

His Story, Our Glory / “OUR SIN BEARER”

As we continue with this series from the prophecy of the coming Messiah in **Isaiah 53**, I ask you to open your Bibles there (**pg 1455**). In this lesson I’m calling “**Christ, The Sin Bearer**”_ listen to what “*The Suffering Servant*” would accomplish for us in that regard.

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 men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. ⁴ Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten 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 upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to His 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 her shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment He was taken away. And who can speak of His descendants? For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people He was stricken. 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 a guilt offering, He will see His offspring and prolong His days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in His hand. ¹¹ After the suffering of His soul, He will see the light [of life] and be satisfied; 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.

Once more, **750** years before Christ was born_ Isaiah foretold what Jesus would do for us. Did you hear the many references to our “**transgressions**” and “**iniquities**” and “**sins**” – and how much He suffered because of them? These words can be used to address the same condition, but they carry different connotations. “**Transgressions**” imply the breaking of specific laws. The word for “**sin**” literally means to miss the mark, so it includes our failures, even when we’ve made our best effort, we fall short of perfection. “**Iniquities**” hones in on the premeditated, presumptuous, even evil and wicked things we have done. It is sometimes translated to reflect lawlessness_ which is nothing short of unbridled, selfish choices without any consideration for right or wrong.

David was confronted by Nathan after He had committed adultery and conspired in a cover up that led to his complicity in the murder of an innocent man. His response is recorded in **Psalm 32:3-5**: “**When I kept silent (about this), my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.**” His sin almost did him in before he came clean. “**I acknowledged my sin to You and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.”** That’s from the lips of the man referred to as one after God’s own heart. He admitted that he was guilty of all three variations of offenses against God. He did not try to belittle or justify his actions.

He'd done horrible things_ and he knew that His sin had come between him and God. **Isaiah 59:1-2** tells us of the destructive nature of sinful rebellion. **"Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor His ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God."** We may want to deny it or try to ignore it, but sin always results in *sorrow, death, and eventually condemnation*.

Sadly, too many people stop reading there. In **Isaiah 59:20** it says: **"The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins," declares the LORD.** God was going to send a Redeemer_ someone who could and would reach out and rescue any who would realize the seriousness of their sin and repent. Did you notice the phrase back in **verse 2 "The arm of the Lord"**? Where have we read that before? The first verse of **Isaiah 53** says: **"To whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"** God had often reached out to rescue His people_ and He was declaring that no matter how far away they might have wandered, He was willing to do it again.

The arm of the Lord is Jesus. He is the Redeemer. He is the One who God promised to send to bear the sins of all who will accept His sacrifice. He is our guilt offering. We may feel we are "good" people who don't deserve punishment or need someone to take our place. Listen carefully. Such an attitude blocks God's grace.

The truth is that we are all guilty of *"transgressions"* and *"iniquities"* and *"sins"* - and until we begin to comprehend the seriousness of our condition we will not be able to fully appreciate what Christ has done for us_ let alone appropriate it. Jesus sacrifice on the cross makes restitution for me_ but I will not benefit from what He did if I do not acknowledge my need to be forgiven. He's reaching out to me_ but I have to take His hold of His hand.

Some lyrics I find particularly convicting are from a song entitled **"On My Cross"** – by FAR FROM HOME. I don't think I can say it better than they do.

**How wide is Your love_ that You would stretch Your arms_ And go around the world
And why, for me, would a Savior's cry be heard**

**I don't know_ Why You went where I was meant to go
I don't know_ Why You love me so**

*** Those were my nails, That was my crown; That pierced Your hands and Your brow
Those were my thorns, Those were my scorns; Those were my tears that fell down**

**And just as You said it would be, You did it all for me
After You counted the cost, You took my shame, my blame_ On my cross**

**How deep is Your grace
That you could see my need_ And choose to take my place
And then for me, these words I'd hear You say**

**Father no! Forgive them for they know not what they do
I will go_ because I love them so**

****Repeat chorus twice / tag***

Jesus is my friend, but, more than that, He is my Savior. **He bore my sin.** He suffered the consequences, the shame, the penalty, and the pain of my sin_ and yours, too. Why? Because He loves us so.