

Ignored, Despised, and Rejected

Text: Isaiah 53:1-3

Date: 1-15-23 10:30 AM

I. The discouraging truth of the people's continual rejection of Jehovah (Isa. 53:1).

A. "Who has believed our report?"

So Isaiah seems to be asking "is there anyone who is listening?" "Is there anyone who still believes in Jehovah?"

B. To whom has God revealed His power?

II. The unconventional course of the Servant's life (Isa. 53:2-3)

****Unusual coming to this earth, unimposing and unattractive to His people**

Isaiah indicates that He will grow up, a phrase indicative of His coming to the earth where *before him* God would take care of Him each step of His pathway upon the earth (John 8:29; I Pet. 2:4).

Certainly the Jews were looking for something more appealing than a sapling coming from a branch.

How could someone so important originate from such an unassuming twig?

As dry ground Isaiah depicted the humble beginnings of Jesus' arrival to the earth and the miserable state of the nation at that time.

Yet, it was the fullness of time or the perfect timing of God (Gal. 4:4).

People seeking a king would look for beauty, regal adornment, glory, pomp and circumstance, and earthly splendor. He was not attractive to His people or to the world.

Had the people looked closely they would have seen much more than a non-royal outward appearance. With faith they could have and would have seen their Messiah and remembered the prophecies of His identity as revealed in the OT.

****Despised and rejected**

Unimpressive in appearance by the world's standards, the Servant quickly became despised and rejected by men. There has never been a person in history so hated and despised as the Lord Jesus Christ.

How did men respond to the Servant? They despised and rejected Him. Their actions brought Him great anguish, sorrow of the soul, and overwhelming grief. Men, looking for a winsome leader, handsome man, and strong human completely missed the true Servant of God who could change their lives in the most important manner. Men, blinded by their own unrighteousness, instead took the life of the Servant. His life, perfect and good, and in which He would prove Himself to be the Son of God, was exchanged for the worst of criminals. The people completely missed that He could rightfully and righteously change them from the inside out.

Seeing a servant instead of a king, despising and continually rejecting Him, the people found Him so appalling to look at that they completely ignored His word and ways.

"All failed to see the spiritual beauty of His life and teaching and therefore failed to set a proper value upon Him. How blind man must be to not have recognized then, nor to recognize even now, the greatest Benefactor and Benefit ever offered by God to the human family" (Hailey 437)!