

A QUESTION OF IDENTITY (2)

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.

This was the issue in the 1st century. 3 answers:

1. Sufferings first & glory second

1 Peter 1:10 Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: **1 Peter 1:11** Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, **when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.**

2. Two comings of Christ / the Messiah

1st: To His own

John 1:11 He came unto **his own** (τὰ ἴδια), and **his own** (οἱ ἴδιοι) received him not.

Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; Because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to them that are bound; **Isaiah 61:2** To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, **And** the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all that mourn;

Luke 4:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. **Luke 4:17** And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, **Luke 4:18** The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, **Luke 4:19** To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. **Luke 4:20** **And he closed the book,** and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

2nd (a) For His own

2rd (b) With His own

3. One Messiah NOT two

Matthew 16:13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, **Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?** **Matthew 16:14** And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

Matthew 16:15 He saith unto them, **But whom say ye that I am?** **Matthew 16:16** And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

F B Meyer: "There is only one brow upon which this crown of thorns will fit!"

No one else fits the description!

1. Philip identifies the servant with Jesus

Acts 8:28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. **Acts 8:30** And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? **Acts 8:32** The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: **Acts 8:33** In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.

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 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. **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.

2. Matthew identifies the servant with Jesus

Matthew 8:16 When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: **Matthew 8:17** That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

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

3. John identifies the servant with Jesus

John 12:37 But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: **John 12:38** That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?

John 12:39 Therefore they **could not** believe, because that Esaias said again, John 12:40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. **John 12:41** These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.

Isaiah 53:1 Who hath believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

Isaiah 6:9 And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; And see ye indeed, but perceive not.

Isaiah 6:10 Make the heart of this people fat, And make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

How else does this help us?

4. Paul identifies the servant with Jesus

Romans 15:20 Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation: **Romans 15:21** But as it is written, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand.

Isaiah 52:15 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.

Romans 10:16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. **For Esaias saith**, Lord, who hath believed our report? **Romans 10:17** So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Isaiah 53:1 Who hath believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

5. Peter identifies the servant with Jesus

1 Peter 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: **1 Peter 2:22** Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

1 Peter 2:23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: **1 Peter 2:24** Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. **1 Peter 2:25** For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

Isaiah 53:9 And he made his grave with the wicked, And with the rich in his death; Because he had done no violence, Neither was any deceit in his mouth.

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.

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

6. Jesus Himself also identifies the servant with Himself

Luke 22:37 For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors: for the things concerning me have an end.

Mark 15:28 And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors.

Isaiah 53:12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, And he shall divide the spoil with the strong; Because he hath poured out his soul unto death: And he was numbered with the transgressors; And he bare the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.