

Vicarious Sacrifice: Review of Isa 52:2 & 53:3: The Messiah Will Be Held in Contempt Rather than Welcomed; when Established as Messiah His Followers Will Face Rejected as Well, 2 Tim 3:1–5; Religious Leaders Hold Him in Contempt; 7 Reasons Jesus Was Rejected as Messiah

30. The verb “look” is the Qal imperfect of **רָאָה (ra’ah)**. It means “to see” but the implication here means to “pay attention.” Few paid any attention to Him.
31. The last sentence reveals that His appearance was not something that would cause the Jews to be attracted to Him. “Appearance” is the masculine noun **מְרֵאָה (mar’eh)**: He did not present a “glamorous image.”
32. The lack of glamour caused the Jews to not be “attracted” to Him. This word is the Qal imperfect of the verb **חָמַד (chamad)**: “that we should continue to be desirous of Him.”
33. This verse in the prophecy predicts that when the Messiah’s First Advent occurs, His arrival will be little noted nor understood by those who were the authorized keepers of the Tanakh’s prophetic voices.
34. The expanded translation of the verse reads this way:

Isaiah 53:2 - The Messiah shall be caused to grow up before the Father as the tender shoot of an infant, and like a genetic root of David in the dry ground of reversionistic Palestine; He has no handsome appearance of royal splendor that we should pay any attention to Him, nor was His image such that we should continue to be desirous of Him. (EXT)

Isaiah 53:3 - He was despised and forsaken of men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face, He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. (NASB)

1. The word “despised” is the Niphal passive indicative of the verb **בָּזָה (bazah)**: “to hold in contempt; to disrespect.” The passive voice indicates that the Lord received the contempt of the Jews during the Incarnation.
2. The perfect tense indicates a completed action. The Holy Spirit knew from His omnipotence that the Messiah would be despised.

3. We have already noted the insults directed to our Lord accompanied by the brutality of His captors.
4. However, God was gracious to all and had mercy on the few that had Him crucified.
5. In His deity, Jesus knew of these things in eternity past, yet went ahead and agreed to endure all this for the few who would believe.
6. The self-righteous attitude of the selectively moral and pseudo religious types of the first century are the same attitude directed toward believers today.
7. Anti-Christian arrogance is growing at an ever-increasing rate in this client nation. Paul warned of this in his final epistle:

2 Timothy 3:1 - Realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

v. 2 - For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

v. 3 - unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

v. 4 - treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

v. 5 - holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; avoid such men as these.

8. Our Lord spoke the truth in the first century; His Word remains the truth in the twenty-first and on both occasions He is viewed with contempt for His trouble.
9. The word “forsaken” is the adjective **חָדַל** (*chathel*): “to reject.” It is used in the sense of refusing to hear or respond positively. “He was held in contempt and rejected of men.”
10. The “men” referred to are the **אִישִׁים** (*'ishim*): the politico-religious establishment of the Jewish hierarchy: Sadducees, Pharisees, and scribes and their benighted followers.

11. There are many reasons why Jesus was rejected as Messiah. Here are a few:
- (1) On every occasion Jesus was challenged, He responded perfectly. Religious types expect to be saved by doing good deeds and observing rituals, but they could not successfully compete with Jesus.
 - (2) He healed the sick, helped the needy, resuscitated the dead, cured the diseased, healed the deaf and blind, and created food for thousands from practically nothing.
 - (3) Religion requires its followers to perform acts of kindness in order to acquire salvation or avoid hell. This is false motivation that ignores discernment and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
 - (4) Jesus clearly performed acts of divine good that communicated the message that faith in Him is the ultimate problem-solving device.
 - (5) Some of His miracles were performed on a Sabbath which further infuriated His enemies for which they hated Him even more.
 - (6) Jesus presented eternal life through grace and faith. Religion is destroyed by grace; it must have rules by which to control its followers.
 - (7) The real culprit was Lucifer himself. Satan is a liar and the father of them whereas Jesus proclaimed that He was the truth.

John 8:44 - **“You [Pharisees] are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.**

v. 45 - **“But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me.”**