

Preached on 12/17/23 at GBC - Ruston

"It PLEASED The Lord"

Isa.53:10; (Ezek.33:11)

There's **NO DOUBT** that the Gospel was declared in the Old Testament, just as it is in the New Testament – "*All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*"(II Tim.3:16,17) At the end of our Lord's earthly ministry, after His crucifixion and resurrection, He opened the understanding of His followers and spoke to them of Himself **out of the Old Testament** – "*And he said unto them, These [are] the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and [in] the prophets, and [in] the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*"(Lk.24:44-47) All of the Scriptures set forth "*the pleasure of the Lord*", which simply stated is His purpose to glorify and honor Himself as both "*a just God and a Savior*" through the redemption and salvation of His chosen people – "*Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*"(Rev.4:11) The word translated "*pleasure*" means 'what one wishes or has determined shall be done, namely the purpose of God to bless mankind (His elect) through Christ'. The book of Isaiah, and particularly this **53rd chapter** set forth this glorious, God honoring truth. I know that to be the case because of the way the Lord was pleased to move the Eunuch to be reading from **Isa.53** when He sent Phillip to declared the Gospel to him from this same chapter – **Turn to Acts 8:27-35**. I got **Isaiah 53** in my head a week or so ago, **ONE VERSE IN PARTICULAR**, the verse I want to talk to you about today – "***YET IT PLEASED THE LORD*** to bruise him; he hath put [him] to grief: when thou shalt 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."(Isa.53:10)

Listen to Isaiah's words – "*Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put [him] to grief.*" For every child of God it is essential that we **KNOW** and **UNDERSTAND** the meaning of such an emphatic statement concerning the work of God the Father. This opening phrase, "*Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him*", is in contrast to Messiah's perfect innocence as set forth in Vs.9 – "*He had done no violence, neither [was any] deceit in his mouth.*" **Think about it:** Before our Lord was born, the angel declared to Mary – "*The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.*"(Lk.1:35) Christ told the Jews in **John 8** – "*And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.*"(Jn.8:29); "*Which of you convinceth (literally, convicteth) me of sin?*"(Jn.8:46) The author of Hebrews also declared our Lord to be "*holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens.*" Even though Christ Jesus was sinlessly perfect, always doing the will of the Father, Jehovah declares - "***YET IT PLEASED THE LORD TO BRUISE HIM.***" The Hebrew word translated "*yet it pleased*" means 'to delight in, take pleasure in, desire, be pleased with'. The Hebrew word translated "*the LORD*" means '**JEHOVAH – the existing one**'. The Hebrew word translated "*to bruise*" means 'to crush or to shatter'. Here's a good question, one that we should and can answer **FROM THE SCRIPTURES** – What does it mean that Jehovah delighted in, took

pleasure in, or was pleased with Messiah's being crushed or shattered? Keep in mind, **Isaiah 53** sets forth God's purpose and work of redemption, that which glorifies and honors Him in every attribute of His character as both "*a just God and a Savior*." In other words, it sets forth the **ONLY WAY** a Holy God who will "*by no means clear the guilty*" **CAN** and **DOES** show mercy and grace to those who are themselves **GUILTY** – Read **Vss.1-9**. The answer to the question we asked: "What does it mean that Jehovah delighted in, took pleasure in, or was pleased with Messiah's being crushed or shattered?" can be answered **FROM THE SCRIPTURE**. When it comes to redemption, to reconciliation, **TO SALVATION**, all of it is God's work, and all of it concerns His glory. When I think of God delighting or taking pleasure in, or being pleased with the crushing of His Holy Son, **two verses** come to my mind – "*And all things [are] of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*"(II Cor.5:18,19); "**I, [even] I, [am] he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.**"(Isa.43:25) God **SATISFIED** Himself – **DO YOU SEE THAT?** All the works of man; all his obedience to God's Holy law; all his sincerity; all his love to his fellow man; **NONE OF IT** – **HEAR ME** – **NONE OF IT**, can be delighted in or can please the Lord, because there is no **SATISFACTION** to God's holy law and justice by any or all of it combined – "*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.*"(Tit.3:5) Paul stated this **TWICE** in Rom.3 – "*Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law [is] the knowledge of sin.*"; "*Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.*"(Rom.3:20,25) In **Acts 13:38,39** Paul declared – "*Be it known unto you therefore, men [and] brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.*" The Old Testament pointed God's people to the promised Messiah and His accomplished work for salvation, yet by nature **NO ONE CAN** or **WILL COME TO** or **REST** in Christ alone for God's promised salvation. Christ said to those **JEWS** – "*Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.*"(John 5:38,39) **So** if what the sinner does or what they avoid doing **CANNOT** and **DOES NOT** bring pleasure to or cannot be delighted in by **JEHOVAH**, what does He delight in – **WHAT CAN HE TAKE PLEASURE IN** – **WHAT SATISFIES HIM?** Think back to **PROMISE JEHOVAH** declared to our fallen parents in the Garden, as well as to the Serpent – "*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*"(Gen.3:15) In this verse, Christ's suffering is ascribed to Satan by the phrase – "*and thou shalt bruise His heel.*" But in our **TEXT ALL OF MESSIAH'S SUFFERING IS ASCRIBED TO JEHOVAH** – "*Yet it PLEASED the LORD to bruise Him; He (JEHOVAH) hath put [Him] to grief.*" Satan and sinful, fallen, depraved men were the ones who hated our Lord, despised Him, demanded His death and ultimately nailed Him to the cross, but it was **JEHOVAH** predetermined council and will that **DEMANDED** the sacrifice of His people Substitute and Surety, His "*only begotten Son*" – "*Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.*"(Acts 2:23); "*For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.*"(Acts 4:27,28) I studied 3 or 4 different commentaries on this passage, but I love the way

John Gill set forth the meaning of this particular passage – “Christ was bruised in His body when buffeted and scourged, and nailed to the cross; and was bruised and broken in spirit, when the sins of his people were laid on him, and the wrath of God came upon him for them: the Lord had a hand in his sufferings; he not only permitted them, but they were according to the counsel of his will; they were predetermined by him, yea, they were pleasing to him, he took a kind of delight and pleasure in them; not in them simply considered as sufferings, but as they were an accomplishment of his purposes, a fulfilment of his covenant and promises, and of the prophecies in his word; and, particularly, as hereby the salvation of his people was brought about by this work.” **Listen to Christ’s words in His High Priestly prayer** – “*Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*”(Jn.10:17,18) Several times throughout the Gospels Jehovah confirmed that His pleasure is **ONLY IN CHRIST** – “*And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*”(Matt.3:17); “*While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*”(Matt.17:5); “*And there came a voice from heaven, [saying], Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*”(Mk.1:11); “*And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.*”(Lk.3:22) The original word translated by the phrase “*I am well pleased*” is the same word which means ‘to be well pleased with, take pleasure in’. Every time we take the Lord’s Table, we always read **Heb.10:4-10** – “*For [it is] not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and [sacrifices] for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and [offering] for sin thou wouldst not, neither hadst pleasure [therein]; which are offered by the law; Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once [for all].* As I’ve continually told you in the years I’ve served as your pastor, **WORDS ARE SO IMPORTANT**. The word translated “*thou wouldst*” in these verses means ‘to take delight in or have pleasure’. The word translated “*pleasure*” in Vs.6 and translated “*hadst pleasure*” in Vs.8 are a different Greek word from the one translated “*thou wouldst*”, but has a similar meaning – ‘to be well pleased with, take pleasure in, to be favourably inclined towards one’. So put all of this together – Sacrifices and offerings, all the offering for sin under the old covenant, God **COULD NOT** and **DID NOT** take delight in or **PLEASE HIM**. **WHY?????? IT COULD NOT PUT AWAY SIN – IT COULD NOT SATISFY INFINITE JUSTICE! What can put away sin and satisfy infinite justice?** “*But a body HAST THOU PREPARED me.*” The word translated “*hast thou prepared*” means ‘to fit or frame for one’s self’. **Only GOD can satisfy God**, therefore God’s glory **DEMANDED** and **FITTED** one “*mighty to save*” for the salvation of all those He loved before time. **LISTEN TO ME:** God takes pleasure in, and is well pleased with the accomplished work of His Son. I find it interesting that the same word translated “*pleasure*” and “*hadst pleased*” in **Heb.10** concerning those sacrifices offered under the Law which He declared “*could never take away sin*”, i.e., they **COULD NOT SATISFY GOD’S RIGHTEOUS DEMANDS**, is the **SAME WORD** God used to declare His satisfaction with His beloved Son – “*And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in THEE I AM WELL*”

PLEASED.” I can’t help but think on Christ’s prayer before His crucifixion – “*And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou* [wilt].”(Matt.26:39) Had there been any way God could be satisfied other than through the offering of His holy Son, the Father would have spared Him. But “*God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them.*” **LISTEN TO JEHOVAH AGAIN:** “**I, [even] I, [am] he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.**”(Isa.43:25) Nothing more is required, and nothing else will do.

Let me say this in closing: Every redeemed, justified, saved sinner **SHOULD FOREVER REJOICE** in the blessing of this glorious truth – “**YET IT PLEASED THE LORD TO BRUISE HIM.**” **Ask yourself this question:** Did God satisfy Himself for ME in the accomplished work of His beloved Son? If you are His, by His Holy Spirit you will humbly declare “AMEN.”