

God's Greatest Gift in Humble Wrapping Isaiah 53

Close your eyes! Imagine that you know nothing of Jesus! That the Messiah has not yet come, and you have no knowledge of His true identity!

Now listen to these words from the prophet Isaiah and allow your mind to paint a picture of who this Messiah will be based upon Isaiah chapter 53!

Isaiah 53 *Who has believed what he has heard from us?*

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² *For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. (Luke 2:11-12; John 1:46; John 1:11-12)*

³ *He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. (Matthew 2:13; Philippians 2:6-8; Luke 23:18)*

⁴ *Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows (Matthew 8:16-17); yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. (Matthew 12:23-24)*

⁵ *But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities (1 Peter 3:18); upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. (Colossians 1:20)*

⁶ *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Romans 3:23, 6:23)*

⁷ *He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth (Matthew 27:12); like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent (1 Peter 1:18-19), so he opened not his mouth. (Luke 23:9)*

⁸ *By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? (John 18:31,35)*

⁹ *And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death (Matthew 27:57-60), although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. (1 Peter 2:22)*

¹⁰ *Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. (John 6:40)*

¹¹ *Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see^[1] and be satisfied (Luke 23:34); by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. (1 John 2:2)*

¹² *Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong (John 3:14-15), because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors (Matthew 27:38); yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors. (Hebrews 7:25)*

Now open your eyes & look at this picture! Does this image align with the picture this prophecy of Isaiah paints of God's greatest gift – the Messiah?



Prior to hearing this prophecy, you probably would not have envisioned God's promised Messiah in such ways! A humble, suffering, servant doesn't fit the image of a conquering King who will crush his enemies under his feet!

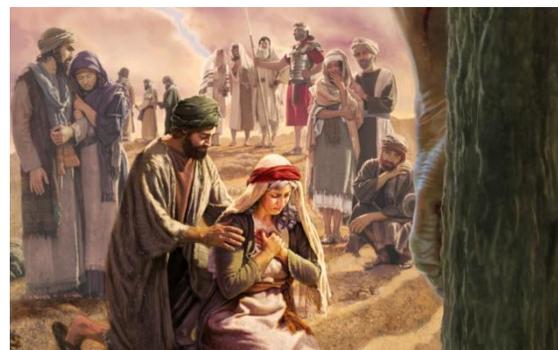
And yet that is exactly what God had in mind with this greatest of all Christmas gifts – a priceless, eternal gift wrapped in humility!

Humble wrapping is not usually what people desire at Christmas!

- Christmas lights, gift exchanges, home décor, etc.

We are drawn to spectacle! We want to be "wowed", especially at Christmas! And yet the greatest of all Christmas gifts was the one many rejected, despised, and discarded – at His birth, at His death, & still today!

Jesus fits Isaiah's description from His first day on earth to His last! If we didn't see it clearly before, then let's not miss it today with this huge sneak peek!



Let's look at these images, let's read this prophecy again, and let's consider now all that we do know from the New Testament about Jesus, and see if He is truly the fulfillment of it – if He truly is God's greatest gift to mankind!

John 12:37 – But what about us? **Acts 10:43** – Will we believe in Him?

The New Testament's proof of Jesus' identity as God's promised Messiah!

Luke 2:11-12 - ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

John 1:46 - ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

John 1:10-11 - ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own & his own people did not receive him

Matthew 2:13 - ¹³Now when they (the wise men) had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

Philippians 2:6-8 - ⁶though he was in the form of God, he did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross

Luke 23:18 - ¹⁸But the whole crowd shouted, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!"

Matthew 8:16-17 - ¹⁶That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. ¹⁷This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."

Matthew 12:23-24 - ²³And all the people were amazed, and said, "Can this be the Son of David?" ²⁴But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons."

1 Peter 3:18 - ¹⁸For Christ also suffered^[a] once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh...

Colossians 1:20 - ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Romans 3:23 - ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 - ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 27:12 - ¹²But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer.

1 Peter 1:18-19 - ¹⁸knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

Luke 23:9 - ⁹So he (Pilate) questioned him at some length, but he made no answer.

John 18:31, 35 - ³¹Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." ³⁵Pilate answered (Jesus)... Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?"

Matthew 27:57-60 - ⁵⁷When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud ⁶⁰and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away.

1 Peter 2:22 - ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.

John 6:40 - ⁴⁰For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

Luke 23:34 - And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do..."

1 John 2:2 - ²He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

John 3:14-15 - ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.^[a]

Matthew 27:38 - ³⁸Then two robbers were crucified with him, - one on the right and one on the left.

Hebrews 7:25 - ²⁵Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost^[a] those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

John 12:37 - ³⁷Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him.

Acts 10:43 - ⁴³To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."