

# THE RESULT OF THE SAVIOUR'S SUFFERING, HIS ATONING DEATH

## ISAIAH 53:10–12

### *Introduction*

*Isaiah 53* is the summit, the Mount Everest of biblical prophecy. In this chapter, the Saviour of the world is seen suffering for the sins of the human race, and the scene and meaning of His death are described in surprising detail. For true believers, *Isaiah 53* is one of the most heartbreaking yet cherished passages of Scripture, for it describes the brutal treatment and horrible sufferings Christ endured *on our behalf*.

A marked feature of *Isaiah 53* is the vicarious, substitutionary death of God's "suffering Servant," the promised Messiah. Emphasizing this theme time and again, *Isaiah* predicts that the Saviour will die "for our sins." He will die "in our place," "on our behalf," "in our stead," "for us," "as our *substitute*." Paying the penalty of sin *for us*, the Saviour will set us free from the bondage of sin, death and hell. Through His death, we have received from God the most amazing healing and salvation. We have been saved from the bondages of sin and death, and from the coming terrifying judgment of God against all unrepentant sinners.

Meditating on the sufferings of Christ will break a person's heart, for they overwhelm human imagination. Christ bore all the sadistic, brutal treatment due us — every one of us. Grasping this truth is bound to drive us to the ground on our faces before Him.

Interestingly, this prophecy about the Messiah's sufferings was written more than seven hundred years before the coming of Jesus Christ. How then do we know that this Scripture is a prophecy about Christ and not someone else? There are several facts that show beyond any doubt that Jesus Christ is the suffering Servant of God, the Saviour of the world.

First, *Isaiah* predicts time and again that God's Servant will definitely be the Messiah (42:1f; 49:1f; 50:1f; 52:12f; also see 9:6-7). And passages throughout the New Testament repeatedly identify Jesus Christ as the Messiah promised by God (Mat 8:16-17; 11:2-6; 16:16; 26:63-64; Mark 15:25-28; Luke 2:10-11; 2:25-32; 4:41; 24:45-48; John 1:41; 1:49; 4:25-26; 6:14, 68-69; 8:28; 11:25-27; Acts 8:26-40; 9:22; 17:2-4; 1 Pet 2:21-24; 1 John 5:1).

Second, Philip the evangelist identified the suffering Servant of *Isaiah 53* with Christ. An Ethiopian eunuch was once reading from the fifty-third chapter of *Isaiah*, and he asked Philip who the suffering Servant was. Without hesitation or equivocation, Philip replied that it was Jesus. Then he explained how Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of the suffering Saviour (Acts 8:26-40).

Third, Paul says that this chapter refers to the preaching of the gospel and to a person's confession of Christ as the Saviour of the world (Rom 10:9-10, 13, 16; compared with 53:1).

---

Fourth, the apostle John says that Isaiah 53 applies to Christ (Jn. 12:37-38; compared with 53:1).

Fifth, as Warren W. Wiersbe points out, up until the twelfth century, Jewish scholars interpreted Isaiah 53 as Messianic and identified God's Servant as the Messiah. After the twelfth century, however, scholars began interpreting the passage as a reference to the sufferings of the nation Israel. But how could Israel die for the sins of Israel (v. 8)? Also, how could anyone declare that Israel was innocent of sin and had suffered unjustly (v. 9)? Isaiah 53 presents a suffering Servant who is sinless, completely innocent and unworthy of death. The prophecy does not concern a nation of innocent people, but rather an individual who suffers for the sins of the entire world, for people such as the Ethiopian eunuch (52:15; Acts 8:26-40). (Warren W. Wiersbe. *Be Comforted*. p. 132)

Isaiah 53 is a graphic description of the suffering Servant of God, who is identified in the New Testament as Jesus Christ. Because God loved the world so much, He sent His Son to save the human race from the bondages of sin, death and the terrifying judgment to come. Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world, who forgives the sins of all who truly believe and love Him, obeying His holy commandments. This is, *The Saviour's Suffering, His Atoning Death*, Isaiah 52:13-53:12.

- I. The Saviour came for four very specific purposes (52:13-15).
- II. The Saviour suffered rejection (53:1-3).
- III. The Saviour suffered for the penalty of sin (53:4-6).
- IV. The Saviour suffered willingly but unjustly: Was the sinless Son of God (53:7-9).
- V. The results of the Saviour's suffering (53:10-12).

### ***Isaiah 53:10–12 The Result of the Saviour's Suffering, His Atoning Death***

The closing verses of this great prophecy about Christ's death describe the results of the Saviour's sufferings. Up to this point, the bitter hatred and hostility of the Saviour's enemies, the cruel and brutal mistreatment of the Saviour, and the horrible sufferings endured by the Saviour have been the focus. But now the great victory of the cross is discussed. Six wonderful results have taken place since the death of God's Servant, the Messiah and Saviour of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ:

1. The Saviour became the substitute sacrifice for sin (v. 10). His *substitutionary death* is the major theme of this great chapter of Isaiah. Jesus Christ did not die as a martyr, as someone put to death for his beliefs. Nor did He die as an example, as someone showing us how to face death with a positive attitude. He died neither by accident nor because fate decided it was time for Him to die. Jesus Christ died deliberately, purposefully and at the hands of God the Father. God Himself had determined that His Son would die for the sins of the world. His death was predetermined, planned by God before human history even began:

**Acts 2:22-23** *“Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.*

**2 Tim 1:9-10** *[God] who has saved us and called us to a holy life — not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time. But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*

From the beginning, knowing that man would sin and need to be saved, it was God’s plan to bruise (crush) Christ on the cross. God filled Christ with the grief or suffering for the sins of the world. Christ Himself was to be offered up as the *perfect sacrifice* for the sins of every human being who ever lived. Never again would animal sacrifices be needed, for with Christ’s death, the perfect sacrifice to which they pointed had been offered. Jesus Christ, God’s very own Son, had died as the perfect offering, the *substitute sacrifice* for the sins of the entire world. Note how this fact is emphasized throughout the entire chapter:

- => He bore our griefs and sorrows (v. 4).
- => He was wounded for our transgression and bruised for our iniquities (v. 5).
- => The Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all (v. 6).
- => He was brought as a lamb to the slaughter to be offered to God as a substitute sacrifice (v. 7).
- => He was stricken for the transgression of God’s people (v. 8).
- => God made His soul an offering for sin (v. 10).
- => He bore their iniquities (v. 11).
- => He bore the sins of many (v. 12).

**John 1:29** *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”*

**Rom 5:6** *You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.*

**1 Cor 5:7** *Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast — as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.*

**1 Cor 15:3** *For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.*

**2 Cor 5:15** *And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

**Eph 5:2** *And live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

**Titus 2:14** *who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*

**1 John 3:16** *This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.*

2. Through death, the Saviour has produced many offspring, a multitude of people who truly believe in Him and follow His righteous commandments. Looking down through the centuries, Christ saw the true believers of every generation, those who would repent of their sins and turn back to God. He foresaw a victorious people who would conquer the temptations and trials of life, who would bear strong testimony to the gospel through His atoning sacrifice. A great, spiritual family of true believers has been born because the Saviour died on the cross for their sins.

**John 1:12** *“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”*

**John 3:16** *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

**Rom 1:16** *I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.*

**Rom 10:9-10** *That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.*

**Eph 2:1-9** *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, In which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, In order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.*

3. The Saviour prolonged His days. He rose from the dead and now advances God's work throughout the world (v. 10). Jesus Christ is not dead. He did not remain in the grave. He arose and ascended into heaven, where He is seated at the right hand of

God the Father. For the remainder of human history, Christ will be busy *working all things out for good* on behalf of true believers, those who genuinely love and obey Him. Working through His true followers, He is continuing to carry the gospel of salvation to the world. The deep longing of the Saviour's heart is for many more to be delivered from sin and death, for many to live eternally with Him.

a. Jesus Christ arose from the dead.

**Acts 3:14-15** *You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.*

**Acts 4:33** *With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.*

**Acts 10:39-41** *“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen — by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.*

**Acts 17:2-3** *As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ,” he said.*

**Rom 1:3-4** *The gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures Regarding his [God's] Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**Rom 10:9-10** *That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.*

**1 Cor 15:1-4** *Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance : that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.*

**1 Pet 1:3-4** *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. And into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade kept in heaven for you.*



b. Jesus Christ is actively working to carry out and advance God's work on earth. Through the presence of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers, Christ helps them as they bear testimony to the message of salvation.

1). Christ comforts believers through the Person of the Holy Spirit.

**John 14:26** *"But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."*

2). Christ bears strong testimony to the salvation He provides through the Person of the Holy Spirit.

**Jn. 15:26** *"When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father — the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father — he will testify about me."*

3). Christ pierces and convicts the heart of people through the Person of the Holy Spirit.

**John 16:7-11** *"But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8 When he comes he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: In regard to sin because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned."*

4). Christ sets people free from the law of sin and death through the law of His Spirit.

**Rom 8:1-2** *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.*

5). Christ guarantees the security of those who truly believe and obey His Holy commandments.

**Rom 8:34-39** *Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died more than that, who was raised to life is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love [compassion] of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

6). Christ encourages and helps believers when they are tempted or confronted with any severe trial or hardship.

**Heb 2:17-18** *For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and*

*that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.*

**Heb 4:15-16** *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

- 7). Christ continually intercedes for believers. His ministry of intercession means that He represents, upholds and prays for true believers throughout their entire lives. Through His death on the cross, Christ guaranteed eternal salvation for every true believer.

**Heb 7:25-27** *Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest meets our need — one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.*

- 8). Christ works all things out for good for His people as they carry on the work of God.

**Rom 8:28** *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

**John 6:28-29** *Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?” Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”*

4. The Saviour conquered death and brought *satisfaction* to everyone involved (v. 11). When Christ looked back at all had achieved, He felt a deep sense of fulfilment, for He had carried out God's will *perfectly*. He had fully achieved that which He had set out to do, making it possible for all people to be forgiven their sins and to become acceptable to God. On the cross, Christ uttered these astounding words: “It is finished” (Jn. 19:30). The work of redemption was finished, and now any person who wishes can be reconciled with God.

**John 19:30** *When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

God the Father was also satisfied, very pleased with the work of His Son. At both the baptism and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, God announced, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Mat 3:17; 17:5; Mark 1:11; 9:7; Luke 3:22; 9:35; 2 Pet 1:17). God put His stamp of approval upon His Son throughout His entire life, for Christ always did those things that pleased the Father, in particular dying upon the cross.

**John 8:29** *“The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.”*

*Acts 2:22-24* “Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.”

Naturally, believers find deep satisfaction and fulfilment in the cross. When believers turn to the LORD by faith, they are set free from their sin, death, and the judgment to come. Furthermore, they are given the wonderful inheritance of living eternally with God in the promised land of heaven.

*Acts 10:36* You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

*Col 1:20* And through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

*Heb. 4:1-3* Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith. Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, “So I declared on oath in my anger, ‘They shall never enter my rest.’”

*Heb. 4:9-11* There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.

*Psa 17:15* And I — in righteousness I will see your face; when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness.

*Psa 107:9* for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

5. The Saviour made justification possible through His death on the cross (v. 11). To justify means to declare a person righteous. Justice always demands that the lawbreaker be condemned and the righteous be set free. Since all of us have broken God’s law, we all stand condemned to bear the penalty, which is death. But Christ has already died for us, bearing the penalty of death on our behalf. Therefore, if we trust Christ as our Saviour, allowing Him to cover us with His righteousness, God justifies us. He declares us righteous. He credits righteousness to our account. This is the meaning of justification. We are not righteous, but God declares us righteous when we give our lives to His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Justification is one of the greatest gifts we receive as a result of Christ’s death on the cross.



*Acts 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.*

*Rom 3:23-25 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. And are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished.*

*Rom. 5:18-19 Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.*

*Rom 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*1 Cor 6:9-11 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

*Ga1 3:6 Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."*

*Gal 3:22-24 But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe. Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.*

6. The Saviour is now honoured by believers as the great conqueror and victor, the LORD and Sovereign Majesty of the universe (v. 12). Believers look to Christ as the great conqueror of sin, death and hell. But not everyone believes that Jesus Christ is the Saviour, the promised Messiah. Some do not even believe in God, much less in Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, the day is coming when God the Father will send Jesus Christ back to earth. On the last days of human history, Christ will return to set up God's kingdom on earth. On that day, every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is indeed who He claimed to be: the promised Messiah, the Saviour of the world. In that day, even the unbelievers — those who rejected the Saviour, the great and the small, the rulers and the citizens — will bow the knee before Him.

When that day arrives, believers will receive their reward. Christ will divide the wealth of His conquests with the strong, those who have placed their trust in Christ. Believers will appropriately exalt His name to the highest...

- because He died as a transgressor for them
- because He bore their sins
- because He made intercession for all sinners

For these reasons and so many more, Jesus Christ will be exalted on high. He will be given all the praise from all creatures of all time, both in this and any other universe that might exist. He will be given all the glory, majesty, dominion and power, forever and ever. And on that day, believers will stand in stark amazement because Christ will share His inheritance with all who truly believe and love Him.

**John 14:2-3** *“In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”*

**Rom 8:16-18** *The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit, that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.*

**Rom. 14:11** *It is written: “‘As I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee shall bow before me; every tongue will confess to God’”*

**Phil 2:6-12** *Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed — not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence — continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.*

**Phil 3:20-21** *But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

**Col 3:4** *When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

**2 Tim 2:10** *Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.*

**1 Th 4:16-18** *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.*

**1 Pet 5:1** *To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed.*

**Rev 15:4** *"Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."*

**Rev 22:5** *There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.*

**Isa 45:22-23** *"Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear."*

**Isa. 66:23** *"From one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me," says the Lord. ■*