

Fact Sheet for “The Passage” Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

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It was Sunday, the most important Sunday that ever was. Jesus had risen from the dead. Before he appeared to the 11 disciples he appeared to two who were traveling from Jerusalem to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). No one knows for sure all that Jesus taught them on their way to their town, but the passage we are going to look at today would have had to figure prominently... Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12.

This is clearly the most referenced passage from Isaiah in the NT. There are direct quotes by the apostles, and even by Jesus himself. There are NT thoughts from, paraphrases of and allusions to these verses. There are statements about Christ that are not even referenced in the NT.

^{ESV 13} **Behold, my servant shall act wisely;
he shall be high and lifted up,
and shall be exalted.**

Read Philippians 2:5-11.

¹⁴ **As many were astonished at you—
his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—**

Beaten, whipped, crucified

¹⁵ **so shall he sprinkle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;
for that which has not been told them they see,
and that which they have not heard they understand.**

Read Romans 15:21.

¹ **Who has believed what he has
heard from us?**

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

Read John 12:37-38 (said during Passion Week) and Romans 10:15-17.

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.**

This is not found in the NT.

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.**

^{3rd} time Jesus announced his death, burial, and resurrection to the disciples (Luke 18:31-33).

⁴ **Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.**

These phrases can also be rendered as they are in Matthew 8:17.

⁵ **But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,**

and with his wounds we are healed.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.

**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.**

Read Romans 3:10-12.

**⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.**

Before the Sanhedrin (Matthew 26:62-63)

Before Pilate (Matthew 27:12-14)

In fact, all four of the Gospel authors mention this (Mark 14:61; 15:5; Luke 23:9; John 19:9).

**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?**

Concerning Isaiah 53:7-8 read Acts 8:30-35.

**⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.**

Read Matthew 27:57-60.

**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.**

Jesus was obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (Philippians 2:8).

**¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and
be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.**

Read Romans 5:18-19 and 1 Peter 2:24-25.

**¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and makes intercession for the transgressors.**

“Transgressor” is a stronger word than “sinner”. It refers to those who are in willful defiance of lawful authority, here God. Another translation is “rebel”. Read Luke 22:36-37 (by Jesus himself in the upper room) Read also Mark 15:27.

And... This all was written by Isaiah about 700 years before the cross. Where do you stand with Christ?