


## Isaiah 53:7-9 Lord's Supper Talk Good Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**RECORD!!** v9 Pray.

▲ In 1946 a shepherd boy was wandering out in the desert with his cousin around 25 miles East of Jerusalem. He fell through an opening in the rock and into a cave. In that cave he discovered some old scrolls found in jars. He and his cousin took a handful of them, and tried to sell them. Here's a  of one of them.

It's the Isaiah scroll from the Dead Sea Scrolls. One of the most important archaeological discoveries of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Scientists conducted radiometric dating and discovered it to date to 350 to 100BC. When it was found it was the oldest scroll of the book of Isaiah in existence, around a thousand years older than any other manuscript of Isaiah.

Why do I start with this random piece of archaeology? Like old things? Geology? Well because there is proof that what you Mercy just read to us is proven to be written before Jesus Christ. At least 100 years. This copy was in turn was copied from a source document thought to be written around 700BC, but the Dead Sea Scrolls prove scientifically that the words you have before you were written before Jesus Christ.

And yet this piece of the Bible speaks with an uncanny precision about the **events** and the **meaning** of the death of Jesus. We're going to look at those two points this afternoon.

### **1) THE EVENTS OF THE CROSS IN ADVANCE**

Let's get our bearings. BIBLE ONION! One off sermon. 39 OT books.

This **last part** looks beyond exile of 587BC to a time when people are comforted (52:9) and whole world sees a global rescue (52:10)

**4 poetic** pieces focusing on a servant, in whom the hopes of this rescue found.

This last one is perhaps most famous. Some of the words made famous by Handel in his Oratorio "the Messiah". **5 sections**. 5 services.

Our section today is v7-9. An individual suffering unjustly.

Let's have some Interaction. Does this remind you of anyone?

**v3** It's about an individual who is suffering. Does that remind you of anyone? rejected by pharisees, by his own family, and by many of his disciples. John6. Do you also want to leave.

**v7**. This suffering is to death. (also v

**v7. did not open mouth, silent** ( Matt 27: 12) When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate asked him, 'Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?' <sup>14</sup> But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge – to the great amazement of the governor.

**v9. Assigned a grave with the wicked**. Though he was innocent, and therefore his suffering was undeserved, he was crucified between two rebels (today call them terrorists)

**v9 with the rich in his death**.

Scholar Alec Motyer says that there are 2 little details in this song about a suffering servant that have no explanation until you read

And the NT writers believed the same. 8 or 9 times quoted in the NT pointing to Jesus.

And Jesus himself used this passage to point to himself.

Luke 22:37.

And this is on top of up to 32 times words or phrases from this song are alluded to in the NT.

How explain this.

Do you say, written after the event? I've heard of people from a Jewish background hearing Isa53 read, and saying you are reading from NT.

Or do you say, the similarities aren't perfect. I know this is not a photofit scientific description where we can see the immediate connection at every level, but the weight of evidence is striking.

Do you say, Jesus organised his death to try and make himself look like the Jewish Messiah, prophesied in the OT? (silent before shearers)

Hard to organise things in this chapter, like the circumstances of your death or grave. And when combine with other details in OT. cast lots for clothing. he would be pierced (v5)- Ps 22 actually says his hands and feet would be pierced. His bones wouldn't be broken, They would give him wine vinegar and gall for his thirst.

This is what keeps me a Christian. OT and NT perfectly come together.

Christ is promised in the OT and revealed in the NT.

By the way, I haven't been able to verify this myself, but I understand that Jewish synagogues don't read Isaiah 53 as one of their set readings. Now the Jewish Scriptures (OT) is a big book, can't have every. Is there a reason.

**CHRISTIANITY IS TRUE.**

## **2) THE MEANING OF THE CROSS IN ADVANCE**

10 times in these verses we have the concept of substitution.

Most clearly in v4-6 this morning.

Clear that he's innocent. v9.

But he's paying for the crimes of the guilty. v8b.

The word is substitution.

▲ Tale of 2 Cities.

Charles Darnay (has been found guilty facing guillotine) but his friend Sydney Carton steals into his cell, drugs him and faces his death penalty in his place.

Only a story, and a million reasons why couldn't happen in court (Stuart).

But here in Isaiah 53, 700 years before it happens, we have the explanation of the cross of Jesus.

An innocent man steps in for the guilty.

The punishment that brought us peace was upon him.

And you and I are guilty.

And we need this more than we need anything.

**CHRISTIANITY IS WONDERFUL!**

You can be honest about your failures.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Yes.

It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished

This year has been brutal. I don't want to minimise suffering. There are ppl in this room who have lost loved ones. But there can be a purpose in suffering.

If covid showed us that all our previous refuges are bankrupt. May have been for a reason.

Let us rely only and fully on the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation.

We have all fallen short of God's glory. Deserve punishment. but v8 (last part).

Have you turned to Christ? He is your only hope.

As we take **bread** this afternoon. we Remember that body broken.

**Wine-** we remember blood poured out.

It was for you. Know it is true, and wonderful.