

GOD & THE SERVANT

March 24, 2013

The Great Explanation

Isaiah 52:13-53:6

TO START: Something that you might already know: perhaps from some sort of hard-learned experience...

“Sometimes you can’t understand what you are looking at without an explanation.”

THERE ARE SOMETHINGS VERY IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND, AND SO SOME EXPLANATIONS THAT ARE VERY IMPORTANT!

“PALM SUNDAY” IS AN EXAMPLE. A historical event that must never be isolated from its context: five days before “Friday.”

“GOOD FRIDAY” IS TOO. It requires Easter Sunday in order to be understood.

Today: we begin to look at the 4th of four **Servant Songs**. A detailed explanation of all of this, 700 years in advance.

Song #1. The Greatest Assignment To “establish justice in the earth” !!! To be “a light for the nations”!!!

Song #2. THE GLOBAL DIMENSIONS EXPLAINED → **The Greatest Complaint**

Song #3. **The Greatest Humility** “He learned obedience through what he suffered”! → and re-defined greatness

AND NOW: **Song #4. The Great Explanation** The 4th of four **Servant Songs** explains it all best.

* A “duet.” Sung by God and Isaiah (!)

* 5 stanzas.

Song #4

STANZA ONE:	52:13-15	Sung by God
STANZA TWO:	53:1-3	Sung by Isaiah
STANZA THREE:	53:4-6	Sung by Isaiah
STANZA FOUR:	53:7-10	GOOD FRIDAY
STANZA FIVE:	53:11,12	EASTER SUNDAY

SO TO UNDERSTAND WHAT WE ARE LOOKING AT, WE BEGIN WITH...

STANZA ONE: God sings of the Servant’s shocking humiliation.

Isaiah 52:13-15 ESV This stanza is sung by God himself! Behold, my servant shall act wisely; [Referring to the 3rd Song] he shall be **high and lifted up**, and shall be exalted. As many were astonished at you — [“You”: God sings this one line to the Servant himself] his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind— so shall he sprinkle many nations; [Alternate translation: “startle”] so shall he **startle 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. Many people were going to be astonished, many nations were going to be ‘startled.’ Kings will be speechless about what they see.

BEFORE MOVING ON TO STANZA #2, LET’S BACK UP TO THE OPENING LINE (Vs.13)

Isaiah 52:13 ESV Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be **high and lifted up**, and shall be exalted.

[What does THIS refer to???] **Isaiah 6:1-4** ESV In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, **high and lifted up**; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!” And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.

[Much more to be “astonished” about!

Isaiah had, years previously, been intensely astonished (“I am lost” or “I am undone”) by the glory of the One sitting on a throne, “**high and lifted up**” --- and that One was the Son of God!!!

But God sings of another time, when others, many others, would be astonished by a totally different sight!]

STANZA TWO: Isaiah sings of the Servant’s horrible rejection.

Isaiah 53:1-3 ESV Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? 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. 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.

+ a young plant, a root out of dry ground	+ no form or majesty that we should look at him
+ no beauty that we should desire him	+ despised and rejected by men
+ a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief	+ one from whom men hide their faces
+ despised and we esteemed him not.	

ONCE AGAIN, BEFORE MOVING ON TO STANZA #3, LETS BACK UP TO THIS STANZA’S OPENING LINE.

ISAIAH STARTS WITH TWO QUESTIONS

Isaiah 53:1 ESV Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

GOOD QUESTIONS! TWO QUESTIONS: Actually, ONE question asked from two points of view.

THE FIRST IS ASKED IN VIEW OF HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY.

THE SECOND IS ASKED IN VIEW OF GOD'S SOVEREIGN CONTROL OVER ALL THINGS.

AND NOW LET'S JUMP AHEAD IN TIME TO THE DAY IN HISTORY THAT WE CELEBRATE ON PALM SUNDAY.

John 12:27-41 ESV "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ... Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. ... **And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.**" He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. ... So Jesus said to them, "... While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them. Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "**Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?**" [Isaiah 53:1. "STANZA #2 OF THE 4TH SERVANT SONG!] Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said, "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them." [Quoting **Isaiah 6:10** !] Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him.

NOTE TWO THINGS: 1. It was the Servant, the Son of God, that Isaiah saw on the throne!
2. Here Jesus speaks of a very different sort of being "lifted up." Lifted up on a cross.

ONCE AGAIN: "*Sometimes you can't understand what you are seeing (or hearing about) without an explanation.*"

AND SO NOW WE MOVE ON TO THE 3RD STANZA!

STANZA THREE: Isaiah sings the explanation.

Isaiah 53:4-6 ESV Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded 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. 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.

+ borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;	+ wounded for our transgressions;
+ crushed for our iniquities	+ upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
+ with his stripes we are healed.	+ the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all .

TWO MORE STANZAS...

BUT WE HAVE HEARD ENOUGH OF THE SONG FOR A QUESTION TO BE ASKED.

"Sometimes you can't understand what you are looking at (or hearing about) without an explanation."

BUT NOW: HAVING HEARD THIS ANCIENT EXPLANATION ABOUT THE HISTORICAL EVENTS OF "EASTER WEEK": HERE AGAIN IS ISAIAH'S QUESTION:

Isaiah 53:1 ESV Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

DO YOU? Do you believe what you have heard from the Old Testament Prophets?

Will you believe it?

Are you entrusting yourself to this great Servant of the Lord who suffered such humiliation in order to

+ bear our griefs and carry our sorrows?	YOUR griefs? YOUR sorrows?
+ be wounded for our transgressions?	YOUR transgressions?
+ be crushed for our iniquities?	

Do you believe that

- + upon him was the chastisement that brought **us** peace?
- + with his stripes **we** are healed?
- + the LORD has laid on him **the iniquity of us all**?

ARE YOU WILLING TO HAVE THE LORD REVEAL THIS TO YOU?