

# The Contrasts of Christmas

Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

The story of Christmas is a study in contrasts. The light of the world shines in a world of darkness. A child born in obscurity who will reign over all. A message of hope announced to outcasts. Perhaps the most shocking contrast is that the child was born to die. The manger will lead to the cross.

Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12 paints a prophetic portrait of the Messiah as the suffering servant. Through five stanzas of three verses each, the prophet describes the inconspicuous, unappreciated servant of the Lord who will suffer and die for the sins of the people.

**Stanza 1: Exaltation** – Though unrecognized, the Messiah will be successful (52:13-15)

**Stanza 2: Rejection** – Though unimaginable, the Messiah was rejected (53:1-3)

**Stanza 3: Redemption** – Though we deserved the punishment, the Messiah took it on himself (53:4-6)

**Stanza 4: Rejection** – Though innocent, the Messiah silently submitted to suffering (53:7-9)

**Stanza 5: Exaltation** – Though the Messiah's death appeared a tragedy, it was part of God's plan and would result in victory (53:10-12)

All of these prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus Christ. As you celebrate Christmas, give thanks for the Savior who was born in Bethlehem and who died that you might be forgiven.