

## ISAIAH 53

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There is probably nowhere in the Old Testament that plainly states that the Lord Jesus should suffer and then enter into glory. He submitted to the lowest condition. He grew up quietly as a tender plant (verse 2). He had no beauty or glory then (verse 2) but He endured the sentence of all our sin and, sadly, few today have any desire for Him. He is still despised and rejected of men (verse 3).

Sinners have their own desires and their beloved ways of which they are fond. They have no desire to consider what the Lord Jesus has done and will do. They are only concerned with this life and themselves. They seldom think of eternity.

Believers think of how much Jesus Christ loved them. He put Himself in our place. He did not leave our salvation to any other. If we also consider our long list of sins and offences against God, and our load of guilt, the Lord Jesus did not sink under the burden nor did He say, I am not going through with this. I am not going to the Cross.

The Christian believes in the atoning work of the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. The believer has the testimony that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him may have everlasting life.

Verse 4 states Surely He has born our griefs. In common parlance this says There is no doubt that He has born our griefs. He carried our sorrows and He was smitten of God, His Father. In order that we can have peace with God, the Lord was chastised, bruised, wounded and for OUR transgressions (verse 5). We were sinners going our own ways but, nevertheless, the Father has laid upon His Son the iniquity of us all (verse 6).

He did not just die for minor indiscretions but all our sins. As the hymn writers says, Even for sins of deepest dye. The Lord did not say I will save you from this sin but not that one.

The next verses call upon us to reflect on His sufferings. He was oppressed, afflicted, taken from prison to judgement. He was cut off yet He opened not His mouth and uttered no deceit.

He was buried with both the rich and the wicked yet He was not guilty of any crime or offence.

How cruel and unfair this seems to be.

And verse 10 reminds us that it was God's pleasure to put Him to grief. This was done so that we may be saved. The Lord Jesus paid the price and in full. He was the offering for sin, your sin and mine.

But that was not the end. He rose from the dead conquering sin, death and judgement and the Lord now prospers. He has a glorified resurrected body in Heaven as the Eternal Word (1 John 5. 7) and He sees of the travail of His soul and is satisfied. To put this into everyday English, what the Lord did in obedience to His Father's Will was worth it. The end of verse 12 reminds us of what the Lord did.

We read in John 1 that the Eternal Word became flesh, that is to say He became a person like unto the sons of men and in three years ministered to the people and went to the Cross and was obedient unto death.

The Son of God loved me and gave Himself for me.

We believe, as do all Christians, that God gave His Son and that eternal life is possible because of the Son. The Christian has accepted the Son and also has the eternal life that He accomplished.

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