

# **Challenging Chapters of the Bible**

CLA Spring 2014

Jim Hoffman

# Isaiah 52

- **13** See, my servant will prosper; he will be highly exalted. **14** *But many were amazed when they saw him. His face was so disfigured he seemed hardly human, and from his appearance, one would scarcely know he was a man.* **15** And he will startle many nations. Kings will stand speechless in his presence. For they will see what they had not been told; they will understand what they had not heard about.

# Isaiah 53

- **1 Who has believed our message? To whom has the Lord revealed his powerful arm? 2 My servant grew up in the Lord's presence like a tender green shoot, like a root in dry ground. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him. 3 He was despised and rejected— a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care. 4 Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! 5 But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.**

# Isaiah 53

- **6 All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all. 7 He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. 8 Unjustly condemned, he was led away. No one cared that he died without descendants, that his life was cut short in midstream. But he was struck down for the rebellion of my people. 9 He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave.**

# Isaiah 53

- **10 But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the Lord's good plan will prosper in his hands. 11 When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins. 12 I will give him the honors of a victorious soldier, because he exposed himself to death. He was counted among the rebels. He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels.**

# Isaiah 53

- **Fulfilled prophecy – one of the things that increase our faith in the Word is fulfilled prophecies. (Isaiah 53 is 700 years prior to Jesus)**
- **In Isaiah's prophecy here we see the 'bridge' between the old and new testaments.**
- **Isaiah speaks of an offering for sin (a substitute) and that idea is at the center of the gospel.**

**53:2 There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him.**

- **Contrary to most paintings we see depicting Jesus, he was probably not tall, dark, and handsome.**
- **He would probably not be someone we would describe as having a ‘presence’ about him.**
- **We should believe what Isaiah said – “nothing to attract us to Him”.**

**53:3 He was despised and rejected— a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief.**

- **When we consider the life of Jesus we sometimes think in terms of His power and His ultimate victory, but there was so much ‘stuff’ on the front side of the cross.**
- **He never really had a normal life – there was no way He could.**
- **When His ministry began, he was always the ‘one off’, the ‘misfit’, and in many ways, the ‘rebel’.**



**53:3 He was despised and rejected— a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief.**

- **Despite the fact that He never sinned and did so many good things to ease suffering, He was eventually hated for it.**
- **He was despised and rejected – we should pause and think about how that feels.**
- **Though He knew all things and knew He would prevail, He was sorrowful.**

**4 Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! 5 But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole.**

**He was whipped so we could be healed.**

- Substitutionary atonement – what we learned from all of those O.T. sacrifices is that another can be substituted in to my place of punishment.**
- Given that the wages (price) of sin is death, having another stand in my place is my only viable option.**

# Jesus Juxtaposed to Us

- **He carried our weaknesses.**
- **Our sorrows weighed Him down.**
- **He was pierced for our rebellion.**
- **He was crushed for our sins.**
- **He was beaten so we could be whole.**
- **He was whipped so we could be healed.**

# **Jesus Attitude in Suffering for us.**

- **“He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word.”**
- **He offered up no protest, like a lamb before its shearers He never opened His mouth.**
- **This is the exact posture of one who not only fully intended to be treated unjustly, but was fully committed to not interrupting it.**

# **Jesus Attitude in Suffering for us.**

- **8 Unjustly condemned, he was led away. No one cared that he died without descendants, that his life was cut short in midstream. But he was struck down for the rebellion of my people. 9 He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave.**
- **When the innocent are condemned there is a certain 'horror' factor about it.**
- **When God is unjustly condemned, there is a certain 'wonder' about it.**

# **10 But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him and cause him grief.**

- **So now we come to an “odd” reality – We see a God who is hard to fathom.**
- **On one hand, He is extremely protective of His name and His glory.**
- **On the other hand, He is eager to sacrifice His own son for those who seek to destroy His name, and try to detract from His glory.**

## **10 But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him and cause him grief.**

- It is important to note that the crucifixion of Jesus, while carried out by Rome with the approval and enthusiasm of the Jews, was orchestrated by His own Father.**
- Matt 26:53 “Don't you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly?”**
- Jesus Himself could have stopped His ordeal if He chose to do so.**

# **10 But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him and cause him grief.**

- **So God had a plan for His son – we can easily get that – most fathers have plans for their sons.**
- **However, in this case the Father's plan was to crush His son and have Him die an excruciatingly painful death.**
- **Why? Because God will not act in way that would belittle the horror and devastation of sin.**



# 10 But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him and cause him grief.

- So when the scriptures tell us that it was God's "good" plan to crush Him and cause Him grief, what are we to make of that?
- The Father did not take pleasure in the sufferings of the Son, but in the effect of those sufferings.
- Heb 12:2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

# **10 But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him and cause him grief.**

- **So what does it all mean?**
- **It means that God was intent on restoring His fallen creation.**
- **It means that sin is an affront to God that must be dealt with.**
- **It means that love has a real meaning beyond any feelings that we associate with it.**

**Rom 5:18 Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. 19 Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.**

**20 God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant.**

**21 So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

# Questions