

Note: Christians interpret Isaiah's Fourth Servant Song (Is 52:13 thru 53:12) as a prophecy about the redemptive suffering and death of Jesus Christ. Although most of the song is found in chapter 53, it clearly begins at Isaiah 52:13.

The New Testament lies hidden in the Old Testament & the Old Testament is revealed in the New Testament.

1. Isaiah assures us at the start that the Servant "will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted." (Is 52:13) What events in Christ's life does this first verse signify to Christians? (Acts 3:13; Phil 2:9)
2. The people to whom the Servant was sent to preach closed their eyes and minds to him. (Is 52:3-7)
 - a. How does the Servant tell us that other nations were more open to seeing and understanding the meaning of the Servant's suffering? (Is 52:15)
 - b. How does this compare with the reception of the message of Christ in the New Testament? (Heb 10:14; 1 Peter 1:2)
3. Isaiah describes the Servant as extremely ordinary, even unknown.
 - a. How does Isaiah demonstrate this poetically? (Is 53:1-2)
 - b. How would this verse apply to Jesus growing up in Nazareth? (John 1:43-46)
4. The Servant in Isaiah 53:4 willingly suffered. Compare how the four evangelists tell us of Jesus's willingness to suffer?
 - a. Matt 27:12-15
 - b. Mark 14:59-62
 - c. Luke 23:8-11
 - d. John 18:4-12
5. Isaiah clearly states that the Servant's sufferings were for our sins, which brought us peace and healing. (Is 53:5) How central in Christian theology is the doctrine of Jesus dying on the cross that our sins might be forgiven? (Romans 4:25; Gal 3:13)
6. *Reflection:* Isaiah says, "by his wounds we are healed." (Is 53:5) How would you explain this apparent contradiction and how can someone else's wounds heal our woundedness?
7. *Challenge:* According to the Servant's Song, the Lord laid our iniquity on his shoulders. (Is 53:6) Yet, it is we who have sinned.
 - a. Why did it have to be the Servant who would take the punishment that we deserved? (Is 53:4)
 - b. How effective would it be in removing our sin if each of us were to take the appropriate punishment for our transgressions and iniquities?
8. Apparently, no one protested the punishment of the Servant, or came to his defense. (Is 53:8) How are these images similar to the arrest and trial of Jesus? (Luke 23:34; Acts 3:17-18)
9. Isaiah presents the Servant as sinless and righteous. (Is 53:8,11) How do we apply these qualities to Jesus Christ? (Romans 5:15,19)