

Believing God's Report

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 53:1-12

We are living in an age where it seems everyone has something to report. Seemingly everyone is accusing other reports to be “Fake News.” It is obvious that, with all of the contradictions, someone is lying – someone is mistaken. Very possibly everyone is biased. Who is totally accurate today? Well, this seems to have been escalating in the last few years. But it really goes back to ancient times. With so many, God's truth has always been treated with suspicion, if not deliberately ignored or suppressed (Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 1:16-32; Psalm 119:126; **Isaiah 59:12-15**; Jeremiah 36:1-26; I Corinthians 1:18-24; 2:1-5, 9-16). So, in our Scripture reading, Isaiah expresses the concern that others will not believe the report that God has given the prophets. God used the nation Israel to give us the Scriptures through the prophets (Romans 3:1-4; Luke 24:44-48; Hebrews 1:1-3). Among other things, these Scriptures are to be considered the record / testimony that God gave concerning His Son (I John 5:9-11).

The Book of Isaiah has many things to say about the Messiah. **Isaiah 53:1-12** is such a powerful testimony of God's way of using His Servant the Messiah – “The arm of the LORD.” Previous statements from Isaiah have expressed Messiah's rejection and persecution (**Isaiah 50:4-11**). This treatment would lead many, including Gentiles, to astonishment, repentance, and the giving of honor to the Messiah / Christ (**Isaiah 52:13-15** cp. Acts 2:36-38; Romans 15:20-21 [using a quote from **Isaiah 52:15**]; Philippians 2:6-11 [vs. 9-11 citing **Isaiah 45:22-23**] cp. Philippians 2:5, 12-16).

Consider God's Report in Isaiah 53:1-12

Isaiah 53:1-3	Messiah's Life and Ministry
Isaiah 53:4-8	Messiah's Death
Isaiah 53:9	Messiah's Burial
Isaiah 53:10-12	Messiah's Resurrection, Satisfaction, and Exaltation

Consider How The Arm of the LORD is Revealed to Man

Isaiah asked, “*Who has believed our report / testimony?*” He also asked, “*To whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?*” The Messiah / Christ can only be revealed by...

- **The Spirit of God** – John 1:10-13; 3:3, 6-8; 6:44-45 [John 6:45 cites **Isaiah 54:13**]; John 6:63; I Corinthians 2:12-16; Titus 3:5-7; I Peter 1:18-23 cp. Ephesians 2:1-22 – See Supplemental page.
- **The Preaching of the Gospel** – Romans 1:16; 10:13-17 [Note: Romans 10:16 quotes **Isaiah 53:1**]; I Corinthians 1:18-24; I Peter 1:22-25. Thank God for so great a salvation (Romans 6:17-18).

Supplemental Page
Talking Points on God's Spirit Revealing Christ to Us
Ephesians Chapter 2

- Ephesians 2:1 God's Spirit gives spiritual life that breaks the bondage of sin.
- Ephesians 2:2-3 God's Spirit breaks the powerful influence of Satan and this world.
- Ephesians 2:4-7 God's Spirit showed mercy and kindness as He broke the patterns of a sin-controlled life, gave us faith, positioned us with Christ and gave us heavenly privileges.
- Ephesians 2:8-10 God's Spirit gave us grace and has enabled / is enabling us to live a holy life and be like Christ.
- Ephesians 2:11-19 God's Spirit has brought Jew and Gentile into unity with each other and with God. Love, truth, and purity give us peace and harmony.
- Ephesians 2:20-22 God's Spirit gives foundation in our lives, a future hope of a perfect heavenly existence with God and each other, and a present blessing of true fellowship with God and each other through the fellowship of the local church.