

Isaiah 52 is a prophetic chapter that calls Jerusalem to awaken and rise from humiliation into restoration and glory. It reassures God's people that their suffering and exile were not permanent, emphasizing that they were not sold for a price and will be redeemed without cost. The chapter highlights God's power and faithfulness, promising that He will return to Zion and reveal His salvation to all nations. A central theme is the proclamation of good news—peace, salvation, and God's reign. It concludes by introducing the "servant" who will act wisely and be exalted, yet whose appearance will be marred, foreshadowing suffering and ultimate redemption.

Share about a time when something or someone turned out very different than you expected (for better or worse).

Isaiah 52:13-15 & 53-1:3. Read the passage aloud twice from two different translations. What contrasts and descriptive words do you notice?

The following is an inductive study. This moves through 3 categories, observation, interpretation and application.

Observation: Point directly to phrases in the reading.

1. What stands out about how the servant is described?
2. What contrasts do you notice between Isaiah 52:13 and 52:14?
3. What reactions do people (nations, kings, individuals) have toward the servant?

4. What words or phrases describe the servant's appearance and life?

Interpretation:

5. In v13, why do you think the servant is described as both highly exalted and deeply disfigured?
6. V15, what might it mean that kings "shut their mouths"?
7. What does "the arm of the Lord" represent in 53:1?
8. Why would people fail to recognise or believe in the servant (53:1)?
9. What does the servant's rejection reveal about human expectations of power, beauty, or success?

Application:

10. In what ways do people today still reject or overlook what is truly valuable or godly?
11. Are there ways we focus too much on outward appearance or success?
12. How do you respond to suffering—your own or others'?
13. What might it look like to follow the example of this servant in humility?

Prayer Points

Please pray for the Beta course as those who have attended Alpha continue their journey. Pray for the leaders as they prepare and walk through the Christian faith using Mark's gospel.

In Thailand, BMS World Mission supports the ministry of the Church of Christ in Thailand through its social development programme; Social Development Services Unit (SDSU), promoting improved quality of life for vulnerable communities. BMS also supports Hope Home, which works with young people with special needs. Pray for the teams and leadership as they serve.

Sermon Notes

The Servant Who _____ E _____

The Servant Who _____ B _____

The Servant who _____ H _____

The Servant Who _____ R _____

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001



BIBLE STUDY

March 22nd 2026

Isaiah 52:13-15 & 53:1-3

The Suffering Servant

The Book of Isaiah presents powerful prophetic visions that have helped to shape theology, especially regarding God's holiness, judgment, and redemption. Written in a time of political turmoil, Isaiah foretells both near and distant events. Many prophecies have been fulfilled in history and in the life of Jesus Christ. Isaiah predicted the fall of Babylon, the return of Israel from exile, and the rise of Cyrus of Persia by name. Most notably, Isaiah 53 describes a suffering servant whose rejection, suffering, and redemptive death closely parallel the New Testament accounts of Jesus, reinforcing Isaiah's enduring significance.

This series will help us to be faithful as we renew our focus upon the Lord, and fruitful as He fulfils His word.