

H O U S E o f W I S D O M

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Isaiah 53 - Part VI

This study will conclude the Isaiah 53 studies. The last verse seems like a summary of what God accomplishes through the Son, the reward of the righteous and the work of the Son as “the anointed one” (Hebrew = Messiah; Greek = Christ).

Isaiah 53:12: *Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great^(h7227), 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^(h7227), and made intercession for the transgressors.*

This is the first part of verse 12 - *Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great^(h7227), and he shall divide the spoil with the strong^(h6099)*, From the Part V study is the phrase in **verse 11:** *by his knowledge shall my righteous servant [cause to be cleansed the] many^(h7227)* (with the Hebrew definite article). The proper meaning of the Hebrew word *rab*^(h7227) is *abundant, much, many, great*. *Rab* is used in verse 12 but rendered as *great*. The many and the great are also the strong and transgressors who accept the Savior, believing the truth that he taught, and were strong enough walk in the light of it. **Matthew 11:12-13:** *12. And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. 13. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.* The message of John the Baptist was the transition from the *prophets and the law* to kingdom thinking (Lk 17:21), or applying scripture to the inward person as Jesus taught (cf Mt 5:27-28). Since that time the *kingdom of heaven is taken by force, and the forceful seize it*. Kingdom thinking is God’s way of using the letter of the law and the literal experiences of Israel to teach spiritual lessons.

When the deliverance of Israel is viewed allegorically, an overview of a person’s own spiritual journey can be seen. We accept Christ as our Savior, and separate from a worldly way of life (leave Egypt); Traditionally, a person associates with or joins a religious organization, thinking to serve God by working within the group, doing missionary work or whatever the organization determines as their objective. I came to realize that wilderness wandering is a type for the traditional way of the life of a Christian today. Just look at the various religions and different beliefs within each group. There is a lots of confusion about God in the minds of people today.

When Israel first arrived at the borders of Canaan, they sent 12 men to spy out the land. They were to report on the occupants, their dwellings and the produce of the land (Num 13:1-20), which they spent 40 days doing. Ten of the men focused on the negatives, saying they were not able to take the land (Num 13:21-33). The majority of the people also focused on the negative, rebelled against Moses and Aaron, and were ready to return to Egypt (Num 14:1-4). Their decision resulted in all that generation wandering in the wilderness and dying there, except for Caleb and Joshua, the only two spies confident that the Lord would give them success (Num 14:6-10, 22-25).

What is the wilderness, spiritually? On the negative side, it is a dry and thirsty land (Eze 19:13); a land not sown; a land of darkness (Jer 2:2, 31). On the positive side, it is a land of miracles where God sustains His people until they are able to enter the promised land. He furnished bread from heaven for 40 years (Ex 16:14-15; Josh 5:12; Rv 2:17); and He gave them water (Dt 32:1-2) out of the Rock (Ex 17:6; 1Cor 10:4) - think spiritually today.

The “dividing of the spoils” comes from the idea of dividing the booty taken in war by defeating an enemy. Abraham gave 1/10 of the spoils to Melchizedek and some of it to the men who fought with him, after defeating the five kings that had taken Lot captive (Gen 14:20, 24; Heb 7:4). Israel had to defeat the enemy in the land before it could be divided among the tribes. The Lord told them *When the Lord your God brings you into the land which you are entering to take possession of it, and clears away many nations before you... seven nations greater and mightier than yourselves, When the Lord your God delivers them over to you to be destroyed, do a complete job of it--don't make any treaties or show them mercy; utterly wipe them out* (Deut 7:1-2 RSV).

The spiritual aspect of defeating these nations is presented in **Revelation 2:26-27**: *26. And he that overcomes, and keeps my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: 27. And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.* When did Christ receive power over the nations? It was at the cross! It is the characteristics of these nations, prevalent in the human nature that have to be defeated. John says that *all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world* (1Jn 2:16). The land promised to Israel is a type of a new way of thinking, an new way of understanding that comes only from God. The Lord said through the prophet Isaiah: *Ho, every one that thirsts, come to the waters, and he that has no money; come, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do you spend money for that which is not bread? and your labor for that which satisfies not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David* (Isa 55:1-3).

The next two phrases: *because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors.* Some teach that the soul is immortal and that the Son of God did not actually die on the cross, but only the human form. Note what Ezekiel has to say about the soul: **Ezekiel 18:20**: *The soul that sins, it shall die...* How many have sinned (Rom 3:23)? **Psalms 22** is about the cross. **Verse 15** states: *My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaves to my jaws; and you have brought me into the dust of death.* The Son died on the cross, but not the Father. And the Son did not resurrect himself, as some teach, but the Father resurrected the Son (Gal 1:1)

Unbelievers labeled Jesus as a sinner, as well as his followers. It will be no different today for anyone who has the courage to receive and stand for the truth - they will be labeled as sinners, heretics: *Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leads unto life, and few there be that find it* (Mt 7:14).

And the last part of **Isaiah 53:12**: *he bare ^(h5375) the sin of many ^(h7227), and made intercession for the transgressors.* *Many* in this verse refers back to *the many* in verse 11, which says the “righteous servant makes *the many* righteous by his knowledge.” Every one is a transgressor, but Christ intercedes for those seeking truth. He changes how we think about God and others, even our own selves. The proper meaning of the Hebrew word *nasa* ^(h5375) (naw-saw’) is *to lift*. Speaking of Christ as our High Priest: **Hebrews 7:25**: *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever lives to make intercession for them.* When we learn about the Son of God, we go to him, then he shows us the Father. We are changed by receiving his understanding of God, as he “lifts away” the old way of seeing an angry, vengeful God and supplants it with the ability to see the Father as loving us unconditionally. Then we can truthfully say *thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ* (1Cor 15:55 RSV). AMEN!