

**CALVARY PANDAN
BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

DHW BIBLE CLASS

LESSON 53

ISAIAH

CHAPTER 53

Theme: "The Suffering Messiah!"

THEME VERSES

Isaiah 53:10 (KJV) "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."

INTRODUCTION

Chapter 53 of Isaiah is the most read and popular chapter in the entire book. This chapter, which describes the sufferings of Christ, is the most revealing and theologically clear teaching on the suffering of Christ found in the entire Bible. It reveals the heart of the suffering of Christ. What he went through and all that He had to endure in order to save ungrateful and condemned sinners who were in bondage to their sins. All humanity was in this state of condemnation.

This chapter reveals the saving work of Christ in great detail. The Son of God with all the power of God in Him and at His disposal did not lift one

finger to save and free Himself from the wrath of sinful men, instead He willingly allowed Himself to be humiliated, tortured, and killed for the sake of saving sinners. To find this revelation revealed suddenly in the midst of Israel's chastisement is most poignant to say the least. This is the greatest love and hope demonstrated to all humanity and it was done in the midst of Israel and Judah's darkest hour of captivity and exile because of their rebellion and unrepentant sin of idolatry and great wickedness and evil.

What a Saviour we have in Christ Jesus. God incarnate and became a human sacrifice for depraved humanity in order to save and transform them into saints, establishing for them a future home in heaven. This journey of suffering and shame was the only way to save sinful humanity. Christ allowed Himself to be treated like a common criminal so that sinners can be treated as sons of the living God. This made the sacrifice of Christ pleasing to God when He was bruised for man's iniquities.

The end was one of hope and forgiveness offered to all. Israel and Judah were the first to receive this glorious message of the suffering Messiah.

OUTLINE

1. Rejected of Men (vv.1-3);
2. Borne our Sorrows (vv. 4-9);
3. Made an Offering for Sin (vv. 10-12).

COMMENTARY

Rejected of Men – 53:1-3

Who can believe what is written here in this chapter? The revelation is too astounding for human ears and eyes to believe! Would God really take on the form of a suffering man to die for the sins of depraved sinners? Is this truth really too astounding to believe? Could sinful man not concoct up such a concept? Must this concept of God becoming man to die for man originate from God rather than man? The obvious reply is a resounding yes. This concept of Christ becoming a suffering Messiah to save man from his sins has to originate from God for man's way is always by his own works! Sinful man has a very high regard of himself for he always believes that he is good enough to enter heaven on his own merits. This was Cain's problem for he believed that what was good enough for Cain must also be good enough for God so he offered the best of his own hands. This kind of arrogance reveals the depths of man's sinful heart! Christ came to die for such a sin-filled world! It is no wonder that Isaiah says, "Who hath believed our report?"

To whom will the LORD reveal the power of God? The arm of the LORD refers to the power of God. This power of God is none other than the Gospel of Christ, which is the power of God unto salvation to all who believe. The ones are those whom God has elected unto salvation. If you are one of those whom the LORD has revealed this wonderful truth and you have embraced it then the power of God has

touched your life and transformed you by saving you from your sins. But by and large the majority of mankind would reject Christ and choose to die in their sins.

From verses 2 onwards the focus is on Christ. Christ would grow up as an infant born of the Virgin Mary. This growth of Christ from infancy, albeit in sinless perfection from the beginning to the end of His life, without any special distinction, would cause all who have seen Him on earth to think or believe that He was God incarnate. The only people who know for sure would be His mother Mary and Joseph to whom the LORD revealed the truth by the angel of the LORD regarding special conception that came upon the Virgin Mary by the Holy Ghost. Other than the two of them not even the half brothers of Christ were able to see His deity. That was why Isaiah says, "there is no beauty that we should desire him." His humanity was so evident that it masks His deity as Christ grew from infancy into adulthood, without at anytime surrendering His deity other than to set aside the outward glory of Godhood when Christ became man.

Not only were sinful men not able to see His deity when He walked on earth, men also despised Him. They wanted Him dead because of what He revealed about Himself. He experienced all the sorrows of man when He walked on earth. He experienced thirst and hunger, tiredness and sleepiness and all the weaknesses of the flesh but He did not sin even though He was tempted in all

points just as we are. We (Isaiah included himself as well as he rightly should) hid as it were our faces from Him, meaning to say we were ashamed of Him as one who was loathsome and abominable. We refused to be seen with Him and be identified with Him. We despised him and we did not esteem Him as the Son of God but merely the son of man.

Borne our Sorrows – 53:4-9

He carried our sorrows and griefs when he walked on this earth all the way to the cross. He suffered public humiliation and scorn for our sins. But we believed that He was stricken and smitten by God as if He had sinned. It must have been God who afflicted Him for what He has done wrong when all the while it was for our sins that He was afflicted. He endured all the pain and suffering and punishment, which were meant for our transgressions and iniquities. God calls what He endured for us, "the chastisement of our peace was upon Him..." He was beaten and buffeted so that we might gain peace with God. The beatings He endured should have been our beatings but He bore them all. By the stripes he received we were healed. This healing is with reference to our sins and not our diseases.

All of us are like sheep that have gone astray. We have all gone our own way, doing what is wrong even though we think that we might be right. Lost sheep are not able to return on their own. They have to be led back. This is why God has compared our state of sin as lost sheep. If God would not do all the saving and leading

us back to Himself we would still be lost.

Christ is also regarded as a sheep here but with a very different meaning. In His case it was the gentle and guileless demeanour of sheep that is being emphasized. He was led as a lamb to the slaughter without opening His mouth. When a lamb is led to the slaughter and it knows that it is about to die, it will not make any sound. This is a picture of the willingness of Christ going to the cross for us. He was not forced to do it but He willingly did it in obedience to His Father's will.

Christ died on the cross for the transgressions of Israel and all of us too. He was buried with the wicked and the rich in His death. What it means was that after His death he was buried like a common criminal but in Christ's case the tomb He was buried in was a rich man's tomb. Christ incarnate died for our transgressions and iniquities but He had never sinned not even in His speech!

Made an Offering for Sin – 53:10-12

Christ's suffering for our sins was God's doing, not man's. God allowed Him to be by the hands of sinful men. God put Christ to grief and made an offering an offering for our sins. The concept of offering brings us back to the Levitical system of sacrifice, which was a type of Christ's suffering. The perfect Lamb of God takes away the sins of the world. But only an elect few would benefit from this infinite and great sacrifice.

Christ will be resurrected from the dead for He shall see His seed and

the LORD shall prolong His days. The pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand means that the salvation of all mankind is placed in the hand of Christ. Christ's work of redemption will be a resounding success for He shall justify many. The Bible made it clear here that it was not universalism that is being taught and it is not even implied here. Christ is described here as "my righteous servant" by God. Christ and God both know that Christ did not do anything wrong when Christ was crucified and died like a common criminal. By His sacrificial and cruel death, he will justify sinners, meaning bringing about the forgiveness of sins to many. He shall bear their iniquities.

Christ would be gloriously raised from the dead and shall divide the spoils with the strong for it was a battle that Christ entered into and He has won handsomely. Without the salvation of Christ there would be no human beings in heaven to rejoice with God. The human beings are the redeemed, which are the spoils of war that Christ claimed for Himself. He died for the transgressors by being identified with the transgressors. What a Saviour we have in Christ Jesus our Lord! Amen.

DAILY READINGS & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Daily Readings

MONDAY: Isaiah 53:1-12

TUESDAY: Isaiah 53:1-12

WEDNESDAY: Isaiah 53:1-12

THURSDAY: Isaiah 53:1-12

FRIDAY: Isaiah 53:1-12

Discussion Questions

- 1. Have you accepted Christ as your Lord and Saviour? If the answer is yes, please share your testimony of salvation.

- 2. Would you be different and be able to see both the deity and humanity of Christ if you had lived on the earth in the first century A.D. and walked with Christ? Please elaborate.

- 3. Is it possible to interpret the phrase "with His stripes we are healed" to mean a healing of our sicknesses? Please explain.

person who does not offer his life as a living sacrifice would be considered as an unbeliever?

4. Would you say that the work of Christ to save us was completed when he died on the cross or when He was resurrected or perhaps even ascended?

7. What lessons have you learnt from this chapter about God's Word and about yourself?

5. Is human sacrifice always wrong? Human sacrifice means putting a human being to death to please someone.

6. Is your life a living sacrifice, where you are living for Christ? What exactly does it mean? Is offering our life a living sacrifice for Christ evidence of salvation such that a