

September 23rd, 2018
“Crushed for our Iniquities”
Isaiah 52:13-53:6

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

Sept 16 Daniel 4-6	Sept 20 Hosea 8-14
Sept 17 Daniel 7-9	Sept 21 Joel 1-3
Sept 18 Daniel 10-12	Sept 22 Amos 1-5
Sept 19 Hosea 1-7	Sept 23 Amos 6-9

Lesson Introduction: *Our time this week and the next will be primarily spent looking at Isaiah 53. This passage is a prophecy concerning the death and resurrection of Christ and is perhaps the most vivid and important description of His atoning sacrifice in all of Scripture. Amazingly, this was prophesied about Christ 700 years before His death. This passage is not only meant to lead non-Christians to salvation as they gaze on the incredible atonement Christ made for them, but it is also meant to bolster the confidence of Christians, as we dwell on all that God has done for us in Christ and consider how He accomplished all that He promised many years before. Concerning this passage, Pastor John Piper stated, “I invite you not only to revel in the great substitutionary work of Christ that takes away your condemnation, but also to be strengthened in your confidence that this is no myth, but the historical work of God who told his story long before it happened.” With that in mind, we will indeed revel together in the astounding truths of this passage over the next two weeks. This week we will focus on **God’s plan to exalt Christ through His atoning sacrifice, why the sacrifice was necessary, and the substitutionary nature of the atonement.** We will spend next week considering **Isaiah 53:7-12***

Key Memory Verses: *Isaiah 53:5*

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:

- **Christ’s sacrifice on our behalf results in His glory and exaltation (Ch. 52:13-15).**
- **The death of Christ was necessary because of the sin and rebellion of man (Ch. 53:1-3, 6)**
- **Christ’s death was the substitutionary atonement for our sin (Ch. 53:4-6)**

Isaiah 52:13-53:6 (ESV)

*13 Behold, my servant shall act wisely;
 he shall be high and lifted up,*

and shall be exalted.

*14 As many were astonished at you—
 his appearance was so marred, beyond human
 semblance,*

*and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—
 15 so shall he sprinkle many nations.*

*Kings shall shut their mouths because of him,
 for that which has not been told them they see,
 and that which they have not heard they understand.*

53 *Who has believed what he has heard from us?*

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

*2 For he grew up before him like a young plant,
 and like a root out of dry ground;*

*he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
 and no beauty that we should desire him.*

*3 He was despised and rejected by men,
 a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;*

*and as one from whom men hide their faces
 he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

*4 Surely he has borne our griefs
 and carried our sorrows;*

*yet we esteemed him stricken,
 smitten by God, and afflicted.*

*5 But he was pierced for our transgressions;
 he was crushed for our iniquities;*

*upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
 and with his wounds we are healed.*

*6 All we like sheep have gone astray;
 we have turned—every one—to his own way;*

*and the Lord has laid on him
 the iniquity of us all..*

Discussion Section 1: God’s Plan to Exalt Christ Through His Atoning Sacrifice (Ch. 52:13-15)

-What do these verses tell us about the ultimate outcome of the death of Christ?

-What do these verses tell us would happen before His exaltation occurred?

Note: *As we dive into this passage, we will quickly see that there is a bleakness about it. Perhaps nowhere else in Scripture gives us such a vivid picture of the sufferings of Christ and all that He endured on our behalf. But remarkably, the Lord chose to tell us the ultimate outcome of all that was to be said, that He might make it clear that all the horrors of what we are about to read might not be read in despair, but in recognition of the glory that it will result in for Christ.*

Verse 13 tells us that **“He shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.”** This verse sets the stage for all that is to come! We then immediately learn that Christ will be beaten beyond recognition, and that it will be so horrendous that people will be astonished to even look at Him (**V. 14**). But again, God reminds us in **verse 15** that this will all be for the salvation of the nations, and that there is coming a day when kings will stand in stunned silence before Him. **As we begin our journey through this stunning passage, may we not lose sight of this fact: All that we are about to read is meant to lead to the exaltation of Christ, to our humble worship of Him, and to the Glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:5-11).**

Discussion Section 2: *Why the Sacrifice was Necessary* (Ch. 53:1-3, 6)

-What do **verses 1-3** tell us about the reception of Christ by the people?

-What does **verse 6** tell us about our nature?

-What is the ultimate reason the death of Christ was necessary?

Note: We see here at the beginning of chapter 53 that the general reaction to the coming of Christ (although He had been prophesied about many years before, and on several occasions) would be one of rejection (**John 1:9-11; 12:36-40**). Although Christ was among them, they **“despised and rejected”** Him. We see in our passage today that He had the appearance of an ordinary man, and that the people **“esteemed Him not.”** This was in spite of the fact that He had done many mighty works in their presence (**John 12:37**)!

Ultimately, we learn in **V. 6** that this rejection was due to the rebellion in the hearts of man, who have, **“all... like sheep... gone astray.”** Remarkably, Isaiah includes himself in this indictment against mankind, as evidenced by his usage of the term, **“we all.”** Christ had to die because everyone who has ever lived has rejected God’s way and sought their own way (**Proverbs 16:25, Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 3:10-12**). How vital it is that we realize it is our personal rebellion (not just the sins of Israel) that made His brutal death necessary. Charles Spurgeon stated, **“Brethren, we have no occasion to find fault with one another, for ‘all we like sheep have gone astray.’ But we have great reason for each man to find special fault with himself, for, ‘we have turned every one to his own way.”** Ultimately, we must come to

realize that, **“all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23)**, and that, **“the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23)**. Simply put, because of our rebellion against God, and our desire to live for self, we deserve death (separation from God forever in Hell), and without the death of Christ, there is no hope for mankind. This is why Christ had to die, which leads to our final discussion section.

Discussion Section 3: *The Substitutionary Nature of the Atonement.* (Ch. 53:4-6)

-What does **substitutionary atonement** mean?

-How is it that Christ’s death could result in our healing?

-What made Christ’s death an acceptable substitution for our sins?

Note: These verses make plain that the death of Christ was not simply an act that made forgiveness of sins possible, but more than that, Christ indeed paid the price that we deserved to pay, and in doing so, bought righteousness for those who would believe! We see that, **“He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed.... The lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”**

John MacArthur plainly explains this substitutionary death like this: **“The manner in which God laid our iniquity on Christ was that God treated Him as if He had committed every sin ever committed by every person who would ever believe, though He was perfectly innocent of any sin. God did so to Him, so that wrath being spent, and justice satisfied, God could then give to the account of sinners who believe, the righteousness of Christ, treating them as if they had done only the righteous acts of Christ. In both cases, this is substitution.”** Paul would say it like this in **2 Corinthians 5:21**, **“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”**

What a stunning reality it is that Christ has taken the weight of our sins on His shoulders and placed on us His righteousness! May we spend this week and every day marveling at, and thanking Him for, His incredible kindness towards us. We will continue on in this glorious passage next week.