

# The Suffering Servant of God

**“Behold my servant.”** There’s plenty of bad news in Isaiah’s prophecy, but in [Isaiah 42](#), God begins describing his **“servant, whom I have chosen, in whom my soul delights”** ([42:1](#)). While there are a wide variety of things that could be highlighted from the next several chapters about what this servant would do, let’s focus in on [Isaiah 52:13](#):



Behold, my servant shall act \_\_\_\_\_;  
he shall be high and lifted up,  
and shall be \_\_\_\_\_.

In what way? The very next verse gets our attention as it describes the **“appearance”** of this servant being **“marred, beyond human semblance.”** What will happen to God’s servant?

He was despised and \_\_\_\_\_ 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.  
Surely he has borne \_\_\_\_\_ griefs  
and carried our sorrows;  
yet we esteemed him stricken,  
smitten by God, and afflicted.  
But he was \_\_\_\_\_ for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with his wounds we are \_\_\_\_\_.  
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 \_\_\_\_\_. ([53:3-6](#))



“Yet,” [Isaiah 53:10](#) makes clear, **“it was the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD to crush him.”** This servant would die as a part of God’s great plan. [Isaiah 53:9](#) even describes his grave. **“He shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand”** ([53:10](#)). A chosen servant who was a delight to the Father in heaven would live the life the children of Israel should have been living. This servant would bear **“the sins of many”** and make **“intercession for the transgressors”** ([53:12](#)). He would not stay in his grave.

Seven centuries later, Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled Isaiah’s incredible prophecy.

## For Class & Family Discussion:

- Let's revisit several of these verses from Isaiah's prophecy. What moments or scenes from Jesus' life come to mind as you hear these 700-year-old statements?
  - [Isaiah 42:1](#)?
  - [Isaiah 42:2-3](#)?
  - [Isaiah 42:4](#)?
  - [Isaiah 53:2](#)?
  - [Isaiah 53:3](#)?
  - [Isaiah 53:4](#)?
- Let's notice how Peter used passages like this to make God's plan clear in [Acts 3:17-26](#). How would you summarize what he is communicating and the dots he is connecting?
- How does Peter use many of these statements from Isaiah to teach disciples of Jesus how to act and react in [1 Peter 2:19-25](#)?
- What does Peter want us all to realize in [1 Peter 1:10-12](#)?
- Who are the "offspring" foretold in [Isaiah 53:10](#)? How does it relate to [1 Peter 2:9-10](#)?

## For NEXT Sunday:

- We'll examine the prophecy in [Jeremiah 31](#) of a new and better covenant that would eventually be established. What did it mean? **We'll talk about it...**