

Q1: Who is this 'Servant' referred to in Isaiah 52:13? (see Isaiah 41: 8-10 and Isaiah 49: 5) But how do those cross-references fit with Isaiah 52:13 – 53: 12?

Q2: How does the NT apply this passage? (cf. Acts 8: 32-35 and 1 Peter 2: 18-25) What lessons can we learn from this about how we should interpret and apply this passage?

Q3: Go through the passage in Isaiah listing all the things that will happen to the 'Servant' and why they must happen. What is the fundamental problem? (v 6) How does this work out in practice?

Q4: How is the 'Servant' going to put this right? (v 4-5, 10-12) How does this passage help us to understand what Jesus did for us when he died on the cross? (see also Mark 10: 45)

Q5: What other parts of the passage can you see that point to the life and ministry of Jesus?

Q6: What great encouragements are there here for those who trust in Jesus? (e.g. 52: 15; 53: 11-12)

Q7: If Jesus serves us in this great way – how should we be serving others?



No. 8 (OT Prophets) Isaiah - Malachi

Q: A young man comes to you asking for spiritual advice. He is so strongly that God has told him to marry a prostitute. He thinks that if he does this it will be a lesson for the church. How would you advise him?

1. One Sandwich short of a picnic?

Q: **READ: Hosea 3: 1-5; Ezekiel 4: 1-14** Is this behaviour? What was the message of the prophet (Hosea or Ezekiel)? What kind of role was the prophet (Hosea or Ezekiel) fulfilling?

'Prophets' were called by God primarily to 'forth-tell' God's message to His people, rather than to 'fore-tell' the future. They recalled God's covenant faithfulness as they applied His Word. Therefore this was a warning of God's judgement and the criticism of social and political conditions.



The Israelites naturally turned away from God. Prophets, such as Elijah and Elisha called them back to God. Under their ministry we find pictures of what God will do if Israel returns to him. The spiritual state of the nation was largely influenced by the King. When a King turned away from God, a prophet would need to confront the King and oppose false religion. As the Israelites turn further away from God the role of the prophet becomes increasingly important.

3. “Thus sayeth the Lord ...”

Q: How do you feel about the role of prophets in the church today? What issues are there in moving from OT → NT → today? How would you react if someone said – “*The Lord has told me that X is going to marry Y*”?

This is a controversial issue. As a start, the following should be borne in mind: **1.** OT prophets spoke mostly about a return to God. **2.** OT prophets spoke with the authority of God. That is why they were executed if they weren't speaking from God (Deuteronomy 18: 20). **3.** NT prophets spoke with much less authority. The local church decided if their message was from God or not (1 Corinthians 14: 29; 1 Thessalonians 5: 19-21).

4. The Promise Keepers?

Q: READ: Malachi 3: 1-4 What was Malachi looking forward to? Was it easy to believe in that?

prophet, priest and King, and started looking forward to a 'Messiah'.

5. The Messiah

a) Messiah-King

Q: READ: Psalm 2 Who was the Psalmist referring to as 'his anointed one'? Why is it significant that he is described as God's 'Son'? How might we re-interpret this Psalm now?

b) Messiah-Priest

Q: READ: Psalm 110 This Psalm was written by David. So to whom does 'my Lord' refer? (Verse 1) In whose temple would Israelites normally be Priests? (Verse 4) What overall picture of Messiah does this Psalm paint?

c) Messiah-Servant

Q: READ: Isaiah 42: 1-9 What will this 'servant' do?

6. Hindsight

Q1: Try to imagine what it would be like living as a Jew after Jesus but before Jesus. What would it have been like? What was the difference like now – what were they looking forward to?

Q2: Why do you think the disciples took so long to realise who Jesus was? Why are we so fortunate to live after Jesus?