

Series: Isaiah
Title: Where Can a Believer Be Found?
Text: Isaiah 53: 1
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Isaiah 53: 1: Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

I. FIRST, LET'S GET THE MEANING OF THESE WORDS.

Our Report

The word “report” means “hearing the word preached” “hearing the declaration of the gospel” “hearing the good news proclaimed.” Just before this, we read in:

Isaiah 52: 7: How 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!

Then here in

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

To show you that this word “report” means “to hear the gospel preached” turn over to Romans 10. By the Spirit of God, when declaring that faith is given by God through hearing the preaching of the gospel, the apostle Paul quoted both of those verses.

Romans 10: 13: For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14: How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15: And 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! 16: But they have not all obeyed the GOSPEL. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our REPORT? 17: So then faith *cometh* BY HEARING, and hearing BY THE WORD OF GOD.

So first of all, this word “report” refers to “hearing the gospel preached.” Many heard Isaiah preach, but God had not given many faith to obey the gospel. Isaiah said, “Lord, who hath believed our report?”

Our Message is Concerning God's Arm, Christ Jesus

Now, what is the message of our report, our gospel? A man cannot be expected to obey our gospel if he does not know the message of the gospel. Our gospel is concerning the “Arm of the Lord.”—**v2: To whom has the Arm of the LORD been revealed?**

Arm refers to the power of the LORD. There are proportions of power that God puts forth in his works. God does some things with his finger. In Egypt, after God made the dust turn to lice, “Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God.” (Ex 8: 19) When the LORD gave Moses the law. Scripture says they were written on tables of stone “with the finger of God.” (Ex 31: 18; Deut 9: 10) When the Lord Jesus cast devils out of men, he said, “But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.” (Luke 11: 20) God does some things by “the finger of God.”

Then we read of the “hand of God.” When the Philistines had taken the ark of the LORD, we read, “there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there.” (1 Sam 5: 11) Job said we receive good as well as evil by “the hand of God” (Job 2: 10); Believers are taught, to “humble ourselves under

the mighty hand of God.” (1 Pet 5: 6) The hand is more powerful than the finger. God uses more or less power depending on the work. Well, the mightiest work of God is the salvation of his people.

So scripture says, “He hath shewed strength with his Arm.” (Luke 1: 51) “Arm of the Lord” represents “the power of God.” Christ is the Arm, the Power of God.

1 Corinthians 1: 23: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24: But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God**, and the wisdom of God.

By Christ all things were made and all things are upheld and consist—*he upholdeth all things by the word of his power.* (Heb 1:3) But most importantly, the eternal salvation of God’s people is wrought by the exceeding greatness of his mighty Power, his Arm, Jesus Christ the Son of God—**v1: who hath believed our report? to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? 2: For HE shall grow up before him as a tender plant,...**

Our report, our gospel, is concerning God’s Arm, the Son of God the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 1: 1: Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, 2: (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) 3: Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; 4: And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

Our Message—the Righteousness of God

What is our message when we preach Christ? Our message is “the righteousness of God”—the way in which God can be just and Justifier of those who believe.

Romans 1: 16: For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17: For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from Faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Romans 3: 19: Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20: Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin. 21: But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22 Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 23: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24: Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26 To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Isaiah 59:16: And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his Arm brought salvation unto him; and his Righteousness, it sustained him.

Isaiah 52:10: The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the Salvation of our God.

Luke 2: 26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. 27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, 28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, 29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: 30 For mine eyes have seen THY SALVATION, 31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

In John 12 we will see plainly that Christ is the Arm of the LORD spoken of in our text.

John 12: 34: The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man? 35: Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. 36: While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them. 37: But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: 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?

So this is what we've seen in our first point:

- 1) Our report is the gospel.
- 2) Our gospel is concerning Christ Jesus the Son of God, the Arm of the LORD, the Power of God.
- 3) Our message is that by Christ's finished work, God is both just and the Justifier of those who believe on Christ.

II. SECONDLY, LET'S FIND OUT WHY ISAIAH MADE THIS STATEMENT—Isaiah 53: 1: Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

In Isaiah's day, very, very few believed the gospel he preached—that is why he said, “Who hath believed our report?” Where can a believer be found who believes on your Son who we preach?”

Application: Brethren, do you ever feel discouraged because there are so few in the world who believe the gospel? Well, you are not alone. That is what Isaiah is saying here. “Lord, where can a man be found who believes our report.”

Why Do Sinner's Hate the Gospel

The reason folks hate the gospel is because it makes that which men think is their righteousness to be just filthy rags; the gospel strips a man of his fig leaves; the gospel declares the sinner vile, an abomination in God's sight. The gospel declares there is nothing the sinner can do to make himself righteous so that God will accept him.

The gospel declares Christ and Christ alone is the Righteousness of God. This means the sinner must take his hands off everything and trust Christ to present him to God. And the gospel declares the sinner cannot even do that, unless God has mercy on him. Many think they have good reason to reject us because the majority rejects us.

Application: Sinner, you'd be wise not to judge something right simply because the majority of sinners do. When it comes to God and matters of eternal salvation, the majority is always wrong.

God Saves Remnants

THE report—the gospel of Jesus Christ—has never been received by the majority in any given generation. Not in Isaiah's day, not in Christ's day, not in our day. Isaiah said this.

Isaiah 1:9: Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.

Isaiah 10: 22: For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return: the consumption decreed shall overflow with righteousness.

As we saw in John 12, Isaiah was not only speaking of his own day, he was speaking prophetically of the day in which the Lord Jesus walked this earth. Very few believed on Christ when he walked this earth in person. The apostle Paul tells us why, applying Isaiah's words to his own day,

Romans 9: 27: Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved: 28: For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth.

The Lord Jesus entered his public ministry at the age of 30. And finished the work God gave him to do in a little over 3 years.

- Christ finished the transgression
- Christ made an end of sins
- Christ made reconciliation for iniquity
- Christ wrought in everlasting righteousness
- Christ sealed up the vision and prophecy
- Christ anointed the most Holy

That is why in John 12, Christ warned them, saying, “Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light.” Sinner, heed those words. Christ may return today. What will you do if that is the case? Paul says,

Romans 9: 29: And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorrha.

Speaking of his own countrymen—those of the nation of Israel—Paul said, “Except the Lord had left us a seed”—unless God had chosen an elect remnant. (Rom 11: 3-5) Left to themselves the majority in Israel rejected God in human flesh, Christ Jesus. But God had a remnant according to the election of sovereign grace.

Romans 9: 30: What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.

God showing that salvation is of God who shows mercy to whom he will. The Gentiles did not have the scriptures or the prophets. They were not seeking to be righteous before God. Yet God sought his elect among the Gentiles. Christ did so by sending Paul to them with the gospel--“Who hath believed our report?” Through the gospel, God regenerated some and revealed to them that a sinner is made righteous by Christ, and receives righteousness-ready-wrought by faith, not by his works—“Who hath believed our report?” So by God’s grace they repented from their works and believed on Christ—“Who hath believed our report?”

But what about those from the nation of Israel—who had the law and the prophets? Why do men reject Christ?

Romans 9: 31: But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.

Those in the nation Israel had the law and the prophets and wanted to be righteous. Yet, they did not attain to righteousness.

Romans 9: 32: Wherefore? Because *they sought it* not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law.

But they heard the same gospel as the Gentiles, so why didn’t they stop working and believe on Christ.?

Romans 9: 32:...For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; 33: As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Christ is a Rock of offense to the man trying to work his way into God’s presence. Here is why. This is why the true gospel is hated by men, especially the most pious in religion.

Romans 10: 1: Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. 2: For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3: For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. 4: For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Application: For those who believe on Christ, the law makes no requirement that we haven't fulfilled in Christ. The judgment of God makes no demands that have not been fulfilled in Christ, past, present, our future.

Romans 8: 33: Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 34: Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

In our day, very, very few in churches will say they are working for righteousness. But preach Christ, give Christ all the glory, declare every man totally ruined and unable to please God. They might stand it for a little while—but they will not bear to hear Christ receive all the glory all the time!--“We will not have this man to reign over us.” (Lu 19: 14)

III. WHO THEN WILL BELIEVE OUR GOSPEL?—V1: Who hath believed our report? The answer is given in the second part of the verse—those v1: **“to whom the Arm of the LORD is REVEALED.”**

The Lord Jesus told Peter,

Matthew 16:17:...Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not REVEALED it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

1 Corinthians 1:24: But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

The gospel goes out to many—many are called in that sense—but few are chosen. Few are called effectually. Most are too wise and prudent in their own estimation of themselves.

Matthew 11:25: At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

Illustration: Do you remember what it was like to be a little child? When you had absolutely no worries because you trusted that your father had everything taken care of? That is what the believer is—a babe—trusting Christ with child-like faith.

Mark 10:15 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

Those who are called effectually are called for this reason:

Isaiah 52: 6: Therefore my people shall know my name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am he that doth speak: behold, it is I.

John 10: 27: My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand. 30 I and *my* Father are one.

You who are sheep-love what our Savior just said. But what do the goats do when they hear those words of our Savior?

John 10: 31: Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. 32: Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? 33: The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not;

Let a man preach Christ as a healer of the sick, a feeder of the hungry, an example of good works and for a good work we stone thee not! But let a man preach that Christ is God; God who does the work of saving his people; God who receives all the glory—A-Z. Then they say...

John 10: 33:...but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.

Let me close, what have we seen hear today?

1) Our report is the gospel of Jesus Christ—that God is just and Justifier of those who believe—by the finished work of Christ Jesus.

2) We learned why Isaiah said, “Lord, where can a believer be found?” Only God’s remnant believe. Except the Lord had chosen a people we would be destroyed.

3) Those who believe—do so because the Lord had revealed Christ in them. If you believe on Christ, rejoice—flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but our Father in heaven!

Amen!