WHY DID JESUS SUFFER? - So Much More Than Commonly Thought - Part One

- ISAIAH 53 -

INTRODUCTION

A. The importance of understanding Isaiah 53 is clearly seen in the reading of - Acts 8:26-38

1. Acts 8:26-38 (NKJV) - 26 Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, “Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is desert. 27 So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, 28 was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.” 30 So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31 And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 The place in the Scripture which he read was this: “He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth. 33 In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth.” 34 So the eunuch answered Philip and said, “I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?” 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. 36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?” 37 Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” 38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

B. That the gospel message is - Jesus died and shed His blood for our sins... “A MAN OF SORROWS - WHAT A NAME...” as we sing, was the beginning point of Philip’s message can’t be denied.

1. According to the Jewish Scriptures - 1 Co 15:3; Isa 53:4-6
   a. 1 Corinthians 15:3 (NKJV) - 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
   b. Isaiah 53:4-6 (NKJV) - 4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

2. Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins - Heb 9:22; Eph 1:7
   a. Hebrews 9:22 (NKJV) - 22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.
   b. Ephesians 1:7 (NKJV) - 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

C. In this two part lesson - I want to examine Isaiah 52:13-53:12 - really get to know what this prophet of old saw some 750 years before the event of the Cross.

1. The book of Isaiah is one of the Dead Sea Scrolls - The Great Isaiah Scroll (1QIsaa) is one of the original seven Dead Sea Scrolls discovered in Qumran in 1947.
2. The largest and best preserved of all the biblical scrolls, Contains all 66 chapters of the Hebrew version.
3. Dating from ca. 125 BCE, it is also one of the oldest of the Dead Sea Scrolls, some one thousand years older than the oldest manuscripts of the Hebrew Bible known to us before the scrolls' discovery.
4. Important find demonstrating the accuracy of current manuscripts.
5. It Was Well known among the Jews - as is seen in the Ethiopian Eunuch - yet not understood -
and it is my fear that this is true even today.

a. A passage widely quoted or read at the Lord’s Table (Isa 53) on Sundays is possibly the best known of the book, and yet it is so much more than just a reading.

b. Sixty-one separate passages are referred to eighty-five times in the New Testament.


D. Yet it is not unusual to wonder: why couldn't Jesus have simply just died a quick death...

1. Animal sacrifices were killed with a quick slice of the knife
2. Why did Jesus have to endure the scourging, mocking, and crucifixion?

E. Next week I hope to answer the Why, then, did Jesus suffer question?

1. But before we consider the Biblical response to that question, let's first note that His suffering actually included much more than is commonly thought...] ----- this is a the HOW He suffered part.

2. His suffering was so much more than just the Cross - remember that this event was only 1 day in the life of Christ, not to minimize the cross, but to understand so much more.

3. It is in this that I see the prophetic statements of Isaiah - starting in Isaiah 52:13-53:12

a. Isaiah 52:13-53:12 (NKJV) - 13 Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. 14 Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men; 15 So shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; For what had not been told them they shall see, And what they had not heard they shall consider. 1 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? 2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. 3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. 8 He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. 9 And they made His grave with the wicked— But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth. 10 Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You 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. 11 He shall see the labor of His hands, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. 11 He shall see the labor of His hands, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

II. THE THINGS THAT HE SUFFERED -

A. The Messiah would be rejected - Isa 53:1; Jn 12:37-38; Rom. 10:16; Jn 1:11; 11:42; 15:24; Mt. 11:20; Lk. 16:31.

1. Isaiah 53:1 (NKJV) - 1 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord
been revealed?

2. **John 12:37-38 (NKJV)** - 37 But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, 38 that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: “Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

3. **Romans 10:16 (NKJV)** - 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?”

4. **John 1:11 (NKJV)** - 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

5. **John 11:42 (NKJV)** - 42 And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.”

6. **John 15:24 (NKJV)** - 24 If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father.

7. **Matthew 11:20 (NKJV)** - 20 Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent:

8. **Luke 16:31 (NKJV)** - 31 But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’ ”

B. The Messiah’s appearance unappealing - **Isa 53:2; Mark 6:3; (birth, Lk 2:7; home, Lk 2:39; poor, Lk 9:58; etc.)**

1. **Isaiah 53:2 (NKJV)** - 2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him.

2. **Mark 6:3 (NKJV)** - 3 Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?” So they were offended at Him.

3. **Luke 2:7 (NKJV)** - 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

4. **Luke 2:39 (NKJV)** - 39 So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth.

5. **Luke 9:58 (NKJV)** - 58 And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”


1. **Isaiah 53:3 (NKJV)** - 3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

2. **Matthew 26:37 (NKJV)** - 37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.
   a. **Matthew 26:38 (NKJV)** - 38 Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.”

3. **Mark 14:34 (NKJV)** - 34 Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch.”

4. **Luke 19:41 (NKJV)** - 41 Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it,

5. **Luke 4:15 (NKJV)** - 15 And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

6. **Luke 5:7 (NKJV)** - 7 So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

7. **Matthew 26:67 (NKJV)** - 67 Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands,

8. **Matthew 27:39-44 (NKJV)** - 39 And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads 40 and saying, “You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” 41 Likewise the chief priests also, mocking
with the scribes and elders, said, 42 “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. 43 He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ” 44 Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing.

9. **John 18:40** (NKJV) - 40 Then they all cried again, saying, “Not this Man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.

D. “Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows” - [Isa 53:4; Matt 8:17; Heb. 9:28; 1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18; 1 Jno. 2:2.](#) - (Griefs & sorrows, [lit. sickness] = “transgressions” (v. 5,8,12), “iniquities” (vv. 5, 6,11), “wicked” (v. 9), and “sin” (v. 12)).

1. Isaiah 53:4 (NKJV) - 4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

2. Matthew 8:17 (NKJV) - 17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: “He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses.”

3. Hebrews 9:28 (NKJV) - 28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

4. 1 Peter 2:24 (NKJV) - 24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness— by whose stripes you were healed.

5. 1 Peter 3:18 (NKJV) - 18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

E. “Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.” - [Isa 53:4; Luke 23:34; Acts 3:17; 1 Cor 2:8](#)

1. Isaiah 53:4 (NKJV) - 4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

2. Luke 23:34 (NKJV) - 34 Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” And they divided His garments and cast lots.

3. Acts 3:17 (NKJV) - 17 “Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers.

4. 1 Corinthians 2:8 (NKJV) - 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

5. (falsely accused of sin, thought His suffering deserved - [John 19:7; Matt 27:41-43](#))
   a. John 19:7 (NKJV) - 7 The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God.”
   b. Matthew 27:41-43 (NKJV) - 41 Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, 42 “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. 43 He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ”

III. BEFORE HIS PASSION...

A. For thirty-three years He suffered temptation, the daily struggles against sin we endure - [Heb 4:15; 2:18](#)

1. Hebrews 4:15 (NKJV) - 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

2. Hebrews 2:18 (NKJV) - 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

B. He experienced rejection by His own hometown - [Luke 4:16](NKJV) - 16 So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.

1. Luke 4:28-30 (NKJV) - 28 So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were
filled with wrath, 29 and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff. 30 Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way.

2. There were blasphemous accusations when He was doing good - Luke 11:14-15 (NKJV) - 14 And He was casting out a demon, and it was mute. So it was, when the demon had gone out, that the mute spoke; and the multitudes marveled. 15 But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.”

3. There was derision by the Pharisees - Luke 16:14 (NKJV) - 14 Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him.

4. There were deceitful questions seeking to ensnare Him - Luke 20:20 (NKJV) - 20 So they watched Him, and sent spies who pretended to be righteous, that they might seize on His words, in order to deliver Him to the power and the authority of the governor.

C. There was defection by many disciples - John 6:60-61 (NKJV) - 60 Therefore many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

2. He endured ridicule by members of his own family - John 7:3-5 (NKJV) - 3 His brothers therefore said to Him, “Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. 4 For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world.” 5 For even His brothers did not believe in Him.

3. He had to put up with ignorance among the multitudes - John 7:40-43 (NKJV) - 40 Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, “Truly this is the Prophet.” 41 Others said, “This is the Christ.” But some said, “Will the Christ come out of Galilee? 42 Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?” 43 So there was a division among the people because of Him.

D. There was the anticipation that likely produced anxiety

1. He knew what was coming, told His disciples on three occasions - e.g., Luke 18:31-33 (NKJV) - 31 Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. 32 For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. 33 They will scourge Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.”

a. Personally it for me would have been just like the times I was in trouble and Mom used to say: “go to your bedroom and wait until your father gets home.” — I knew what was coming and it was a very anxious time.

2. The disciples' lack of comprehension prevented them from being any source of comfort - Luke 18:34 (NKJV) - 34 But they understood none of these things; this saying was hidden from them, and they did not know the things which were spoken.

E. At the Passover meal

1. There were petty quarrels among His disciples - Luke 22:24 (NKJV) - 24 Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest.

2. There were announcements of betrayal, abandonment, denial - Matthew 26:21 (NKJV)

21 Now as they were eating, He said, “Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.”

a. Matthew 26:31 (NKJV) - 31 Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: ‘I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’

b. Matthew 26:34 (NKJV) - 34 Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you that this night,
before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.”

c. The indignity of such things was magnified by knowing who He was, yet He humbly "made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant" - Philippians 2:7 (NKJV) - 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

IV. **The Servants Suffering DURING HIS PASSION...** - this is often what is highlighted at the Lord’s Table ---- yet lets note where this suffering started:

A. In the Garden of Gethsemane
   1. There was the great agony as He prayed - Lk 22:44
   2. There was His disciples’ laziness who could not watch with Him - Mk 14:37-41
   3. There followed the betrayal with a kiss by Judas - Mk 14:43-46
   4. Then He was forsaken by all His disciples - Mk 14:50
   5. He was arrested and bound - Jn 18:13

B. Before Annas, father-in-law to Caiaphas the high priest
   1. Here Jesus was denied by Peter - Jn 18:17,25-27
   2. Jesus was struck with a blow - Jn 18:22
   3. He was sent away bound - Jn 18:24

C. Before Caiaphas, in an illegal night assembly of the council
   1. Jesus was falsely accused - Mt 26:59-61
   2. The physical abuse intensified - Mt 26:67-68; Mk 14:65
      a. They spit on His face
      b. He was blindfolded
      c. Some of the council beat Him
      d. The officers struck Him with their palms
      e. They mocked Him to prophesy who struck Him
   3. With many words they blasphemed Him - Lk 22:65

D. Before the council, in the morning
   1. After consulting, they bound Jesus - Mk 15:1
   2. He was led away, delivered to Pilate - Mk 15:1

E. Before Pilate the Roman governor
   1. Unaccompanied by His accusers who wouldn't enter the Praetorium - Jn 18:28-29
   2. False charges were made against Him - Lk 23:2

F. Before Herod the puppet king
   1. The chief priests and scribes vehemently accused Him - Lk 23:10
   2. Abused by Herod with his men of war
      a. Treated with contempt and mocked - Lk 23:11
      b. Arrayed in a gorgeous robe and sent back to Pilate - Lk 23:11

G. Before Pilate the second time
   1. Barabbas, a murderer, robber, and rebel is released in His stead - Lk 23:13-25
   2. Demanded that He be crucified, Jesus is delivered to be scourged - Mk 15:15

H. Abused by the Roman soldiers
   1. Surrounded by the whole garrison - Mk 15:16
   2. They stripped Him and put on a scarlet robe - Mt 27:28
   3. They put on a crown of thorns on his head, a reed in His right hand - Mt 27:29
      a. They bow the knee and mock Him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" - Mt 27:29 - what they did not realize is that they were mocking the King of Kings and Lord of Lords...
      b. They spat on Him, struck Him on the head with the reed - Mt 27:30
c. They mocked Him further, then stripped Him of the robe and put His own clothes back on Him - Mt 27:31  
4. They led Him away to be crucified - Mt 27:31  

I. The journey to Golgotha  
1. At first, He bore His own cross - Jn 19:17  
2. A great crowd followed, including women who mourned and lamented Him; yet He mourned for them - Lk 23:27-31  

J. At the crucifixion  
1. He refused sour wine mixed with gall (an anesthetic) - Mt 27:33-34  
2. They crucified Him, as He cried out for God to forgive them - Lk 23:33-34  
3. The soldiers divided His garments, casting lots for them - Lk 23:34  
4. People stood looking on, some blasphemed - Mk 15:29-30  
5. The chief priests with the scribes mocked and sneered - Mk 15:31-32; Lk 23:35  
6. The soldiers mocked - Lk 23:36-37  
7. The two thieves reviled Him, one persisted in blasphemy - Mk 15:32; Lk 23:39  
8. For six hours He hung on the cross - Mk 15:25,33  
9. Finally He cried "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?" - Mk 15:34  
   a. Perhaps indicating the burden of bearing the sins of the world - cf. 2 Co 5:21  
   b. Perhaps indicating the greatest suffering He endured was the spiritual agony  
10. Then He died, possibly of a ruptured heart - Lk 23:46; cf. Jn 19:34  
   a. As prophesied, Jesus was stricken, smitten, afflicted, wounded, bruised, chastised, endured stripes, oppressed, led to the slaughter, cut off from the land of the living - cf. Isa 53:4-8  
   b. [Again we ask "Why?" Why did it please the Lord to bruise Him, to put Jesus to grief (Isa 53:10)? Why could His death for our sins have not been more merciful? Why did Jesus suffer...?]  

V. CONCLUSION  
A. Wounded - lit. pierced - Psa. 22:16  
   1. Bruised - lit. crushed - severely oppressed, strongest form of suffering - Is. 3:15; Matt 27:32  
   2. Chastised - Jesus received punishment due a criminal - the condemnation judged by the rulers  
      - Acts 3:17,18; 1 Cor 2:8; 2 Cor 3:14,  
   3. Stripes - prophetical of His being scourged (Matt 27:26; 1Pet 2:24)  
B. Perhaps we can now appreciate more fully why our Savior suffered...  
   1. To pay the terrible price of sin  
   2. To be our perfect Advocate (1 Jn 2:1) in our struggle against sin  
   3. To motivate us to reach a higher plane in striving for love and righteousness  
C. May contemplation on the suffering of Jesus ever serve as the inspiration for those...  
   1. Who have yet to obey the gospel - cf. Acts 2:36-38; 22:16  
   2. Who have obeyed the gospel, but have fallen back into sin - Acts 8:22; 1 Jn 1:9  
   3. Who desire to live for Christ in an unfriendly world - 1 Pet 4:12-16  
      a. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: - 1 Pet 2:21  
      b. Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator. - 1 Pet 4:19