

The Suffering Servant

Isaiah 49 – 55

by Don Falkos

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A prophet spoke to the people of Israel in exile concerning the coming Messiah, the Anointed One of God.

God's servant will restore Israel to a right relationship with the Lord. He will be filled with the Spirit of God and will proclaim the good news, offering salvation to all who listen. He will be a light for the Gentiles; people of all nations will come and participate in his kingdom. Then everyone will know he is the Lord, the Savior, the Redeemer, the Mighty One of Israel.

But first he will be rejected.

He will not be especially handsome or attractive. People will turn away from him thinking he is worthless. They will avoid him and come to despise him. He will be beaten until he is barely recognizable.

Yet he will carry our weaknesses. He will be punished because of our crimes. By his wounds we will be healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray. Yet the Lord will lay all our guilt on him.

God's servant will be mistreated, but he will not object. He will be arrested and unjustly condemned. Despite having done nothing wrong, he will be treated like a criminal. His dead body will be placed in a borrowed tomb, a rich man's tomb.

Even so, he will live again to see the results of his suffering. Many will be saved because he bore their sins and interceded for them.

Now come, listen, and find a life of joy and peace and the unfailing love of the Lord. Give up your evil ways, and return to the Lord who will freely forgive.