

"The Suffering Servant"

Isaiah 53:7-12

Introduction: Next week we will look at a message that will focus upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Today I want to take the time and look at what our Lord endured so that we could have eternal life or so that we could have a relationship with God the Father and His Son.

John 17:3

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

So, to understand his suffering on our behalf we are going to look at a message starting in Isaiah 53:7. But I do not want to jump right into the middle of the chapter. I want to help you with the context of the verses we shall look at so that we can better understand them.

➤ **The Context**

Notice Isaiah 53:1

As Isaiah 53 begins it starts with a confession phrased in a question. What was the report?

Notice Isaiah 52:7-10

This was the report and the report concerning Jesus Christ was rejected by the Jews. Why did they reject it?

1. Reason #1 - He was unimpressive.

Notice Isaiah 53:2a

2. Reason #2 - He was undesirable.

Notice Isaiah 53:2b

3. Reason #3 - He was unpopular.

Notice Isaiah 53:3a

Then at the end of verse 3 there is a final confession.

As you then come to verse 4 this verse is a turning point. It introduces the Jews recognition of the substitutionary work of Jesus Christ which is seen in 4-6. Now we come to our text.

➤ **The Servant's Suffering**

Notice Isaiah 53:7

First of all, we are told that He was "oppressed" and this is speaking of the inward pressure that our Lord felt. Our Lord was oppressed as He faced the cross. He knew what He was going to experience and the weight of what awaited Him was a great load upon His soul.

Matthew 26:37-39

³⁷ And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. [Full of heaviness]

³⁸ Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, [very sad and overcome with sorrow] even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

³⁹ And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Luke 22:44

⁴⁴ And being in an agony [severe emotional strain] he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

The inward pressure was so great that it pushed the blood through the pores of His skin like sweat.

Notice Isaiah 53:7 again.

We are also told here that our Lord was **afflicted**. This has a very sober thought behind it. Let me show you how the word is used elsewhere,

Exodus 10:3

³ And Moses and Aaron came in unto Pharaoh, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me? let my people go, that they may serve me.

Here it is translated "to humble thyself" and that is the very idea in Isaiah 53:7. The "affliction" was the first response to His oppression. He humbled Himself and allowed Himself to suffer under the pressure. Our Lord submitted to the suffering so that He could go to the cross and die to give unto us eternal life.

Next, we read that He **"opened not His mouth"** while He experienced the suffering. In all that our Lord went through He never once raised His voice in resistance.

Matthew 27:12-14

¹² And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing.

¹³ Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee?

¹⁴ And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

Jesus was content to remain silent so He could suffer for our redemption. Let us notice how this is illustrated.

Notice Isaiah 53:7 again.

He was like a lamb led to the slaughter and like a sheep being led to be sheared. Our Lord was the Lamb that would be sacrificed for our sins.

John 1:29

²⁹ The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Our Lord would be THE Passover Lamb.

Exodus 12:5-7, 12-13

⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

⁶ And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

⁷ And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

¹³ And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

Notice Isaiah 53:8

Jesus was dragged through the mock trials and then from there He was taken to Calvary. Jesus' silence was matched by the silence of His generation. They did not consider Him to be the Messiah nor did they declare Him to be the Messiah. They had all the evidence to show that He was who He claimed to be but He did not fit the mold that they had imagined for their King.

We are told here that He was cut off out of the land of the living and for the transgression of the people He was stricken.

There are some very deep thoughts here in this verse. First of all the "land of the living" refers to the presence of God.

Psalm 27:13

¹³ I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Psalm 116:9

⁹ I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

Psalm 142:5

⁵ I cried unto thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.

When we are told that Jesus was cut off from the land of the living it means that He was cut off from the presence of the Lord.

Matthew 27:45-46

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

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?**

As Jesus was separated from God He was experiencing exactly what we would have experienced if we died in our sins.

Notice Isaiah 53:8 again.

He was stricken for the transgression of the people. Let me give you something to consider. Jesus was stricken with many things on our behalf.

- ✓ **Oppression/pressure**
- ✓ **Sickness - Notice Isaiah 53:4**
- ✓ **Sins - Notice Isaiah 53:6**
- ✓ **Separation**
- ✓ **Rejection**
- ✓ **Ridicule**

Notice Isaiah 53:9

Jesus was assigned a grave with the wicked who died with Him but He was buried in a rich man's tomb. At the end of the verse, we are told of His sinless life which qualified Him to be our Savior.

➤ **The Servant's Reward**

Notice Isaiah 53:10

Here we see who it was that put Jesus to death. It was God the Father. It pleased the Lord to bruise Him and to put Him to death. Why? Because it would be through His death that a way would be made for sinners to be saved.

To prolong His days refers to His resurrection.

Notice Isaiah 53:11

God was satisfied by the death of Jesus Christ. This means that His righteous demands were all satisfied on our behalf.

1 John 2:1-2

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

² *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

God required that a sinless sacrifice would die to pay the penalty for each of our sins. Jesus met the qualifications and He went to the cross and when He died His death satisfied our sin debt.

2 Corinthians 5:21

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.*

Notice Isaiah 53:11 again.

It was by the knowledge of God that Jesus would justify many. What does this mean? It means that God in His wisdom and knowledge had a plan to save mankind from our sins. The plan that He had was beyond anything that we would have come up with. God's plan made salvation a free Gift to every sinner. He would justify us by the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross and His resurrection from the dead.

➤ **The Servant's Exaltation**

Notice Isaiah 53:12

He and the GREAT/MANY will enjoy the Kingdom. He will divide the spoil with the STRONG/MIGHTY which is the believers. We are strong and mighty in His strength. This is all because He has fulfilled the will of the Father in making a way for mankind to be forgiven.

Conclusion:

Genesis 3:15

¹⁵ *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

Daniel 7:18, 27

¹⁸ *But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.*

²⁷ *And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.*