

The Hidden Mystery Shall be Revealed when His Servant is Glorified!**Isaiah 52:1-15 (vv. 13-15)**

Bible Teacher: Rev. Tesfaye Tamrie

I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND BIBLICAL CONTEXT

“Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been His counselor?” Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?” For from Him and through Him and for Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen” (Rom. 11:33-36).

A. Historical Background

God can be a “Hidden Mystery” in various ways. As we carefully examine the Scriptures, we see God *disclosed* Himself gloriously in Nature in such magnificent ways, yet, to many He remains “hidden.” For example, to those who *believe* that God *exists*, that He is the Creator of the Universe, He is visible in the Sun that faithfully comes out in the morning and sets in the evening! When we closely examine, for example, the Book of Exodus, God manifested Himself in so many **visible and tangible ways** in Egypt when He performed the various miracles in the process of liberating the Israelites from under Pharaoh! **Nevertheless, the Glorious Revelations that were yet to be revealed in His Son as the Redeemer were hidden awaiting the Fullness of Time!** Yet, the “Hidden Mystery” was traceable in Exodus chapter 12 in **The Passover** God was establishing! **That His Son will become The Passover Lamb for us!** Hallelujah!

B. Biblical Context

Jesus Christ, **the One and Only Son of God**, was “hidden” in the Old Testament, yet hinted in so many ways throughout Scriptures by Moses, David and the Prophets such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc. Those who **believed** in God could trace Him in the Revelations God gave to the Prophets. Just like the Israelites who genuinely believed in God could trace Him even though they never **saw** Him, we too, the Redeemed of the Lord, see Him in the Scriptures! Jesus Christ is no longer the Mystery “hidden” because He was *revealed* in Person when God sent Him to be born of the virgin Mary! Jesus Christ is no longer the “Hidden Mystery” in the past, because **He was fully and gloriously revealed in His Resurrection!** *The whole Bible reveals who Jesus Christ is in His fulness!* Jesus Christ is no longer the Mystery that was hidden in the past but hinted! Since His Birth, Death, Resurrection and Ascension, **God has made Him known to the world!** The whole world knows His Name! Yet, to those who don’t believe that there is a God who reigns from heaven, He

remains a “mystery” to them! **Nevertheless, Jesus Christ is near to all who confess that He is the Son of God and receive Him by faith!** *To those who seek God’s face in spirit and truth, He is no longer the “Hidden Mystery.”*

II. THE LESSON

Minister Erick Scipio marvelously taught Isaiah 52, verses 1 through 12 last week! Today, I am not here to repeat his lesson. Obviously, I need to pull in the preceding verses which lead up to *the revelations embedded in verses 13 through 15*, the focus for our lesson today.

1. vv. 1-2. Awake, Awake, O Zion!

Awake, awake! From what? Why were the people of Zion asleep? *What kind of sleep was it? For how long were they slumbering?* Just as a reminder, the Book of Isaiah is preserved in poetry. Hence, it consists of many metaphoric expressions which we need to examine and decipher. Many times, the Israelites found themselves “asleep” with their eyes wide open because of idol worship! They couldn’t *discern* the truth since lies and deceptions have taken over their lives; **they were spiritually dead!**

The Israelites were **spiritually dead** because they couldn’t *discern* justice since *practicing injustice was normal to them!* **They were in a state of stupor!** **A spiritual numbness and extreme apathy have blanketed them to a point where they were spiritually blind!** Killing the innocent, robbing the poor to get rich, bribery, adultery, and all manners of evil were part of who they have become. Consequently, *they were oblivious to even common decency and civility!* As a result, God’s Presence was removed from them!

Have you ever fallen asleep with your eyes wide open? Have you ever *failed to notice* something even though it was plainly visible all the time? Have you ever been in a situation you didn’t even know was very bad **until God opened your eyes?** Was there a time when God **woke you up from your slumber** and you realized how bad your situation was? **There was a time when Sin enveloped our lives we didn’t know we were spiritually dead!** We were so happy in our sinful living that we thought all was well! ***None of us knew we were in darkness until God shone The Light – Jesus Christ – on us!*** God says, awake! Awake! Someone might say how can I do that! God says,

- **Wake Up from Your Stupor.** God was urging them (now us) to *wake up* from our stupor, **spiritual numbness**, by *throwing off* the **garment of depression** that engulfs us!

- **Clothe Yourself with the Garment of Salvation.** “Clothe yourself with strength, put on your garment of splendor!” The Redeemed of the LORD are covered by the Garment of Salvation wrapped around us to the Glory of God! The Sovereign Lord has *removed* the garment of depression and hopelessness! **Therefore, awake! Awake!**
- **Strengthen yourself in the LORD.** Translation: quit your endless pity-party! In other words, ***get rid of your man-made props and lean on the LORD!*** Awake! Awake!

2. **vv. 4-6. Sold into Captivity for Nothing but Redeemed without Money!**

When Jacob’s sons sold Joseph into slavery, *they didn’t gain anything of value*. Whatever **money** they *received* from *selling* their own brother *was a great loss!* Joseph was sold into captivity for “**nothing**.” Hence, the meaning in the expression “you were sold for nothing.” While the Israelites *extended their stay* in Egypt, they “sold” themselves “for nothing” again. ***Recall that their destiny was in Canaan not Egypt. They stayed too long in Egypt and lost their way!*** They surrendered themselves to Egyptian slavery for “**nothing**” while they were *losing their freedom* in Canaan the entire time! But God *rescued* them “**without money**” being involved! God said, “Without money you will be redeemed.” That prophecy became true in us as well! **God redeemed us without money! God brought Salvation in the Blood of Christ!** Even though **the Cost of our Salvation in Jesus Christ** was more than the whole world could afford, God did it “**without money**” being spent *to purchase our freedom!* **Are you glad money was not involved in securing your Salvation? Is there anyone whom God had redeemed without money?!**

- **The Blood of Jesus was enough to redeem you!**
- **Are you Glad the Lord is Your Salvation?**

3. **vv. 7-10. Beautiful are the Feet of those who Bring the Good News!**

In *contrast* to the “feet that rush to do evil, ... swift to shed blood” (Proverb 1:16), “the feet of those who bring good news” are beautiful. Unlike the feet of those whose daily delight is to plot who they are going to kill, about whom they are going to lie, or how they are going to promote divisive ideologies to advance Satan’s agendas, beautiful are the feet of those:

- who “proclaim peace; who bring good tidings; who proclaim salvation; declare to Zion – **‘Your God reigns!’**”
- who *faithfully prophesize* the return of the LORD with absolute certainty!

God's people were/are supposed to be a blessing to everyone!

4. vv. 11-12. Remember You're the Carriers of the Vessels of the LORD.

a) "Go out from there; depart from it."

The reference "Carriers of the vessels of the LORD" identifies the Priests and Levites whom God chose to handle the **sacred things** permanently residing and used in the Tent of Meeting (later on in Jerusalem Temple). God was reminding them who they were, the holy call and appointments they received to honor the LORD and the great privilege that came from serving His people. While they were living in exile, they lost the position of honor, privileges and incomes that were associated with the Jerusalem Temple (which was utterly destroyed by the Babylonians). During those 70 years of exile, they couldn't imagine how all of that can be restored! For the Priests and Levites, it was a source of *prolonged grief, unbearable loss of purpose* and *disconnection from God!* I could imagine them suffering under tremendous sense of regret, guilt and self-loathing because the Priests and Levites abandoned God preferring to serve idols! *While in exile, they felt the full weight of their wicked deeds and they lived under the deep and constant shame of betraying the LORD!* **Their exilic life was blanketed by Depression!** But God sent Isaiah to tell them to **"come out from it and be pure."** Translation: Clean up yourself and get out of it! **Don't stay too long in the mire!** *Get out of all the things that you put on yourself, which weigh heavy on you and threaten to bury you alive!* **Get yourself from under it! Come out of it!**

b) God says, I have your back!

In verse 12, God *reminded* His people how He brought them out of Egypt by "... coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel" at the Red Sea (Exodus 14:19-22). *Even today, God is with us!* **Not only He is leading us, but also He has our back!**

5. v. 13-15. The Hidden Mystery Shall be Revealed.

Towards the end of Isaiah's prophecy, God began to fully disclose what it would take to bring a **lasting Salvation through His Son** who will take upon Himself the sins of humanity! What was "hinted" prior, for example, in the Book of Isaiah,

- **chapters 4:** as "the Branch of the LORD,"
- **chapter 9:** as "... the child who will be called 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, ... who will reign on David's throne, ...,'"

- **chapter 11:** as “A shoot that will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him – the Spirit of Wisdom and of Understanding, the Spirit of Counsel and of Power, the Spirit of Knowledge and of the fear of the LORD ...” **was fully and vividly disclosed in chapter 52:**

a) v. 13: As God’s Servant.

The “servant who will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted” (52:13). **The Prophecy is: God will raise up and Exalt His Servant!**

b) v. 14. His Form was disfigured beyond recognition!

Because of all the Sins that God’s Servant will take upon Himself,

- “Many will be **appalled** at Him – His appearance was **disfigured** beyond that of any man,
- And His form **marred** beyond human likeness.”

The One whose Radiance is billion times brighter than the stars, whose Glory is His Holiness will be “marred,” by the all the disgusting, detestable and horrifying sins of the world! On top of that, God’s Servant will receive the **full wrath** of His Father for **the atonement of the sins of the world** which will result in “His form [being] marred beyond human likeness.” The enemies of God will *relish* His suffering, take pleasure as they *hurl insults* at Him and had *no restraints in mocking* Him while He was hanging from the Cross! Those who saw His brutally tortured body, witnessed His humiliation, gazed upon His helpless body hanging from the Cross couldn’t see that He was the Son of God! He was so “disfigured” and “marred” it was impossible to know that He was God!

c) v. 15. When God Reveals the Hidden Mystery, It will be Dazzling!

Thank God for verse 15!!!!

III. CONCLUSION

“Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, **in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God**, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith— to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen” (Rom. 16:25-27).