

I. Introduction.

- A. The Passion of the Christ was described 700 years before the fact. I Pe. 1:10-11
- B. An overview of Isaiah 53. (Actually Isa. 52:13-53:12)
 - 1. God's Servant will be lifted up (exaltation). 52:13-15
 - 2. God's Servant will be rejected (suffering). 53:1-3
 - 3. God's Servant suffered for us (substitution). 53:4-6
 - 4. God's Servant willingly died (suffering). 53:7-9
 - 5. God's Servant is victorious (exaltation). 53:10-12
- C. Introductory Summary: God's Suffering Servant will be exalted. 52:13-15 **Ro. 15:21**

II. Isaiah vividly foretells Jesus' suffering unto death. v. 1-3, 7-9

- A. God's suffering Servant will be rejected by rebellious men. v. 1-3 **Jo. 12:38 Ro. 10:16**
 - 1. Few will believe His message. v. 1 Mt. 16:16 John 6:44
 - 2. His lowly appearance will turn people away. v. 2 Ps. 22:6 118:22 John 1:11
 - 3. He will be despised and forsaken of men. v. 3 Mark 14:43f 15:9-15
 - 4. The same unbelief exists today. I Cor. 1:18ff 2:14
- B. He will endure unspeakable agony. v. 7a, 10a Mt. 27:26ff
 - 1. He would be oppressed by His enemies. Mt. 26:57-68 27:11f
 - 2. He would be afflicted. Mt. 27:26-32
- C. He would humbly endure His suffering. v. 7b **Acts 8:32-33 I Pe. 2:22**
 - 1. He would silently endure abuse. Mt. 27:14 26:53,62-63 Luke 23:9 I Pet. 2:21-24
 - 2. He would go to his death willingly. v. 7 Mark 15:4-5 Phil. 2:8 John 10:18 Jo. 18:4
- D. The LORD's Servant would suffer unto death. v. 8, 9a, 12
 - 1. The Lamb of God died. John 1:29,36 Rev. 5:9 Mt. 27:33-37 I Co. 5:7
 - 2. Jesus died as a wicked man with wicked men. v. 9a Lu. 22:37 Mt. 27:38 Lev. 16:21
 - 3. He shared a rich man's tomb. v. 9b Mt. 27:57-59
- E. He would be totally innocent of any wrongdoing. v. 9cd Luke 23:4 Heb. 4:15 **II**
Cor. 5:21 I Pe. 2:22 John 8:36
- F. You who follow Christ should expect to suffer in His steps. I Pet. 2:21f Mark 8:34f

III. Isaiah explains Jesus' suffering: Penal substitution. v. 4-6 Mt. 8:17

- A. Our sin is grievous and deserves punishment. v. 6a, 5
 - 1. God created all people for His own glory. Isa. 43:7
 - 2. Each of us is guilty of going his own way: *transgressions, iniquities*. Prov. 14:12
 - 3. We owe a great debt of guilt which we could not pay: griefs, sorrows. Rom. 6:23
 - 4. If not for the work of Christ, the human race would perish. Isa. 1:11 Heb. 10:4f
- B. God's servant Jesus stood in our place and paid the penalty we owed. v. 4-5, 6c
 - 1. The mobs thought he did something to deserve his suffering. v. 4c
 - 2. He deliberately took our suffering upon Himself. v. 4
 - 3. He suffered in our place: substitution. v.4a,5,6c,8,11e,12de II Co. 5:21 I Pet. 2:24
3:18 Jo. 10:11 1:29 Mark 10:45 *Why is this concept repeated at least ten times?*
 - 4. His suffering on our behalf was awful.
 - 5. We are like Barabbas, in whose place Jesus died. Mt. 27:15-23 Mark 15:6-15

- C. His work is complete. v. 4b, 5 II Cor. 8:9 Rom. 5:19 3:25-26 I Pet. 2:24 John 19:30 I Pe. 3:18 Heb. 10:11-12
- D. It was the LORD (the Father) who punished Him in our place. v. 4d, 6c, 10a Acts 4:27-28 John 6:38 Mt. 27:46 Ps. 115:3 135:6 Rev. 13:8
1. His death was not an historical accident, or merely a tragic martyrdom.
 2. There is a sense in which Jesus' enemies were right. He was stricken by God.
 3. His suffering comes from the Father's hand. v. 4d, 6c, 10a
 4. How could the LORD be pleased to crush Him? v.

IV. Isaiah declares Jesus' victory and resurrection. v. 10-12 Luke 22:37

- A. The LORD will be well pleased with the Servant's work. v. 10a Heb. 2:10
- B. God's Servant will be fully satisfied with the fruit of His anguish. v. 10b-12 52:13,15 Heb. 12:2 Rev. 5:5
1. He will see many spiritual offspring. v. 10c,11c 52:15a 49:6-7 Ge. 12:3 3:15
 2. He will conquer His enemies. v. 12ab Gen. 3:15 Col. 2:15 I John 3:8 Eph. 4:7-8
 3. He will be highly exalted. 52:13 53:12a,10f Phil. 2:5-11 Acts 2:33 Col. 3:1 Heb. 1:3
 4. His days will be prolonged. v. 10d
- C. Isaiah proclaims the resurrection! v. 10def,11ab 9:7 Luke 24:26-27,46f Mark 8:31 Rom. 4:24 Ps. 16:10-11 Acts 2:29-36,24
- D. We share His victory. Rom. 6:1f

V. Concluding applications. Rev. 5:12 John 15:13 Phil. 2:5-11 I Cor. 15:51-58 I Jo. 3:1-3

VI. Appendix: How does Isaiah 53 speak to the question of for whom did Christ die?

- A. He died for *His people, the many*, not all. v. 8d, 12d Mark 10:45 John 10:11,26 Eph. 5:25 Rev. 5:9
- B. He is fully satisfied with the fruit of His anguish because all (*the many*) whom He intended to save will be saved. v. 11ab
1. If He died intending to save all without exception, the salvation of only some would not be satisfactory. 53:1
 2. He saved every person whom He intended to save. John 6:37
No benefit to those who reject God's report.
- C. If He has been pierced through for the transgressions and crushed for the iniquities of all people without exception, then all people without exception would have to be saved because God would have no just basis upon which to punish anyone.

Discussion Questions

1. Who is the Servant?
2. When was Isaiah 53 written?
3. In what ways does Isaiah 53 describe the sufferings of Christ?
4. What does Isaiah 53 teach about the nature and purpose of Christ's suffering?
5. Where in Isaiah 53 is the resurrection of Christ?
6. Why was the LORD pleased to crush the Servant?
7. What are the results of the Son's suffering?
8. How does Isaiah 53 speak to the question of for whom did Christ die?