

The Suffering Servant

Isaiah chapter 52

**13 The Lord says,
“My servant will succeed in his task;
he will be highly honoured**

**14 Many people were shocked when they saw
him;
he was so disfigured that he hardly looked
human.**

**15 But now many nations will marvel at him,
and kings will be speechless with
amazement.
They will see and understand
something they had never known.”**

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Isaiah chapter 53

¹ The people reply, “Who would have believed what we now report?

Who could have seen the Lord's hand in this?

² It was the will of the Lord that his servant grow like a plant taking root in dry ground.

He had no dignity or beauty

to make us take notice of him.

There was nothing attractive about him, nothing that would draw us to him.

³ We despised him and rejected him;

he endured suffering and pain.

No one would even look at him—

we ignored him as if he were nothing.

⁴ “But he endured the suffering that should have been ours,

the pain that we should have borne.

All the while we thought that his suffering was punishment sent by God.

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**5 But because of our sins he was wounded,
beaten because of the evil we did.**

**We are healed by the punishment he suffered,
made whole by the blows he received.**

**6 All of us were like sheep that were lost,
each of us going his own way.**

**But the Lord made the punishment fall on him,
the punishment all of us deserved.**

**7 "He was treated harshly, but endured it
humbly;**

he never said a word.

**Like a lamb about to be slaughtered,
like a sheep about to be sheared,
he never said a word.**

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**8 He was arrested and sentenced and led off to die,
and no one cared about his fate.
He was put to death for the sins of our people.**

**9 He was placed in a grave with those who are evil,
he was buried with the rich,
even though he had never committed a crime
or ever told a lie.”**

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**10 The Lord says,
“It was my will that he should suffer;
his death was a sacrifice to bring
forgiveness.
And so he will see his descendants;
he will live a long life,
and through him my purpose will succeed.**

**11 After a life of suffering, he will again have
joy;
he will know that he did not suffer in vain.
My devoted servant, with whom I am
pleased,
will bear the punishment of many
and for his sake I will forgive them.**

**12 And so I will give him a place of honour,
a place among the great and powerful.
He willingly gave his life
and shared the fate of evil men.
He took the place of many sinners
and prayed that they might be forgiven.”**