

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Fall Term of 2003**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE DIVINE ECONOMY IN THE BOOK OF ISAIAH**

Message Twenty-seven

**The All-inclusive Christ
in His Four Stages according to God's New Testament Economy**

(1)

In the Stage of His Incarnation

Scripture Reading: Isa. 53:1-3; 1 Cor. 1:22-24; 2 Cor. 8:9; Mark 6:1-6

- I. ***The arm of Jehovah* is a figure of speech signifying Jehovah Himself in His power; thus, the arm of Jehovah is God Himself in His saving power—Isa. 53:1b:**
 - A. When the Lord Jesus came out to preach the gospel, that was the unveiling of the arm of Jehovah—Luke 4:14, 18-19; Mark 1:14-15.
 - B. The Old Testament term is *the arm of Jehovah*; the New Testament term is *the power of God*—1 Cor. 1:24.
 - C. Although Christ was unveiled as the arm of Jehovah, many did not see that He was Jehovah Himself coming in power to save them; they did not believe, because He grew up like a tender plant before Jehovah and like a root out of dry ground—Isa. 53:2a; John 1:46; Matt. 13:55.
 - D. When the Lord Jesus comes back, the remnant of Israel will repent and wail (Zech. 12:10-14); at that time they will confess the contents of Isaiah 53, and this chapter will be a full taste to them.
- II. **As the complete God, signified by the arm of Jehovah, the power of God, Christ became a perfect man, signified by a man of sorrows—Isa. 53:1b, 3a; John 1:1, 14; 1 Tim. 2:5:**
 - A. The arm of Jehovah is Jehovah in His power, and the man of sorrows is Jesus; when these two are added together, they equal incarnation.
 - B. In 1 Corinthians 1:22-24 Christ crucified corresponds to the man of sorrows in Isaiah 53:3, and the power of God corresponds to the arm of Jehovah in verse 1.
- III. **As a perfect man, the Lord Jesus lived a lowly and sorrowful human life—vv. 2-3:**
 - A. He grew up like a tender plant before Jehovah and like a root out of dry ground—v. 2a:

1. The plant here refers to a sprout, which is tender, small, and delicate; because He was such a small, delicate person, no one would pay attention to Him.
 2. He grew up like a root out of dry ground; this means that He was born of a poor family—v. 2b; Luke 2:21-24; 2 Cor. 8:9; cf. Lev. 12:8.
 3. The Lord Jesus was raised in the home of a poor carpenter in the despised town of Nazareth and in the despised province of Galilee; this was the fulfillment of the dry ground in Isaiah 53:2b.
- B. He had no attracting form nor majesty that men should look upon Him—v. 2c:
1. Jesus had neither an attracting form, nor did He have a beautiful appearance; He did not have any form or comeliness that would cause others to appreciate Him.
 2. Instead of majesty, He had poverty, and instead of a beautiful appearance, He had a visage and form that were disfigured—52:14.
- C. Christ was despised and forsaken by men, like one from whom men hide their faces and whom men do not esteem—53:3.
- D. The Lord Jesus lived as a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; this was a part of Christ's qualifications for accomplishing redemption—v. 3a:
1. He was not a man of enjoyment, happiness, or blessing.
 2. As we consider Isaiah 53, Psalm 22, Luke 22, and Matthew 27, we see a portrait of Christ as a despised man of sorrows.
- E. Christ's being such a man and His living such a lowly and sorrowful human life fully qualified Him to be the Savior to save us from Satan, sin, death, and self—Heb. 2:14-18; Matt. 1:21.

IV. Mark 6:1-6 may be regarded as a fulfillment of the prophecy in Isaiah 53:2-3:

- A. The Nazarenes, blinded by their natural knowledge, knew the Lord Jesus according to the flesh, not according to the Spirit—Mark 6:2-3; 2 Cor. 5:16.
- B. Only in the Gospel of Mark is the Lord Jesus called a carpenter—6:3:
1. Carpentry is not a magnificent work, but it requires much fineness and patience; in such a work the Lord Jesus was found in fashion as a man (Phil. 2:8), not in loftiness but in lowliness, fineness, and patience.
 2. In Mark 6:3 the word *carpenter* is used in a despising manner:
 - a. The Nazarenes were astounded by His teaching, by His wisdom, and by His works of power, but they regarded Him as a person of low status—vv. 2-3.
 - b. They were stumbled in Him because, although they heard wonderful words out of His mouth and saw some of His marvelous deeds, they considered that He did not have a high status or degree.
 - c. They saw the Lord Jesus as one who was merely a carpenter; therefore, they were stumbled in Him, and they despised Him.
- C. The record in Mark 6:1-6 should cause us to ask ourselves what we want and what we value.