

# Who was Isaiah

- 8<sup>th</sup> century BC prophet in Jerusalem
- Israel and Judah
- Assyria
- Babylon
- Persia [Cyrus]
- Prophecies about Messiah [suffering servant]
- Judgment and mercy
- Speaks of The Holy one of Israel

# Understanding Isaiah

1. In spite of 19<sup>th</sup> century textual criticism [that seeks to divide the book up] we must look at Isaiah as 1 complete work
2. Prophecy is not always predictive; often it is contextual [relevant to it's hearers]
3. Prophecy is not always contextual [relevant to its hearers]; often it is predictive

# Isaiah 53

The suffering servant

The fore telling of the Gospel

# Prophecy as prediction

- There are at least 20 significant prophecies about the messiah fulfilled by Jesus in Isaiah
- At least 8 of those are found in Isaiah 53
- What was predicted?
- Why was it predicted? What is the purpose of a supernatural prediction?
- What else does it make us believe?

**Isaiah 53:1** Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

53:2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

53:8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

53:9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

53:11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

53:12 Therefore will I divide him *a portion* with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

# What is the purpose of a supernatural prediction?

- There is no such word as miracle in the bible
- The Biblical term is signs and wonders
- The reason for signs and wonders [Biblically] is to establish the authority of the persons message
- If the predictions of a prophet comes true then his message should also be listened to as it has been proved to be true.

# What was Isaiah's message in 53

53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

53:11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.