

## A QUESTION OF IDENTITY? ACTS 8:26-40

**Acts 8:34** And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, **of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?** **Acts 8:35** Then Philip opened his mouth, and **began** at the same scripture, **and preached unto him Jesus.**

**Isaiah 52:13** Behold, **my servant** shall deal prudently, He shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.

**Isaiah 53:11** He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: By his knowledge shall **my righteous servant** justify many; For he shall bear their iniquities.

The Ethiopian Eunuch was reading aloud Isaiah 53...

His question is **an obvious question**: Who is this servant / suffering servant?

### Options:

➤ **A single individual**

This seems obvious but not to many. Many names have been proposed...

➤ **A remnant within Israel**

An elect remnant

➤ **The nation Israel itself**

An elect nation

### **What is the Jewish position?**

➤ **There isn't one Jewish position**

➤ **Few Jewish people know the Prophet Isaiah or this particular text**

➤ **Few Jewish people attend Synagogue regularly**

➤ **This text is **never** read in the regular readings!!!**

**Isaiah 53 is skipped!!!**

**Why?**

**Acts 13:14** But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down. **Acts 13:15** And **after the reading of the law and the prophets** the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men and brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.

**Acts 15:21** For Moses of old time hath in **every** city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues **every** sabbath day.

**Acts 13:27** For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, **because** they knew him not, **nor** yet the voices of the prophets which are read **every** sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him.

➤ **Most Jewish people are unfamiliar with the Bible in general, and Isaiah in particular**

Most will be **very familiar** with their groups traditions & culture

**And**, they will probably understand or confuse tradition as / with Scripture

**Matthew 15:1** Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, **Matthew 15:2** Why do thy disciples **transgress the tradition of the elders?** for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. **Matthew 15:3** But he answered and said unto them, **Why** do ye also transgress the commandment of God **by your tradition?** **Matthew 15:4** For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.

**Matthew 15:7** Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, **Matthew 15:8** This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. **Matthew 15:9** But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines **the commandments of men.**

We, of course, have no issues with traditions!!!

Mitch Glaser's testimony

**If there is a position (among Jews), it's that Israel the nation is the servant.**

## **NOT ISRAEL:**

### **1. The pronouns are all wrong**

#### **For the servant:**

**Isaiah 52:13** Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, **He** shall be exalted and extolled, and **be** very high.

**Isaiah 52:14** As many were astonished at **thee**; **His** visage was so marred more than any man, And **his** form more than the sons of men:

#### **For Israel:**

**Isaiah 53:4** Surely **he** hath borne **our** griefs, And carried **our** sorrows: Yet **we** did esteem **him** stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.

### **2. The servant dies for “my people” Israel**

**Isaiah 53:8** He was taken from prison and from judgment: And who shall declare his generation? **For he was cut off out of the land of the living:** For the transgression of **my people** was he stricken.

### **3. The servant is completely innocent**

**John 8:46** Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

**Matthew 27:24** When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, **I am innocent of the blood of this just person:** see ye to it.

**Luke 23:14** Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I, having examined him before you, **have found no fault in this man** touching those things whereof ye accuse him:

**Luke 23:15** No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, **lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him.**

**Luke 23:41** And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: **but this man hath done nothing amiss.**

**2 Corinthians 5:21** For he hath made him to be sin for us, **who knew no sin;** that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

**Hebrews 4:15** For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, **yet without sin.**

**1 John 3:5** And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; **and in him is no sin.**

**1 Kings 8:46** If they sin against thee, (**for there is no man that sinneth not,**) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captives unto the land of the enemy, far or near;

**Ecclesiastes 7:20** For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

**Romans 3:10** As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

**Romans 3:23** For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

### **4. The servant suffered for the sins of others and not for his own sins**

**Isaiah 53:5** But he was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: The chastisement of our peace was upon him; And with his stripes we are healed. **Isaiah 53:6** All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned every one to his own way; And the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

### **5. The servant willingly suffered!**

**Isaiah 53:7** He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, **Yet he opened not his mouth:** He is brought **as** a lamb to the slaughter, And **as** a sheep before her shearers is **dumb,** **So he openeth not his mouth.**

**John 10:17** Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. **John 10:18** **No man taketh it from me,** but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

### **6. The servant actually died and died for others**

**Isaiah 53:8** He was taken from prison and from judgment: And who shall declare his generation? **For he was cut off out of the land of the living: For the transgression of my people was he stricken.**