

# "I AM the MESSIAH"

Jn 1:41; 4:21-26; Acts 8:26-39; Is 53

## I. MESSIANIC PERSPECTIVES in OT

- A. Abraham's children—"children of Israel"
- B. David's kingdom—"house of David"
- C. Dueling views during Exile re "suffering servant," especially in Isaiah
  - 1. Corporate—community reforming after exile & suffering in Babylon
  - 2. Individual—"anointed one" to deliver his people
    - a. Political leader—expected by Zealots (perhaps Judas Iscariot)
    - b. Spiritual leader—expected by Pharisees to revive Law and righteous world
    - c. Christians, from earliest years, identify Jesus as Suffering Servant, Messiah

## II. READING ISAIAH 53

- A. We are needy people, sheep-like (1, 6)
- B. Jesus' ministry (2-3)
- C. Jesus' agony (4-9)
- D. Jesus' atoning work (10-12)

## III. THE CENTRALITY of the CROSS (Christ's Atonement—Charles Spurgeon said the Gospel can be summed up thusly: "Christ Died for Me")

- A. **Love** Extended—"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (Jn 3:16); 'Greater love has no one than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends' (Jn 15:13)
- B. **Offering** Made—"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls" (I Peter 2:4).
- C. **Victory** Attained—sin and Satan defeated; "Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery" (Heb 2:14-15).
- D. **Entitlement** Secured—"joint heirs"; "For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ" (Ro 8:14-15).