



Promise of the Lamb ~ March 24, 2019

OPEN

Has anyone ever “taken the rap” for you? During this season of Lent we are examining The Glory of the Lamb. The glory of Jesus as the Lamb is that He both suffered and became victor. The incredible promise of the Lamb is that a Messiah, Redeemer, and Deliverer would come and suffer in our place!

Jesus is our vicarious Savior. **Isaiah 53:1-12** tells us about this in the form of a precise promise. This passage is what we would call in poetic terms, an elegy – a poem of serious reflection; a lament for the dead.

Isaiah prophesied about 700 years before the birth of Jesus. He is considered the “Evangelical Prophet” because the Gospel is so prominent in his prophecies. Chapters 40 to 66 center on the theme of comfort (see 40:1) and chapter 53 falls into the presentation of the Prince of Peace. Isaiah 53 is one of four “Servant Songs” and 52:13-15 is actually part of this song.

DIG

The promise of the Lamb of God is detailed

- **Despised (vv. 1-3)** - Jesus is predicted to be quite unremarkable, according to human standards. He was predicted with precision to be despised. How do people despise or dismiss Jesus today?
- **Suffered (vv. 4-6)** - Isaiah prophesized that Jesus would be punished, stricken, afflicted, pierced, and crushed. Charles Spurgeon wrote, “A Jesus who never wept could never wipe away my tears.” (see I Peter 1:24).
- **Executed (vv. 7-8)** - For Jesus to bear our sin-burden He had to die. Consider how the metaphor of a “lamb to the slaughter” reflects crucifixion.
- **Sacrificed (vv. 9-10)** - As a sacrifice, Jesus has become our atonement or the payment price for sin. The full extent of Jesus’ sacrifice involves death, burial, resurrection (I Cor 15:3-4). Jesus was the ultimate “guilt offering” not just a ceremonial picture (see Heb 9:11-14 and Lev 4:13-21).
- **Glorified (vv. 11-12)** - What is the result of all Jesus’ anguish? God raised Him in victory and vindicated Him. God’s righteous anger is satisfied by the sacrifice of Jesus and Jesus has become our High Priest.

The promise of the Lamb of God is dependable

The Old Testament is bursting with passages about the coming of Messiah. There are over 300 such prophecies (***All the Messianic Prophecies of the Bible***, Hebert Lockyer). We can be absolutely certain of God’s plan to redeem and rescue humanity from the grip of sin. In ***Toward an Old Testament Theology*** Walter Kaiser writes,

Amidst all the multiplexity and variety of materials, events, and issues... there does exist an eye to this storm of activity....While the New Testament eventually referred to this focal point of the Old Testament teaching as the promise, the Old Testament knew it under a constellation of such words as promise, oath, blessing, rest, and seed.

Read **Exodus 6:2-9**. It was written to Israel about their freedom from slavery. “I will be your God...you shall be My people...I will dwell in the midst of you...I will lead you out [of Egypt]...I will lead you in [to Canaan].” This is also a declaration of God’s deliverance to anyone who puts their faith in Jesus today!

The promise of the Lamb of God is decisive

What Isaiah promised, Jesus fulfilled...decisively. Jesus faithfully and fully completed all the redemptive intentions of God. John Wilbur Chapman’s song “One Day” actually gives us quite a good outline for Isaiah 53:

Living, He loved me - vv. 1-3

Dying, He saved me - vv. 4-8

Buried, He carried my sins far away - vv. 9-10

Rising, He justified freely forever - vv. 11-12

One day He’s coming, oh glorious day!

REFLECT

Paul stated, “As for me, may I never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of that cross, my interest [satisfaction] in this world has been crucified, and the world’s interest in me has also died.” (**Galatians 6:14** NLT) Where are you seeking and finding your satisfaction?

*Not all the blood of beasts, on Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace, or wash away its stain.
But Christ, the heavenly Lamb, takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name, and richer blood than they.
My faith would lay her hand on that dear head of Thine,
While like a penitent I stand, and there confess my sin.
My soul looks back to see the burdens Thou didst bear
When hanging on the cursed tree, and knows her guilt was there.
Believing, we rejoice to see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice, and sing His bleeding love.*
~ Isaac Watts