

**Torah Portion #48: Shoftim (שׁופְטִים) "judges"**

Torah ~ Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9 | Haftarah ~ Isaiah 51:12-53:12 | Brit Chadashah ~ John 1:19-27; Acts 3:13-26

**The Suffering Messiah in Isaiah 53**

Some Rabbis in Judaism teach that there will be two separate Messiah's. Both of these Messiah's are involved in delivering the Jewish people from exile and ushering in the long-awaited Messianic era. These two Messiahs are called Mashiach ben David (Messiah son of David) and Mashiach ben Yosef (Messiah son of Joseph).

There is more than 300 prophecies in the Tanakh (Old Testament) about the future Messiah that was fulfilled in Yeshua. But the most clear prophecy that speaks of Yeshua in the Tanakh is found in *Isaiah 52:13-53:12*.

Before the 11th century, Judaism taught that *Isaiah 52:13-53:12* describes Messiah son of Joseph as the Suffering or Sin-bearing Servant. But after the 11th century, Judaism has taught that these verses does not refer to the Messiah but to the Jewish people.

But this can't be so because there is over 50 references made of a single "man" in *Isaiah 53*, not a plural group of people. So the Rabbis just avoid these verses because they so clearly speak of what happened to Yeshua at His first coming.

**Isaiah 52:13-53:12**

*Isaiah 52:13* ~ Messiah will be exalted. The fulfillment of this is spoken of in *Acts 2:32-33*

*Isaiah 52:14* ~ Messiah's appearance will be marred. This was fulfilled in *John 19:1-3*

*Isaiah 52:15* ~ Messiah will "sprinkle" many nations. The fulfillment of this is spoken of in *Hebrews 9:11-14*. The word "startle" in the JPS translation comes from the Hebrew verb "nazah". Nazah is used 24 times in the Hebrew Scriptures (*Ex. 29:21; Lev. 16:15; Isa. 63:3*) and every place where the word is used, it clearly denotes the idea of sprinkling a liquid such as oil, water, or blood.

*Isaiah 53:1* ~ Many will not believe the report of Messiah. The fulfillment of this is spoken of in *John 12:37-38*

*Isaiah 53:2-3* ~ Messiah will be despised and rejected. The fulfillment of this is spoken of in *Luke 18:31-33*

*Isaiah 53:4* ~ Messiah will bare our sorrows and sickness. This was fulfilled in *Matthew 8:14-17*

*Isaiah 53:5-6* ~ Messiah will be wounded for our sins and healing. The fulfillment of this is spoken of in *1 Peter 2:24-25*

*Isaiah 53:7* ~ Messiah will be silent before His accusers. This was fulfilled in *Matthew 27:12-14*

*Isaiah 53:8* ~ Messiah will be cut off. This was fulfilled in *John 19:17-18*

*Isaiah 53:9* ~ Messiah is to be buried with the rich. This was fulfilled in *Matthew 27:57-60*

*Isaiah 53:10* ~ Messiah's oppression will please the Lord. The fulfillment of this is spoken of in *Acts 2:22-24*

*Isaiah 53:11* ~ Messiah will make us righteous. The fulfillment of this is spoken of in *2 Corinthians 5:18-21*

*Isaiah 53:12* ~ Messiah will be counted among the wicked. This was fulfilled in *Matthew 27:38*

**In Closing**

So it is clear that *Isaiah 52:13-53:12* is describing one singular person, Messiah son of Joseph, which is Yeshua. And very soon He will fulfill the role of Messiah son of David, the Kingly Messiah, at His second coming when He will return to save His people.

## **Aliyah to the Torah**

Torah Portion #48: Shoftim - 08/30/14

Torah ~ *Deuteronomy 18:18-19* NKJV

- 18 I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.  
19 And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.
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Haftarah ~ *Isaiah 53:3-7* NKJV

- 3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.  
4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.  
5 But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.  
6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.  
7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.
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Brit Chadashah ~ *Acts 3:13-15* MWEB

- 13 The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his Servant Yeshua, whom you delivered up, and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had determined to release him.  
14 But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you,  
15 and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, to which we are witnesses.