

Isaiah 53

Isaiah chapter 53 was written near 700 B.C.. It describes the life of Jesus (vs.1-3); his healing ministry (vs. 4a); his rejection and atoning death (vs. 4b-8); his burial (vs. 9); and his exaltation (vs. 10-12).

The innocent Servant died for the guilty sinner.

- **Isaiah 53:1 Who hath believed our report?** and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

The interrogative form is often assumed when it is designed to express a truth with emphasis; and the idea is, therefore, that the message in regard to the Messiah had been rejected, and that almost none had credited and embraced it.

“The idea here is, that comparatively few would be brought under that power, and be benefited by it; that is, in the times, and under the preaching of the Messiah. It is to be remembered that the scene of this vision is laid in the midst of the work of the Redeemer. The prophet sees him a sufferer, despised and rejected. He sees that few come to him, and embrace him as their Saviour. He recalls the 'report' and the announcement which he and other prophets had made respecting him.” BARNES

John 12:37-38 But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?

Romans 10:16-17 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- **Isaiah 53:2** 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.

“In the East it is not unusual to see a tall succulent plant growing from a soft which seems utterly devoid of moisture. Such plants have roots that strike deep, and draw their nourishment from a hidden source.” PULPIT HELPS

- **Isaiah 53:3** He is **despised and rejected of men**; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Psalms 22:6-8 But I *am* a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, *saying*, He trusted on the LORD *that* he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.

Matthew 26:67-68 Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote *him* with the palms of their hands, Saying, Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?

Matthew 27:63 Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

Hebrews 12:2-3 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

- **Isaiah 53:4** Surely **he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows**: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows (**Prior to Calvary**)

Matthew 8:16-17 When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with *his* word, and healed all that were sick: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare *our* sicknesses.

We conclude that divine healing was not fulfilled at Calvary but rather an indication that the Kingdom of God was at hand. In Christ's Kingdom, healing will be there:

Matthew 11:2-5 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

Isaiah 35:5-6 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

Yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted (**Rejection and death**)

...stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted," *i.e. on account of his own sins*. PULPIT HELPS

Men thought the divine judgment was for His own sins, that God was angry with Him. IRONSIDE

- **Isaiah 53:5** But he **was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities**: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Christ was "wounded" or "pierced" (1) by the thorns; (2) by the nails; and (3) by the spear of the soldier.

Psalms 22:16 For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.

John 19:34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

John 19:36-37 For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.

Zechariah 12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.

Revelation 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

The wounds inflicted by the nails caused his death, He was bruised; or, *crushed*. "No stronger expression could be found in Hebrew to denote severity of suffering—suffering unto death" (Urwick). **The chastisement of our peace was upon him**; *i.e.* "the chastisement which brought us peace," which put a stop to the enmity between fallen man and an offended God.

Colossians 1:20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things...

Hebrews 10:4 For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

- **Isaiah 53:5** But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and **with his stripes we are healed**.

The term 'by whose stripes ye were healed' refers to healing of the soul, not a physical healing.

1 Peter 2:24-25 Who his own self **bare our sins** in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead **to sins**, should live unto righteousness: by **whose stripes ye were healed**. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of **your souls**.

1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

- **Isaiah 53:6** All **we like sheep have gone astray**; we have turned every one to his own way; and the **LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all**.

This verse is God's view of the events. "Sheep gone astray." It brings to mind ignorance, wilfulness, helplessness, foolishness, as characteristics of the unrenewed man.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

- **Isaiah 53:7** He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet **he opened not his mouth**: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so **he openeth not his mouth**.

Acts 8:32-35 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

Isaiah 53:7 describes the mock trial that Jesus went through.

1 Peter 2:22-23 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously:

Matthew 27:12-14 And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. Then said Pilate unto him, Hearst thou not how many things they witness against thee? And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

- **Isaiah 53:8** He was **taken from prison and from judgment**: and who shall declare his generation? for **he was cut off** out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

John 19:7 The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.

Daniel 9:26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself...

John 19:19 And Pilate wrote a title, and put *it* on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

- **Isaiah 53:9** And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, **neither was any deceit in his mouth**.

1 Peter 2:22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

- **Isaiah 53:10** Yet it **pleased the LORD to bruise him**; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make **his soul an offering for sin**, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Why? God turned His back on Jesus Christ as He, by Himself, became our sin-bearer:

Hebrews 1:3 Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, **when he had by himself purged our sins**, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

Romans 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Jesus suffered in his body (Isa. 52:13-15); in his heart (53:3); and in his soul (53:10-11).

- **Isaiah 53:11** He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.
- **Isaiah 53:12** Therefore will I divide him *a portion* with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath **poured out his soul unto death**: and he was **numbered with the transgressors**; and he bare the sin of many, and **made intercession for the transgressors**.

Psalms 22:14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels.

Mark 15:28 And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors.

Luke 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a **lamb** to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

Lamb of God / Passover Lamb / Lamb Slain from Foundation of the World / Is He your Lamb?

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

Do you know Him personally? Fulfilled prophecy is divine proof that the Bible is the Word of God.

Turn to Jesus Christ today – give Him your whole heart and trust His blood to forgive your sins.

Colossians 1:14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins: