

Israel's forbidden chapter – Isaiah 53

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*In Israel and in Jewish synagogues each sabbath, a portion of the first five books of the Bible – the **Torah** -- is read. Then they read from the **Haftorah** – selected scriptures from the Prophets in their Tanakh, the Hebrew scriptures, which Christians commonly call the Old Testament. But one chapter in Isaiah is never read, though it's definitely a prophetic book.*

It's STRIKING that there's one chapter in particular which has been forbidden to ever be read in the synagogues. We'll read that chapter today.

But WHY is it forbidden and never read in synagogues? Perhaps because in their own Hebrew Scriptures is a wonderful, very clear, prophecy about the coming Suffering Servant of God, the Messiah, who took upon himself all of our sins and iniquities. Why did God do that? Because our God is also a wonderful Father who wants us to know we can have a clean slate, because of the perfect life of the Isaiah 53 Suffering Servant.

One reason Jews reject Yeshua as their Messiah, is because of their perception that scriptures say the Messiah would RULE the earth when he came. Nations would come up to Jerusalem to worship (Isa 2:2-4). That didn't happen under Yeshua/Jesus. So the notion of a second coming of the Messiah gets rejected.

So when Yeshua was crucified, it seemed impossible for him to be the real Messiah – because they could not see the TWO COMINGS of Messiah. What they didn't see is that the first time the Messiah would come, according to their own Hebrew scriptures, he would come as a humble, suffering servant of the Most High, who died for us so HE paid the penalty for OUR sins. Then He will be coming again, very, very soon now in the coming years, this SECOND time to RULE the earth!

They rejected the idea of a second coming, so they missed his first coming.

But you don't see all this unless you're familiar with the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53. And by the way, this chapter is for the whole world, including Jews and Arabs, everyone who will ask the Most High to open

our eyes to him. The power of Isaiah 53 is to cleanse ALL OF US of sins we're repented of -- and make us all one in Him.

So let's read all of Isaiah 53, but first let's start with the 2-3 verses before it, to get context and a running start. There were no chapters in the original texts.

I'll be reading from the Complete Jewish Bible (CJB).

Isaiah 52:13-15 CJB (Complete Jewish Bible)

“See how my servant will succeed! He will be raised up, exalted, highly honored!

14 Just as many were appalled at him, because *he was so disfigured that he didn't even seem human* and simply no longer looked like a man, 15 so now he will startle many nations; because of him, kings will be speechless. *For they will see what they had not been told, they will ponder things they had never heard.*”

Isaiah 53:1-12 CJB

“Who believes our report? **To whom is the arm of Adonai revealed?** 2 **For before him he grew up like a young plant, like a root out of dry ground.**

He was not well-formed or especially handsome; we saw him, but his appearance did not attract us.

3 People despised and avoided him, a man of pains, well acquainted with illness. Like someone from whom people turn their faces, he was despised; we did not value him.

4 In fact, it was our diseases he bore, our pains from which he suffered; yet we regarded him as punished, stricken and afflicted by God.

5 “But he was wounded because of our crimes, crushed because of our sins; the disciplining that makes us whole fell on him, and by his bruises we are healed.

6 We all, like sheep, went astray; we turned, each one, to his own way; yet Adonai laid on him the guilt of all of us.

7 “Though mistreated, he was submissive —he did not open his mouth. Like a lamb led to be slaughtered, like a sheep silent before its shearers, he did not open his mouth.

8 “After forcible arrest and sentencing, he was taken away; and none of his generation protested his being cut off from the land of the living for the crimes of my people, who deserved the punishment themselves.
9 He was given a grave among the wicked; **in his death he was with a rich man. [Joseph of Arimathea]**

“Although he had done no violence and had said nothing deceptive, 10 yet it pleased Adonai to crush him with illness, to see if he would **present himself as a guilt offering.**

“If he does, he will see his offspring; and he will prolong his days; and at his hand Adonai’s desire will be accomplished. 11 After this ordeal, he will see satisfaction. **“By his knowing [pain and sacrifice],my righteous servant makes many righteous; it is for their sins that he suffers.**

12 **“Therefore I will assign him a share with the great, he will divide the spoil with the mighty, for having exposed himself to death and being counted among the sinners [crucified between 2 thieves], while *actually bearing the sin of many and interceding for the offenders.*”**

[He prayed from the cross, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do]

Now you’ve read and heard the forbidden chapter. May it be read by you in your own Tanakh over and over and ask God to reveal what and who this chapter is about.

And now let me read it again, this time from the New King James Version. We’ll start Isa 52:13-15.

Isaiah 52:13-15

“Behold, **My Servant** shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. 14 Just as many were astonished at you, **So His visage was marred more than any man,** And His form more than the sons of men;

15 So shall He startle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; For what had not been told them they shall see, And what they had not heard they shall consider.”

Now, Chapter 53, The FORBIDDEN CHAPTER, ISAIAH 53:1-12

“Who has believed our report?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? 2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. **He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him.**

3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

4 Surely HE has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; *Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.* 5 *But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.*

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

8 He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; **For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.** 9 **And they made His grave with the wicked — But with the rich at His death,** Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth. [Pilate the Roman prelate said he found this man not guilty, but crucified him anyway to please the crowds.]

10 Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You 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. 11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge **My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.**

12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, **Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.**”

The first time Messiah came, he was killed – the innocent for guilty sinners. I pray you will keep reading Isaiah 53 in your own Tanakh.

Someone went around the streets of Israel and he had people read and discuss this forbidden chapter. You’ll find this interesting.

Here is a short video of Jews being asked if they were familiar with Isaiah 53. It’s very short. **I love this video. You will too. It’s only 9 minutes long. You can check it out after finishing my video.**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGz9BVJ_k6s

Other unread Messianic scriptures include **Psalm 22** which describes the ordeal of your Messiah on the cross. I’ll read a few from Psalm 22.

Psalms 22:1-8

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?

Why are You so far from helping Me,
And from the words of My groaning?

2 O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear;
And in the night season, and am not silent.

3 But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel.

4 Our fathers trusted in You; They trusted, and You delivered them.

5 They cried to You, and were delivered;

They trusted in You, and were not ashamed.

6 **But I am a worm**, and no man; (check out my sermon on “Worm”)
A reproach of men, and despised by the people.

7 **All those who see Me ridicule Me;**

They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying,

8 **“He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him;**

Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!”

Psalms 22:14-18

**“I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint;
My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me.**

15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
And My tongue clings to My jaws;
You have brought Me to the dust of death.

16 For dogs have surrounded Me;
The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me.
They pierced My hands and My feet; [long before crucifixions]

17 I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me.
18 They divide My garments among them,
And for My clothing they cast lots.”

Micah 5:2

2 "But you, *Bethlehem Ephrathah*,
Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,
Yet out of you shall come forth to Me
The One to be Ruler in Israel,
Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."

Zechariah 9:9

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your King is coming to you;
He is just and having salvation,
Lowly and riding on a donkey,
A colt, the foal of a donkey."

Here's another video from a Jewish lady. Jews in particular may be enlightened by this talk from a Jew who grew up in Judaism – and what happened to her and her beliefs.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvsvNowhxh4>

Talk to me. I'd love to hear from you.
Let me end with this thought:

God made it clear that false prophets were to be killed and to STAY dead (Deut. 13:1-5). And the only one who could resurrect anyone was God – or God working through prophets like Elisha.

But Jesus was resurrected. Yeshua became recognized as one of the greatest prophets of ALL TIME by most of the world religions, even Islam, but not by Orthodox Judaism! God caused his name to be known more than any other name in history. Over 500 people saw him rise back up to heaven. Thousands of believers in him were persecuted and even killed because of HIM, but they loved him and knew him so much – that was OK with them.

So – I'll end with – if Jesus wasn't the Messiah, but was a false prophet, WHY would God, why DID God, resurrect him?

God resurrected Yeshua because he IS the Messiah and we await his second coming now. He now continues to live IN His followers. The New Testament says he was called the “Christ” – the same meaning as Messiah, the Anointed One (Matthew 1:6).