

ISAIAH 53

1 Who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the Lord
been revealed?
2 He grew up before him like a tender
shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us
to him,
nothing in his appearance that we
should desire him.
3 He was despised and rejected by
mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with
pain.
Like one from whom people hide their
faces
he was despised, and we held him in low
esteem.
4 Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.
5 But he was pierced for our
transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was
on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

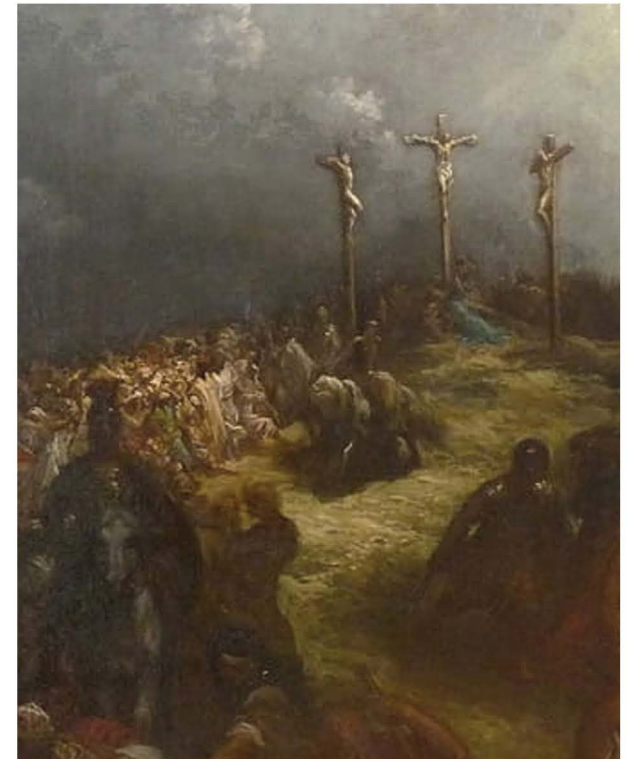
7 He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before its shearers is
silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

8 By oppression and judgment he was
taken away.
Yet who of his generation protested?
For he was cut off from the land of the
living;
for the transgression of my people he
was punished.

9 He was assigned a grave with the
wicked,
and with the rich in his death,
though he had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in his mouth.

10 Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him
and cause him to suffer,
and though the Lord makes his life an
offering for sin,
he will see his offspring and prolong his
days,
and the will of the Lord will prosper in
his hand.

11 After he has suffered,
he will see the light of life[d] and be
satisfied[e];
by his knowledge my righteous servant
will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.
12 Therefore I will give him a portion
among the great,
and he will divide the spoils with the
strong,
because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the
transgressors.
For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the
transgressors.



Who has believed our report? Prophetically, Isaiah anticipates at least two things here. First, he anticipates how strange and contradictory it seems that this suffering Messiah, whose visage is marred more than any man, is at the same time salvation and cleansing to the nations. Second, he anticipates the rejection of the Messiah, that many would not believe our report.

And by His stripes we are healed: Here, the prophet sees through the centuries to know that the Messiah would be beaten with many stripes (Mark 15:15). More so, the prophet announces that provision for healing is found in the suffering of Jesus, so by His stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way: Here the prophet describes our need for the Messiah's atoning work. Sheep are stupid, headstrong animals, and we, like they, have gone astray. We have turned – against God's way, every one, to his own way. We all have our own way of sin. The constant temptation is to condemn your way of sin, and to justify my way of sin. But each way that is our own way instead of the LORD's way is a sinful, destructive, damned way.

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And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all: Here we see the partnership between the Father and the Son in the work on the cross. If the Messiah was wounded for our transgressions, then it was also the LORD who laid on Him the iniquity of us all. The Father judged our iniquity as it was laid on the Son.

Because He poured out His soul unto death: This speaks of the totality of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Poured out means that it was all gone. There was nothing left, nothing more He could give.

“He hath poured out his soul unto death.’ I will say no more about it, except that you see how complete it was. Jesus gave poor sinners everything. His every faculty was laid out for them. To his last rag he was stripped upon the cross. No part of his body or of his soul was kept back from being made a sacrifice. The last drop, as I said before, was poured out till the cup was drained. He made no reserve: he kept not back even his innermost self: ‘He hath poured out his soul unto death.’” (Spurgeon)



#13

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