



Exploring the Suffering Servant:
Meeting Jesus as portrayed in the
Prophet Isaiah

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First Song Isaiah 42: 1-4 (5 - 9)		
New American Bible NAB	New Revised Standard NRSV	New Jerusalem NJB
<p>Here is my servant* whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased.</p> <p>Upon him I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations.</p> <p>2He will not cry out, nor shout, nor make his voice heard in the street.</p> <p>3A bruised reed* he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench.</p> <p>He will faithfully bring forth justice.</p> <p>4He will not grow dim or be bruised until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands* will wait for his teaching.</p>	<p>Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights;</p> <p>I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.</p> <p>2 He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;</p> <p>3 a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;</p> <p>he will faithfully bring forth justice.</p> <p>4 He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.</p>	<p>1 Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights.</p> <p>I have sent my spirit upon him, he will bring fair judgment to the nations.</p> <p>2 He does not cry out or raise his voice, his voice is not heard in the street;</p> <p>3 he does not break the crushed reed or snuff the faltering wick.</p> <p>Faithfully he presents fair judgment;</p> <p>4 he will not grow faint, he will not be crushed until he has established fair judgment on earth, and the coasts and islands are waiting for his instruction.</p>
<p>Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and its produce, Who gives breath to its people and spirit to those who walk on it:</p>	<p>5 Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:</p>	<p>5 Thus says God, Yahweh, who created the heavens and spread them out, who hammered into shape the earth and what comes from it, who gave breath to the people on it, and spirit to those who walk on it:</p>

<p>6 I, the LORD, have called you for justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations,</p> <p>7 To open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.</p> <p>8 I am the LORD, LORD is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.</p> <p>9 See, the earlier things have come to pass, new ones I now declare; Before they spring forth I announce them to you.</p>	<p>6 I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people,[a] a light to the nations,</p> <p>7 to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.</p> <p>8 I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.</p> <p>9 See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.</p>	<p>6 I, Yahweh, have called you in saving justice, I have grasped you by the hand and shaped you; I have made you a covenant of the people and light to the nations,</p> <p>7 to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.</p> <p>8 I am Yahweh, that is my name! I shall not yield my glory to another, nor my honour to idols.</p> <p>9 See how the former predictions have come true. Fresh things I now reveal; before they appear I tell you of them.</p>
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Second Song Isaiah 49: 1-4 (5 - 9)		
New American Bible NAB	New Revised Standard NRSV	New Jerusalem NJB
<p>1 Hear me, coastlands, listen, distant peoples. Before birth the LORD called me, from my mother's womb he gave me my name.*</p>	<p>49 Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me.</p>	<p>¹ Coasts and islands, listen to me, pay attention, distant peoples. Yahweh called me when I was in the womb, before my birth he had pronounced my name.</p>
<p>2 He made my mouth like a sharp-edged sword, concealed me, shielded by his hand. He made me a sharpened arrow, in his quiver he hid me.</p>	<p>² He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away.</p>	<p>² He made my mouth like a sharp sword, he hid me in the shadow of his hand. He made me into a sharpened arrow and concealed me in his quiver.</p>
<p>3 He said to me, You are my servant, in you, Israel,* I show my glory.</p>	<p>³ And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."</p>	<p>³ He said to me, 'Israel, you are my servant, through whom I shall manifest my glory.'</p>
<p>4 Though I thought I had toiled in vain, for nothing and for naught spent my strength, Yet my right is with the LORD, my recompense is with my God.</p>	<p>⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD, and my reward with my God."</p>	<p>⁴ But I said, 'My toil has been futile, I have exhausted myself for nothing, to no purpose.' Yet all the while my cause was with Yahweh and my reward with my God.</p>
<p>5 For now the LORD has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb, That Jacob may be brought back to him and Israel gathered to him; I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God is now my strength!</p>	<p>⁵ And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength—</p>	<p>⁵ And now Yahweh has spoken, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him and to re-unite Israel to him; -I shall be honoured in Yahweh's eyes, and my God has been my strength.-</p>
<p>6 It is too little, he says, for you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel; I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.*</p>	<p>⁶ he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."</p>	<p>⁶ He said, 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I shall make you a light to the nations so that my salvation may reach the remotest parts of earth.'</p>

7 Thus says the LORD, the redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, To the one despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers:
When kings see you, they shall stand up,
and princes shall bow down
Because of the LORD who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel who has chosen you.

8 Thus says the LORD:

In a time of favor I answer you,*
on the day of salvation I help you;
I form you and set you
as a covenant for the people,
To restore the land
and allot the devastated heritages,

9 To say to the prisoners: Come out!

To those in darkness: Show yourselves!
Along the roadways they shall find pasture,
on every barren height shall their pastures be.

7 Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
“Kings shall see and stand up,
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

8 Thus says the LORD:

In a time of favor I have answered you,
on a day of salvation I have helped you;
I have kept you and given you
as a covenant to the people,
to establish the land,
to apportion the desolate heritages;

9 saying to the prisoners, “Come out,” to those
who are in darkness, “Show yourselves.”
They shall feed along the ways,
on all the bare heights shall be their pasture;

7 Thus says Yahweh, the redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, to the one who is despised, detested by the nation, to the slave of despots: Kings will stand up when they see, princes will see and bow low, because of Yahweh who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel who had chosen you.

8 Thus says Yahweh: At the time of my favour I have answered you,
on the day of salvation I have helped you.
I have formed you and have appointed you to be the covenant for a people, to restore the land, to return ravaged properties,

9 to say to prisoners, 'Come out,' to those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves.' Along the roadway they will graze, and any bare height will be their pasture.

Third Song Isaiah 50: 4-9 (10-11)		
New American Bible NAB	New Revised Standard NRSV	New Jerusalem NJB
<p>4* The Lord GOD has given me a well-trained tongue, That I might know how to answer the weary a word that will waken them. Morning after morning he wakens my ear to hear as disciples do;</p> <p>5 The Lord GOD opened my ear; I did not refuse, did not turn away.*</p> <p>6I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who tore out my beard;* My face I did not hide from insults and spitting.</p> <p>7The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; Therefore I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame.</p> <p>8He who declares my innocence is near. Who will oppose me? Let us appear together. Who will dispute my right? Let them confront me.</p> <p>9See, the Lord GOD is my help; who will declare me guilty? See, they will all wear out like a garment, consumed by moths.</p>	<p>The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.</p> <p>5 The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.</p> <p>6 I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.</p> <p>7 The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame;</p> <p>8 he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.</p> <p>9 It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.</p>	<p>4 Lord Yahweh has given me a disciple's tongue, for me to know how to give a word of comfort to the weary. Morning by morning he makes my ear alert to listen like a disciple.</p> <p>5 Lord Yahweh has opened my ear and I have not resisted, I have not turned away.</p> <p>6 I have offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; I have not turned my face away from insult and spitting.</p> <p>7 Lord Yahweh comes to my help, this is why insult has not touched me, this is why I have set my face like flint and know that I shall not be put to shame.</p> <p>8 He who grants me saving justice is near! Who will bring a case against me? Let us appear in court together! Who has a case against me? Let him approach me!</p> <p>9 Look, Lord Yahweh is coming to my help! Who dares condemn me? Look at them, all falling apart like moth-eaten clothes!</p>

<p>10Who among you fears the LORD, heeds his servant's voice? Whoever walk in darkness, without any light, Yet trust in the name of the LORD and rely upon their God!</p> <p>11All you who kindle flames and set flares alight, Walk by the light of your own fire and by the flares you have burnt! This is your fate from my hand: you shall lie down in a place of torment.</p>	<p>10 Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the voice of his servant, who walks in darkness and has no light, yet trusts in the name of the LORD and relies upon his God?</p> <p>11 But all of you are kindlers of fire, lighters of firebrands.¹</p> <p>Walk in the flame of your fire, and among the brands that you have kindled! This is what you shall have from my hand: you shall lie down in torment.</p>	<p>¹⁰ Which of you fears Yahweh and listens to his servant's voice? Which of you walks in darkness and sees no light? Let him trust in the name of Yahweh and lean on his God!</p> <p>¹¹ Look, all you who light a fire and arm yourselves with firebrands, walk by the light of your fire and the firebrands you have kindled! This is what you will get from me: you will lie down in torment!</p>
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Fourth Song Isaiah 52: 13 - 53: 12		
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<p>13See, my servant shall prosper, he shall be raised high and greatly exalted.</p> <p>14Even as many were amazed at him—so marred were his features, beyond that of mortals his appearance, beyond that of human beings—</p> <p>15So shall he startle many nations, kings shall stand speechless; For those who have not been told shall see, those who have not heard shall ponder it.</p> <p>Who would believe what we have heard? To whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?</p>	<p>¹³ See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high.</p> <p>¹⁴ Just as there were many who were astonished at him—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals—</p> <p>¹⁵ so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.</p> <p>Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?</p> <p>² For he grew up before him like a young plant,</p>	<p>¹³ Look, my servant will prosper, will grow great, will rise to great heights.</p> <p>¹⁴ As many people were aghast at him -- he was so inhumanly disfigured that he no longer looked like a man-</p> <p>¹⁵ so many nations will be astonished and kings will stay tight-lipped before him, seeing what had never been told them, learning what they had not heard before.</p> <p>¹ Who has given credence to what we have heard? And who has seen in it a revelation of Yahweh's arm?</p> <p>² Like a sapling he grew up before him, like a</p>

<p>2He grew up like a sapling before him, like a shoot from the parched earth; He had no majestic bearing to catch our eye, no beauty to draw us to him.</p> <p>3He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, knowing pain, Like one from whom you turn your face, spurned, and we held him in no esteem.</p> <p>4Yet it was our pain that he bore, our sufferings he endured. We thought of him as stricken, struck down by God* and afflicted,</p> <p>5But he was pierced for our sins, crushed for our iniquity. He bore the punishment that makes us whole, by his wounds we were healed.</p> <p>6We had all gone astray like sheep, all following our own way; But the LORD laid upon him* the guilt of us all.</p> <p>7Though harshly treated, he submitted and did not open his mouth; Like a lamb led to slaughter or a sheep silent before shearers, he did not open his mouth.</p>	<p>and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.</p> <p>³ He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.</p> <p>⁴ Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.</p> <p>⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.</p> <p>⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.</p> <p>⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.</p>	<p>root in arid ground. He had no form or charm to attract us, no beauty to win our hearts;</p> <p>³ he was despised, the lowest of men, a man of sorrows, familiar with suffering, one from whom, as it were, we averted our gaze, despised, for whom we had no regard.</p> <p>⁴ Yet ours were the sufferings he was bearing, ours the sorrows he was carrying, while we thought of him as someone being punished and struck with affliction by God;</p> <p>⁵ whereas he was being wounded for our rebellions, crushed because of our guilt; the punishment reconciling us fell on him, and we have been healed by his bruises.</p> <p>⁶ We had all gone astray like sheep, each taking his own way, and Yahweh brought the acts of rebellion of all of us to bear on him.</p> <p>⁷ Ill-treated and afflicted, he never opened his mouth, like a lamb led to the slaughter-house, like a sheep dumb before its shearers he never opened his mouth.</p>
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<p>8 Seized and condemned, he was taken away. Who would have thought any more of his destiny? For he was cut off from the land of the living, struck for the sins of his people.</p> <p>9 He was given a grave among the wicked, a burial place with evildoers, Though he had done no wrong, nor was deceit found in his mouth.</p> <p>10 But it was the LORD's will to crush him with pain. By making his life as a reparation offering,* he shall see his offspring, shall lengthen his days, and the LORD's will shall be accomplished through him.</p> <p>11 Because of his anguish he shall see the light; because of his knowledge he shall be content; My servant, the just one, shall justify the many, their iniquity he shall bear.</p> <p>12 Therefore I will give him his portion among the many, and he shall divide the spoils with the mighty, Because he surrendered himself to death, was counted among the transgressors, Bore the sins of many, and interceded for the transgressors.</p>	<p>8 By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people.</p> <p>9 They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.</p> <p>10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.</p> <p>11 Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.</p> <p>12 Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors.</p>	<p>8 Forcibly, after sentence, he was taken. Which of his contemporaries was concerned at his having been cut off from the land of the living, at his having been struck dead for his people's rebellion?</p> <p>9 He was given a grave with the wicked, and his tomb is with the rich, although he had done no violence, had spoken no deceit.</p> <p>10 It was Yahweh's good pleasure to crush him with pain; if he gives his life as a sin offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his life, and through him Yahweh's good pleasure will be done.</p> <p>11 After the ordeal he has endured, he will see the light and be content. By his knowledge, the upright one, my servant will justify many by taking their guilt on himself.</p> <p>12 Hence I shall give him a portion with the many, and he will share the booty with the mighty, for having exposed himself to death and for being counted as one of the rebellious, whereas he was bearing the sin of many and interceding for the rebellious.</p>

