

GOOD MORNING!

Mat. 8: The Manifestation of Messiah and Isaiah 53: The Stroke of Leprosy

ISAIAH 52-53

1. In Mat. 8:17, Matthew gives a time marker on the progress of Jesus' ministry.
 - a. John the Baptist and Jesus have been ministering, and the first half of Is. 53:4 is fulfilled.
 - b. From this point on the second half of the verse goes into effect.
 - c. See Lk. 4:16-21 and Is. 61:1-2 for something similar to this.

2. Is. 52 and 53 are written to and about God's Own people, the nation of Israel (Is. 52:1-5).
 - a. God has always called on National repentance and confession of sins to alleviate the curses of the Law (1 Kg. 8:35-36; Neh. 1:4-6).
 - b. What the believing remnant began doing at the baptism of John in part, will be confessed by the Nation of Israel at Christ's return in full (Is. 53; Hos. 14; Zech. 12).

ISAIAH 52-53

- 3. Is. 53:1-3 describes the negative response of the nation as a whole toward the Son of David whom they reject in unbelief (Is. 11:1).**
- 4. Is. 53:4a--Through this time Jesus has been supporting His authoritative teaching by signs and wonders whereby He begins cleansing Israel of its infirmities and sorrows (sickness, leprosy, devils, etc.) that Israel was suffering under the curses of the Law by taking them upon Himself and bearing them away.**
- 5. Is. 53:4b—"YET" in spite of all this, they will reject Him**
- 6. The apostate religious system in Israel will actively oppose Jesus' message and ministry, which will lead to the nation rejecting Jesus and putting Him to death.**

ISAIAH 52-53

- 7. They will do this by putting together a policy of evil that deceives the nation into going along with an alternative explanation for the evidence of Jesus and His ministry, replacing it with a Lie.**
 - a. They will convince the nation that Jesus was really working for Satan, and that they are right to rid themselves of Him. (Mat. 9:34; 11:16ff; 12:14; 12:22-30)**
 - b. They esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God. (Is. 53:4b; 2 Chron. 26:16-21)**

- 8. The people begin to recognize Jesus as the Son of David come to fulfill all God's promises to Israel. But the religious leaders reject that and tell them He really belongs to Satan.**

ISAIAH 52-53

9. **Quoting Is. 53 provides an appropriate ending to this section that began with leprosy.**
 - a. **The Hebrew word for stricken (plague) in Is. 53:4,8 is used 78 times in the Old Testament 65 of those are in Lev. 13-14, which has to do with the cleansing of leprosy.**
 - b. **One Jewish text translates v. 8, “We esteemed Him as a leper, smitten of God.”**
 - c. **In the case of leprosy, the holy thing desecrated is a person, who has been removed, desecrated from the priesthood of Israel.**

- 10. The Israelites were God's holy things.**
- a. Ex. 19:6—Israel designated as God's Kingdom of Priests and a holy nation leads, which leads us to...**
 - b. Lev. 8:22-24—...the consecration of the Aaronic priests via offering, sprinkling/smearing of blood, which leads to ...**
 - c. Ex. 24:1-8— ...Israel's consecration ritual, sprinkling of blood on the people as Priest in the Kingdom, which leads to ...**
 - d. Lev. 14:1-18: ... the re-consecration via the trespass offering, sprinkling/smearing the blood on the person who had been desecrated away from the Kingdom of Priests because of his disease.**
 - 1. The cleansing rituals of Lev. 14:4-9 only restored the leper to the community.**
 - 2. The guilt offering of Lev. 14:12-18 restored him to the tabernacle and altar, bringing him back into the Kingdom of Priests.**

ISAIAH 52-53

- 11. On behalf of His people, Israel, Jesus will provide the trespass offering required to re-consecrate believing Israelites into membership as priests in the Kingdom.**
 - a. By taking their sins, their leprosy, onto Himself He becomes their substitutionary leper—metaphorically He is struck with leprosy (Is. 53:4, 8).**
 - b. His rejection and suffering give Him the appearance of a leper (Is. 52:14; 53:2-4).**
 - c. But He was also the trespass offering for that sin/leprosy that was able to cleanse and re-consecrate the leper into the Kingdom of Priests.**