



## The Gospel According to Isaiah

*“As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men” (ISAIAH 52:14).*

According to the Bible, the essence of the gospel is “how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

Many people tend to think of the gospel as being a New Testament doctrine. But such a conclusion actually reveals a failure to carefully read the Old Testament: the brazen serpent in the wilderness, the water from the rock, the Passover lamb, and many other Old Testament types and prophecies speak of the One in whom the gospel would be centered. But no Old Testament prophet ever spoke of the gospel of Jesus Christ as clearly and concisely as Isaiah did.

When we read Isaiah’s account of the humiliation and exaltation of Messiah, we are overwhelmed with his vivid details and pinpoint accuracy. In fact, Isaiah’s descriptions are so precise, it’s as if he sat at the foot of the cross and recorded the events as they occurred.

Isaiah 52:14 says of Messiah’s death on a cross, “many were astonished at thee.” The idea is that as the people viewed the sufferings of Messiah, they were horrified and appalled by what they saw. They responded as

if they had seen some great act of destruction. And no group of people gathered at the cross that day were more appalled at the sufferings of Christ than the Jews. Their stand point was “Cursed is every man that hangeth on a tree.” To them, Messiah would never be cursed of God - He would be blessed of God, instead. Therefore, Jesus could not possibly be their Messiah because He was dying on a cross like a common criminal. Like the three friends of Job, the Jews assumed that all suffering must be the result of sin in a man’s life. However, Job’s friends were wrong, and so were the Jews.

In fact, Messiah didn’t suffer because of sin in his life - Messiah suffered because He was God’s appointed sin-bearer. The sinless One became sin (not a sinner) in order that we might become righteous in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Isaiah 52:14 explains, in part, why the Jews responded to Jesus the way they did: “his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men.” The language Isaiah uses here is strong and disturbing. And rightly so, for it describes the physical appearance of Messiah as He would suffer on the cross for the sins of the world.

However, the sufferings of Messiah would not be in vain. Isaiah 52:15 explains, “So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.”

But before Messiah is gloriously exalted, He will be brutally crucified. Before He wears the crown, He will

bear the cross. Glory through suffering. The suffering of our Lord brought about a cleansing flow powerful enough to cleanse ALL sinners. The glory of our Lord is established and His exaltation is complete. We serve a risen, glorified, and exalted Savior. And our response to the Savior is true worship and unwavering obedience.