

JESUS ASKED THEM “WHO DO YOU SAY I AM”

Isaiah 53:1-12

Isaiah 53:1

1Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

- An Old question with the same answer.

In the NT When Jesus asked these questions of his disciples, he asked two questions?

1. **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 16:12-14 (in Context) Matthew 16 (Whole Chapter)

2. **Matthew 16:15**

He saith unto them, But **whom say** ye that I am?
Matthew 16:14-16 (in Context) Matthew 16 (Whole Chapter)

- The Lord knew the answers already but perhaps he asked the questions to see if the disciples knew, and what their reactions would be to those questions.
- This would be the questions people would continue to ask even to this day.

Introduction:

It has been a long time since this question was first answered. But no one really bothered to take much notice, if at all at that time.

1. Today very few Christians even read the Old Testament as truth and as part of God’s Word. Isaiah for example was written between 700 and 681 B.C. But still recorded his Advent to come.
2. The Book of Genesis authored by Moses was written around 1450-1410 B.C.
3. In Genesis 1: Verse 26 God said let us make man in our “**image**”. Who was God the Father referring to? Was it not the Lord Jesus.
4. What about in Genesis 1:Verse 2, the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters?, was that not the Holy Spirit?.
5. Was not the Lord Jesus pre advent mentioned in Genesis 3:15? That he would bruise Satan’s head?.....(the Lord would prevail.)
6. In Romans 16:20 it tells us that the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly.

1 John 3:8 ⁸He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

1. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil.
2. He was manifested (1 John 3:5) to take away our sin.
3. **And in (John 1:1,2,3-14)** it tells us that.....

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²The same was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. ¹⁴And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

4. Most people focus on the New Testament with little thought of the OT significance.
 - It could be said, that in the OT the same thought may have been true also. The people at the time in the OT did not really believe everything or understand everything that they read in the scriptures either.
 - In many churches the thought of focusing on the OT seems to be taboo, in that it is Old and out of date and that it has served its purpose then, but is not for today's significance or use.

This thought process and subsequent actions has lead to a mediocre church understanding of the life and work of Christ our Lord.

- It can even be said that it has lead to the mediocre understanding of the life and Word of the Lord.
 - A total lack of OT knowledge and understanding has lead to the poor support of the NT.
1. In fact it can be said that the OT is the very foundation and pillars of the NT, propping it up as the walls of a great house finished by its architect.
 2. It can likewise be said that in return the NT is like the roof that rests on and completes that great building structure of truth about the Lord.
- When the OT is excluded from our complete understanding of the revelation of God, Jesus Christ is then reduced to a mere man because of the lack of biblical knowledge.
1. The emerging seeker friendly churches are weak because they do not have a good foundation to stand on.
 2. Therefore they preach a different Jesus of prosperity.
 3. And so prosperity theology is born.
- Many times they cannot defend the truth because they lack a solid foundation. So when the storms come they will fall.
 - A shallow view of their faith is formed, but they never come to the true understanding of who Jesus Christ really is. Therefore he is merely the Jesus who controls their wallet and happiness here and now.
1. In order for a true conversion to take place the troubled soul must know who God is.

2. They must know that they **are** sinners.
 3. They must know **why** they are sinners.
 4. They must know that they are destined to destruction because of their sin.
 5. They must know that they are entirely helpless in that they themselves cannot do anything about saving themselves.
 6. WHAT THEY MUST KNOW IS: That they need to call upon the one and only true Saviour of Mankind Jesus the Christ, our Lord.
 7. They need to know that He alone is God.
 8. Therefore they need to know who this Saviour really is before they can call on Him for salvation of the soul.
- Many people only trust in the NT and forget about the OT, and therefore they are not under the whole council and authority of God.
 - This is why they forget the truths that can really save them from their sins.

In John Chapter 8, Jesus our Lord, had a great discourse with the unbelieving Jews. They did not want to believe the truth even though they had been reading directly from the OT.

1. The Lord even asked the Jews in verse 43 of John 8, why they did not understand his speech?.
 2. The reason the Lord gave them was in verse 44, because they were of their father the devil?
- So it is folks, people do not want to embrace the truth, even though they had heard those words.
 - The Jews were well aware of the Law of Moses and the Prophets (O.T.).
 - Jesus later in Luke 16:31 even refers to this when he spoke about the rich man and Lazarus. They had the Law and the Prophets.....

Luke 16:31 ³¹And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

1. Therefore it is very important for us to study in the OT, who the Lord Jesus Christ is and how he was going to reveal himself later in history, and for what reason he would manifest himself in the flesh.
2. Israel had fallen, and Judah had fallen. They were deep into sin.
3. They had been lead into captivity under judgment of the Lord.
4. Then under the decree of Cyrus the king through the merciful hand of the Lord had been allowed to return to Jerusalem.

So what changed.....

It is here in Isaiah 52 in verses 6-12, where Isaiah records for us Gods people being set free by Cyrus the king. It was verse 7 in Isaiah 52, that rings the bells of good things. That was to be that God reigneth.

Isaiah 52:7 ⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

- Where else have you heard this same verse? Is it not in Romans?

Romans 10:15-16ff

¹⁵And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! ¹⁶But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

- The further verses in Romans 10:15ff and later Romans 11 confirm what Isaiah 52:7 was all about.
 - There would come a time when a Saviour would come amongst his people.
1. In order for Gods people to remember the Lord. Isaiah records for us the coming of a Saviour to redeem his people.
 2. Here we see the wonderful view of our Saviour who would come to dwell amongst His people.

So when the question is asked who is the Lord Jesus Christ we can come to the OT to confirm who He is.

How could we miss our Saviour here in Isaiah 53:1-12

Look with me if you will at these scriptures.....

Isaiah 53

¹Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

²For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

³He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵But 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.

6All 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.

⁷He 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.

⁸He 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.**

⁹And 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.

¹⁰Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: **when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin,** he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹He 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.**

¹²Therefore 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.**

➤ The Lord has always revealed who he is.

1. I know that there are many NT scriptures confirming Christ our Lord.
2. But here in Isaiah we see so many as well. Way back even in Isaiah 9:6 we see our Wonderful councillor the mighty God.

➤ If we only think of Jesus as being in the NT we can dull our understanding of Him as the Lord God.

➤ It tends to limit him as a man created, to be a good prophet, which is where so many people fall short.

Isaiah 59:20 – Acts 2:38, Rom 11:26-27, Ezekiel 18:30-31

Isaiah 59:20 ²⁰And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.

Acts 2:38 ³⁸Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Rom 11:25-27 ²⁵For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. ²⁶And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: ²⁷For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

- ❖ There will be a future event when the Lord will save his people. The redeemed out of Israel will turn to the Lord, when the day comes when the fullness of the Gentiles come in. In that day will a great and many people out of Israel come to the Lord for salvation.

Ezekiel 18:30-31 ³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

Isaiah 59:21 – Jeremiah 31:31-34,

Isaiah 59:21 ²¹As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 ³¹Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

³²Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

³³But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

³⁴And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

- ❖ Just as the Lord is revealed in his physical birth, so is his physical return immanent.

Luke 21:24 – before the Lord returns. The Gentiles position ALSO ROMANS 11:12, ROMANS 16:25. EPHESIANS 3:3-6

Luke 21:24 ²⁴And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

ROMANS 11:12 ¹²Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?

ROMANS 16:25 ²⁵Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

EPHESIANS 3:3-6 ³How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,

⁴Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) ⁵Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; ⁶That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

❖ **Who do you say the Lord is?**

PRAY.....