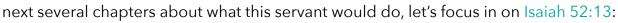
## The Suffering Servant of God

**"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



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. But the death of this servant would not be the end of the story. "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...