

Notes
January 6, 2012 Messianic Service
The Prophets Isaiah: Suffering Servant or Reigning King
Pastor Geoffrey Cohen

Torah Portion:

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Matthew 22:34-40

34 But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

37 Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Service Portion

BECAUSE THE SCRIPTURES IN ISAIAH AND OTHER PLACES, BUT ESPECIALLY ISAIAH 53 SEEM TO SHARE TWO APPARENTLY TOTALLY CONTRADICTORY DESCRIPTIONS OF MESSIAH, MANY OF THE ORTHODOX HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THERE ARE TWO MESSIAH'S.

ACCORDING TO RABBINICAL APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE MESSIAH SON OF JOSEPH WILL RECAPTURE JERUSALEM BY OVERCOMING HOSTILE POWERS AND REESTABLISH TEMPLE WORSHIP. THEN HE WILL BE SLAIN AND LIE UNBURIED ON THE STREETS OF JERUSALEM UNTIL MESSIAH SON OF DAVID COMES AND RESSURECTS HIM.

LET US LOOK AT THEIR TWO DESCRIPTIONS OF MESSIAH AND SEE WHAT WE CAN GLEAN FROM THEM AND HOW WE CAN RECONCILE THEM.

THIS MISUNDERSTANDING COMES ESPECIALLY FROM THE DESCRIPTION OF ISAIAH 53, THE SUFFERING SERVANT WHICH IS NOT DESCRIBING THE TRADITIONAL JEWISH UNDERSTANDING OF OR HOPE FOR THE ROLE OF THE MESSIAH

(STICKER STORY)

1) Messiah son of Joseph (The suffering servant)

Isaiah 53:1 – 6

1 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.

SOME ARE ALL ABOUT SUFFERING AS IF SUFFERING IS AN END IN ITSELF, AS IF IT IS A STAND ALONE VIRTUE OR A GOAL TO ATTAIN.

WE WILL SUFFER IN LIFE WHETHER WE ARE A BELIEVER OR NOT, SO IF WE ARE GOING TO SUFFER, WE MIGHT AS WELL SUFFER FOR A REASON AND SUFFER FOR THE KINGDOMS SAKE.

IT IS SIMPLE, SUFFERING COMES FROM SWIMMING UPSTREAM IN A FAST FLOWING DOWNSTREAM RIVER.

THE BIBLE SAYS THAT THE WORLD LIES UNDER THE "SWAY" OR INFLUENCE OF THE EVIL ONE. THE SPIRIT OF THIS WORLD IS THE OPPOSITE OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD, SO IF WE DRAW CLOSE TO GOD WE ARE AUTOMATICALLY GOING AGAINST THE GRAIN.

SOME EQUATE SUFFERING WITH MISERY, BUT SUFFERING IN THE SCRIPTURES ARE EQUATED WITH JOY. JESUS SAYS REJOICE AND LEAP FOR JOY WHEN YOU ARE PERSECUTED AND WHEN MEN SPEAK EVIL OF YOU FOR THEY DID THE SAME OF THE PROPHETS BEFORE YOU.

BUT WE MUST DISTINGUISH BETWEEN SUFFERING FOR THE KINGDOM AND SUFFERING FOR BEING IRRITATING OR SELF RIGHTEOUS.

REMEMBER WE ARE CALLED TO WIN SOULS, NOT ARGUMENTS. WE ARE CALLED TO REPRESENT HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, NOT SELF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

2) Messiah son of David (The conquering king)

THEN WE SEE SON OF DAVID DESCRIPTION WHICH COME FROM PASSAGES LIKE THESE AND THERE IS A STRUGGLE TO RECONCILE THE TWO.

Isaiah 63:1-7

1 Who is this who comes from Edom,
With dyed garments from Bozrah,
This One who is glorious in His apparel,
Traveling in the greatness of His strength?—
“ I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.”

2 Why is Your apparel red,
And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?

3 “ I have trodden the winepress alone,
And from the peoples no one was with Me.
For I have trodden them in My anger,
And trampled them in My fury;
Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments,
And I have stained all My robes.

4 For the day of vengeance is in My heart,
And the year of My redeemed has come.

5 I looked, but there was no one to help,
And I wondered
That there was no one to uphold;
Therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me;
And My own fury, it sustained Me.

6 I have trodden down the peoples in My anger,
Made them drunk in My fury,
And brought down their strength to the earth.”

7 I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD
And the praises of the LORD,
According to all that the LORD has bestowed on us,
And the great goodness toward the house of Israel,
Which He has bestowed on them according to His mercies,
According to the multitude of His lovingkindnesses.

Verse 7 seems really random after the Lord Himself has literally personally destroyed His enemies in their thousands or more. But remember this is after about 6000 years of waiting, God is quite patient, don't you think!

3) We get both!

COULD IT BE THAT THIS IS NOT SPEAKING OF TWO MESSIAH'S BUT RATHER ONE WHO HAS TO SUFFER TO RECONCILE US TO HIMSELF AND THEN COMES A SECOND TIME TO RULE AND REIGN AND TO ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM ON EARTH.

BUT EVEN IN THIS LIFE, WE GET BOTH, THE SUFFERING SERVANT AND THE RULING REIGNING KING. WE SUFFER WITH HIM IN THIS LIFE, YET WE ALSO SHARE IN HIS VICTORY IN THIS LIFE, NOT ONLY IN THE SWEET BY AND BY.

DAVID SAID IN THE PSALM 27:13, I WOULD HAVE DESPAIRED HAD I NOT BELIEVED I WOULD SEE THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING.

1 Peter 5:10

10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

Romans 8:37 – 39

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 John 5:4-5 (NIV)

4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Romans 8:17 (NLT)

17 And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

Romans 8:17 (NIV)

17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

All scriptures NKJV unless otherwise noted

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