup>
  - c. The Messiah’s reign will usher in a time of unparalleled peace, when *the wolf also shall dwell with the \_\_\_\_\_, And the leopard shall lie down with the kid* (v 6).

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Daniel’s interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of a tree cut down in Dan. 4.

<sup>2</sup> Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 1101.

<sup>3</sup> Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown, *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*, vol. 1 (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997), 443.

<sup>4</sup> Henry.

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## The Suffering Servant (Isaiah 52:13-53:12)

4. (52:12-15) Barnes says, “The most important portion of Isaiah, and of the Old Testament, commences here, and here should have been the beginning of a new chapter. It is the description of the suffering Messiah and is continued to the close of the next chapter.”<sup>5</sup> In these last verses of Isaiah 52 we see three important messianic themes: humiliation, redemption, and exaltation.
5. Chapter 53 expands upon the three messianic themes of 52:13-15:
- Humiliation** - (53:1-3) Isaiah described Christ’s being born in \_\_\_\_\_ circumstances and rejected by his own people.
  - Redemption** - (53:4-9) The Messiah did not suffer for his own sins, but suffered in the \_\_\_\_\_ of sinners. *Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned every one to his own way; And the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.* (53:7-9) The Messiah faced his death willingly and submitted to it like a sacrificial lamb.

“A lamb is a meek creature. It hurts none, is hurt by all; it hangs not back, when it is led to the slaughter; it cries not when it is pierced; no greater emblem of patience to be found among irrational creatures. To this the prophet likens our Savior, when he said, ‘He was brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before the shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth,’ Isaiah 53:7. How strange was His humility in entering into such a life!” – Stephen Charnock

- Exaltation** - (53:10-15) Because the Messiah gave himself for others, God has promised *Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, And he shall divide the \_\_\_\_\_ with the strong; Because he hath poured out his soul unto death.*

APPLICATION → Isaiah’s prophecies are so specifically described and so literally fulfilled by Jesus of Nazareth that truly there can be no doubt that he is the Messiah. Notice this index<sup>6</sup> of prophecies and their fulfillments from this passage:

Isaiah’s Prophecy		New Testament Fulfillment
He will be abused and disfigured	Isaiah 52:14	Matthew 26:67
God ordained that He would suffer and die	Isaiah 53:10	John 3:16, Acts 2:23, Philippians 2:8
Jesus’ sacrifice offers forgiveness of our sins	Isaiah 53:11	Acts 10:43
He will intercede for His transgressors	Isaiah 53:12	Luke 23:34
Jesus to be rejected and hated without cause	Isaiah 53:1-3	John 1:10-11, John 15:24-25
He will be despised and rejected by His own people	Isaiah 53:3	Luke 23:18, Matthew 26:67, John 1:11
He will bear abuse for our healing	Isaiah 53:4-5	Matthew 8:17, Romans 5:6-8
Jesus to be a sacrifice for sin	Isaiah 53:5-12	Romans 5:6-8
Jesus to not defend Himself	Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 27:12, Luke 23:9, John 1:29-36
People did not protest His death	Isaiah 53:8	Matthew 27:23-25
Jesus to be buried with the rich	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60
He will die with the wicked	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:38, Mark 15:27
Jesus to resurrect from the dead	Isaiah 53:9-10	Matthew 28:2-7, Acts 2:22-32

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**Answer Key:** Key word(s): “peace” • 1. a. David; b. poverty • 2. a. perfection; b. smelling; • 3. a. hearsay; c. lamb • 5. a. poor; b. place; c. spoil

<sup>5</sup> Albert Barnes, *Notes on the Old Testament: Isaiah, vol. 2* (London: Blackie & Son, 1851), 247.

<sup>6</sup> from <https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/jesus-fulfilled-prophecies/>