



The Suffering Servant Supplement

Context

- In what portion of Isaiah is this passage found? Why is this significant?
- What are the “servant songs”? Why are they called this? What do they have in common?
- Describe the mission of the “servant.”

Identity

- Why does the Lecture qualify how “the servant” refers to Jesus? What can we learn from this?
- What are the various suggestions given about the identity of the “servant”? Why is there no consensus?
- How does the Lecture suggest to answer this question? What are the implications of this? How should we respond?

Outline

- What are the five main sections of this passage? What does each section generally cover? What does this all tell us about the mission of the servant? How does this help us to read, understand, and apply this passage?

Content

- What about the suffering servant can be described as a “contradiction”? What about the servant seems to be contradictory? How does these seemingly contradictory descriptions set up for the rest of this passage?
- How did the servant defy their expectations? What does this tell us about the servant and His mission?
- How does this passage portray the servant as insignificant? What does this tell us about the way God often works great things through things that appear insignificant at first? Why does this matter?
- Describe what it means to “suffer redemptively” in your own words.
- Why does the Lecture highlight the pronouns in this section? What does this tell us about the servant and his mission? How does this fit in with the rest of the Old Testament teaching? How is this fulfilled in the New Testament?
- What does the next section teach about the manner in which the servant suffered? Why is this significant? How did this contribute to fulfilling the servant’s mission?
- How is suffering innocently related to trusting God? What should we learn from this? How does it apply?
- What reasons are given in the final section for the suffering of the servant? How does this help us understand this passage as a whole? How should this motivate people to fulfill this role?
- What were the results of the servant’s suffering described in the last section? How does this answer the apparent contradiction from the beginning of this passage? Why is this significant? How should we respond?

The Servant in the New Testament

- What two ideas are combined together in the New Testament? Why were these never combined before? Why was this a stumbling block? How did the New Testament turn this around to prove that Jesus was the Messiah?
- How was the suffering servant passage quoted to prove the significance of Christ's life (especially His passion)? What does this tell us about the servant passage? What does this tell us about the cross and what Christ accomplished?
- How was the suffering servant passage quoted to speak of the missionary calling of the church? What does this tell us about the servant passage? What does this tell us about the role and calling of the church? How should we respond?
- How is Jesus's silence at His trial connected to the servant passage? What is the significance of this?
- How does Peter apply this passage in 1 Peter 2:18-25? How is the suffering servant parallel to how Jesus is described in this passage? How is this parallel to the way Peter is telling slaves to believe and behave? Why does Peter draw all three of these things together? What are the implications for his readers? How should we respond?