

Isaiah 53:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For 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.

Analysis

'For 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.' The Servant's humble origins: 'tender plant' (yoneq - suckling, sapling), 'root out of dry ground' (unlikely place for growth). No external attractiveness draws attention. The Hebrew 'hadar' (majesty/beauty) is absent.

Historical Context

This describes Jesus's ordinary appearance and humble origins - carpenter's son from Nazareth, no royal palace, no impressive physical presence. Messiah came without the expected trappings of power.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's ordinariness challenge expectations of what a savior should look like?
2. Why might God choose unpretentious means for His greatest work?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּעַל	כִּי־זֶנֶךָ קָ	לִפְנֵי יוֹ	וְכַשׁ רֶשֶׁת	מִמָּאָרְץ
For he shall grow up	him as a tender plant	before	and as a root	ground
H5927	H3126	H6440	H8328	H776
צִיָּה	לֹא	תֵּאֵר	לֹא לֹא	הָדָר
out of a dry	he hath no form	H0	H3808	nor comeliness
H6723	H8389			H1926
וְנִרְאֶה הוּא	וְלֹא	מִרְאֵה הֵ	וְנִחְמְדָהּ:	
and when we shall see	H3808	him there is no beauty	that we should desire	
H7200		H4758	H2530	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 52:14 (Parallel theme): As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:

Isaiah 11:1 (Parallel theme): And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

Jeremiah 23:5 (Parallel theme): Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

Mark 6:3 (Parallel theme): Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.

Mark 9:12 (Parallel theme): And he answered and told them, Elias verily cometh first, and restoreth all things; and how it is written of the Son of man, that he must suffer many things, and be set at nought.

Romans 8:3 (Parallel theme): For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

John 19:5 (Parallel theme): Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!

John 18:40 (Parallel theme): Then cried they all again, saying, Not this man, but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber.

1 Peter 2:14 (Parallel theme): Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

Zechariah 6:12 (Parallel theme): And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: