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**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

3750 Washington Street, Sanford, FL 32771; www.RefugeSanford.com

**Elder Joel Brooks, Pastor**

**Bishop M. Ruel McCoy, Sr., Diocesan**

**THE REPORT OF THE LORD**

**Isaiah 53:1-12**

***Isaiah 53:1 "Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed***?"

In this chapter we see the report of the personal Messiah, the Son of God, who alone can atone for sin, revealed. The rhetorical question “Who hath believed our report?” is more of an exclamation than an interrogation. Speaking for all God’s prophets, Isaiah call attention to the world’s lack of faith in general. The Messiah’s message is rejected, His person is refused, and His mission is misunderstood. Isaiah is saying that not many people have believed the prophecy that God had given him for this people. When he asks the question, he is saying, show me one who believes what I have prophesied concerning the Messiah, through words of God flowing through me. The "Arm of the LORD" is the emblem of Divine power and speaking of Jesus Christ. Isaiah is telling them of the coming of their long-awaited Messiah.

***Isaiah 53:2 "For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, [there is] no beauty that we should desire him."***

Speaking of Jesus coming from a "tender plant", shows that His appearance on this earth would be in the form of a baby. He would grow to manhood, as other children do. Isaiah speaks of this as if it has already happened, because it was planned from the foundation of the world. This tree springs from a root in the ground. Jesus is the "Tree of Life". He is, also, the Branch. This tree springs from a seemingly dead root. Jesus was not of the Levitical tribe, which the earthly priests came from. He was from the tribe of Judah.

***Romans 15:12 "And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust."***

This is that root. He was not unusually handsome physically. “No form nor comeliness” and “no beauty that we should desire him” does not mean “ugly” or “homely”, but rather in the physical, He looked like most of the men of His times. People did not flow to Jesus because of His flesh, but because of the Spirit within that flesh. That being said, many racist bible historians erroneously teach that He was a tall slender man, a little hump-shouldered with light sandy red hair and blue eyes. This has no biblical basis. In the bible there are very few passages that speak of the physical appearance of Jesus. In the Old testament there are two, here in Isaiah 53:2 and

***Psalms 45:2***

***2 Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever.***

In the New Testament there are no descriptions of Jesus' physical appearance before his death. However, the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) all include the account of the transfiguration of Jesus, during which he was glorified with "His face shining as the sun" but this appearance refers to Jesus in His majestic, transfigured form. In the Book of Revelation, we read about the vision of John describing Jesus.

***Revelation 1:13-18***

***13And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.***

***14His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;***

***15And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.***

***16And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.***

***17And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:***

***18I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the*** keys of hell and of death.

Again, this vision refers to Jesus in heavenly form, not his appearance during his earthly life. In 2018 historian Joan Taylor concluded that Jesus had honey/olive skin, brown eyes and black hair. As for the honey/olive description, Taylor writes that his skin was "a darker hue consistent with the skin tone of people of the Middle East". Since we have no authentic pictures of Jesus, no one knows for sure. We should not look at Him with our physical eyes anyhow, we should see the Spirit Man within the body.

***Isaiah 53:3 "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were [our] faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not."***

The Jewish leaders rejected Him. Even His sisters and brothers did not believe He was Messiah, until after He rose from the grave. Simon Peter denied Him 3 times in the face of the crucifixion. Very few of His followers were with Him at Calvary. The disciples fled, except for John, whom He entrusted His mother to, and Peter watching from afar. The women stayed and were with Him at His worst hour. Even people today, who want to live worldly lives, do not believe in Him.

***Isaiah 53:4 "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted."***

This is the true story of it all. It was our sin that nailed Him to the cross. We know the Jews and the Romans were immediately responsible, but truly, we all nailed Him to the cross. The old hymn asks, “were you there, when they crucified my Lord”. He was the Substitute for our sin. Not even the apostles, who had walked and lived with Him every day, understood the significance of the cross. They thought Jesus had been defeated, and they fled. The world thought Jesus was defeated at the cross, when in fact, it was His greatest victory. He did say, My God, My God, Why hast thou forsaken me? This statement was when Jesus had the sin of the world on His body. The face of God was turned away from the sin, not from His precious Son. The high priest, and others in authority, accused Him of blaspheming God. Little did they know that Jesus was actually paying the price in full for the sin of the whole world.

***John 5:18 "Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the Sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God."***

***Isaiah 53:5 "But he [was] wounded for our transgressions, [he was] bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace [was] upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."***

Sin must be paid for by the shedding of blood. Jesus shed His blood to pay for our sin. He took our sin upon His body on the cross, and in exchange gave us a robe of righteousness to wear.

***Hebrews 9:22 "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."***

The wounds, of course, are the nails driven into His body. They whipped Him, until the flesh was very damaged. It was this whipping He took that paid for our healing. The stripes on His body paid for our healing. We had no peace, until the King of Peace {Jesus Christ} gave it to us as a gift. Man had been away from God. Jesus tore down the veil of the temple, which kept the people away from God. The "temple veil" symbolized the flesh of Jesus. Jesus opened the way to the Father for each of us. He brought us access to the Father through use of His name.

***Isaiah 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."***

Jesus is the great Shepherd, and we Christians are His sheep. This is speaking of all mankind, because Jesus is the Saviour of all the people of the earth, not just the Hebrews.

***Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God***;"

Just as the first Adam brought sin unto the lives of every individual, Jesus brought righteousness.

***Romans 5:15 "But not as the offence, so also [is] the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, [which is] by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many."***

***Titus 2:14 "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."***

***Isaiah 53:7 "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth."***

This is fulfilled, when Jesus did not answer back His accusers. He, of His own free will, was crucified. No one forced Him to do this. He was fulfilling the law.

***Isaiah 53:8 "He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken."***

He was tried during the night. He was judged of the leaders of the temple and of Herod and Pilate. Pilate and Herod wanted nothing to do with Him and tried to get Him released. The leaders of the temple insisted on Him being crucified.

***Matthew 27:25 "Then answered all the people, and said, His blood [be] on us, and on our children."***

His life on this earth was very short, but He lives on in the hearts of His followers, the Christians. If we belong to Christ, He dwells within us. He is omnipresent, so while He is in our hearts, He is, also, seated at the Right Hand of the Father.

***Isaiah 53:9 "And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither [was any] deceit in his mouth."***

There are two things referred to here. He was crucified between two thieves. The reference to being with the rich in His death has to do with Joseph of Arimathaea, who came and got Jesus' body, and buried it in His own grave. It belonged to a rich man but had never been used.

***John 19:38 "And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave [him] leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.***

***Isaiah 53:10 "Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put [him] to grief: when thou shalt 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."***

The crucifixion of Jesus had been planned as the salvation of mankind from the beginning. Even the Jews believed that One should die for all. Look, with me, at the Scripture which covers this.

***John 11:50 "Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not."***

Jesus was the perfect Lamb sacrifice that took away the sin of the whole world. You see, it is the precious blood of Jesus Christ {the perfect Lamb which saves us}.

***John 1:29 "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."***

***Hebrews 9:26 "For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."***

***Hebrews 10:4 "For [it is] not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins."***

***Romans 5:9 "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."***

The thing that kept Jesus on the cross was our faces. When He was on the cross, you and I were on His mind.

***Isaiah 53:11 "He shall see of the travail of his soul, [and] shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities."***

The birth of the Christians was a painful thing for Jesus. He suffered on the cross. We, Christians, are just as if we had never sinned {justified} in the Lord Jesus Christ. Through the knowledge of the good news of the gospel, the Christian has hope of eternal life.

***II Timothy 1:10 "But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:"***

***Isaiah 53:12 "Therefore will I divide him [a portion] with the great, 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, and made intercession for the transgressors."***

It is a wonderful thing to realize just what Jesus did, when He put us in right standing with God. He is heir to all in the heavens and in the earth. The great thing is, He has made us the adopted sons of the Father, He bought us with His blood. He made us joint heirs with Him. He is our Benefactor.

***Romans 8:14 "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."***

***Romans 8:15 "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."***

***Romans 8:16 " The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:"***

***Romans 8:17 "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and jointheirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with [him], that we may be also glorified together."***

Jesus not only purchased us for the Father with His blood, but is constantly pleading our case before the throne. The devil is our accuser, Jesus is our intercessor.

***I John 2:1 "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:"***

**QUESTIONS**

1. What is Isaiah saying, when he says, Who hath believed our report?
2. The "Arm of the LORD" is speaking of what?
3. Isaiah is telling them of the coming of whom?
4. What does the "tender plant" tell us
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the Tree of Life about Jesus?
6. Jesus was from the tribe of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
7. How do some historians describe the flesh of Jesus?
8. Who rejected Jesus?
9. How many times did Peter deny Jesus?
10. Jesus entrusted His mother to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
11. Who stayed with Him during His worst hour?
12. Who should really have been crucified?
13. Why did the apostles flee?
14. He was wounded for our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
15. By His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ we are healed.
16. Who sinned and needed a Saviour?
17. What does verse 7 tell us Jesus had to say?
18. When was Jesus' trial?
19. If we belong to Christ, He dwells \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_.
20. Who claimed the body of Jesus?
21. When was the crucifixion of Jesus planned?
22. What did John call Jesus in chapter 1 of John?
23. What justifies the Christian?
24. We, Christians, have been adopted, and we are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
25. Who is our Advocate with the Father?