

In this passage, God revealed to the Prophet Isaiah what would happen to the Lord Jesus in the days of His earthly ministry.

How He would be treated by the people of Israel, how He would be despised and rejected by the very ones to whom He was sent to save; but still, He commended His love toward them, suffering, dying for their sins, even when they hated Him and made themselves His enemies! Titus 3:3-7

Today, Christ is still despised and rejected by men and women, and young people, NOT just in Israel, but in every nation! You mention the Name of Christ and His message of salvation to people, and most will turn a deaf ear to you, or they will attack you for embracing such a hateful God who disapproves of their sins, they confess they will not bow to such a God!

And so, NOT only is the Lord Jesus despised and rejected, but you are also despised and rejected because you are a disciple of Christ!

Let me just say here, God is good and gracious and kind and merciful to lost sinners, but make no mistake, God is NOT to be trifled with...you don't want to meet God in His wrath. John 3:36

Last time Isaiah 53:1-3: Who hath believed our report? Our message?

Isaiah's prophecy begins with a lamentation cry, it is primarily directed to the people of Israel because they rejected their Messiah in the days of His earthly ministry, THIS STILL applies to those who refuse Christ today! When Jesus came into the world, the Pastors, and religious leaders of that day, who should have KNOWN Christ, and should have pointed the people TO CHRIST, BUT INSTEAD, they rejected Christ, and influenced the people away from Him. Matthew 23:13: "Ye shut up the Kingdom of heaven..."

A pastor's primary calling is to POINT PEOPLE TO CHRIST whether they believe Him or not!

So, few believe our message, cried the prophet, and so few believe in Christ today! Matthew 7:13-14, Ezekiel 18:23, 30-33

Why was there so much unbelief toward Jesus? He didn't look like a King, a Prince! He was not born in the palace at Jerusalem, but in a barn in tiny Bethlehem. How could this common man and carpenter be the Son of God?

Bottom Line Up Front: They refused Him because He wasn't the Messiah that they wanted!

This problem STILL EXISTS today in the hearts and minds of so many sinners, Christ is NOT the Savior that they want, He doesn't meet their conditions, so they refuse Him and His gospel. John 3:19-21, 1:5

You can see how far we have fallen from God in our sins in that we reject God's kindness and love to us! Isaiah 53:3

And though WE did not believe Him to be our Messiah, He was the One who was sent of God, HE was the arm of the LORD revealed to us, made bare to save us, He was sent to redeem us and save us from our sins! John 1:14

INSTEAD, because we abhorred Him, WE refused to look upon Him with any respect or esteem, we HID our faces from Him and looked away from Him. And we showed the worst of our fallen humanity when He was in His deepest sufferings and in the agony of His cross, we were so "callous and inhumane" toward Him. How could He still love such a people as us? BTW: This is still how people think of and treat Christ today!

Matthew 27:39, Mark 15:25-32, Psalm 22:6-18, 109:25

Isaiah 53 is one of the greatest passages in all the Word of God on the doctrine of Christ's substitutionary death for sinners! Many of the same people who called for Jesus' death, not many days after, believed in Him, and were saved at Pentecost. This is AMAZING!

Matthew 27:24-25, Acts 2:22-24, 36-41

As we continue in Isaiah 53:4, Isaiah again wrote in the first person, and NOW He wrote as a believer, one who had been awakened from the darkness and blindness of his own heart... It is what S. Lewis Johnson called "The Great Reversal"

In times past, WE refused to believe that Jesus was sent of God, because there was nothing "outwardly attractive or majestic" about Him, and so, we rejected His message of salvation... And... WE were the ones who called for His death! But now since our eyes have been opened by God, and WE have believed Him, WE now see that He WAS our Messiah, sent by God for US!

"Surely, (IT WAS HE) who hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: YET (notice past tense) WE DID esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted"

We viewed Him as one cursed of God, struck down by God...and you know what? We were right, but our thoughts about Him were wrong... we looked upon Him as one who was condemned by God, cursed by God, and suffering for His own sins against God. But that wasn't the case... His sorrow, grief, and sufferings, and His death on the cross was for OUR sins against God!

God, in His wrath, struck Him down for my sins! 2 Corinthians 5:21

When we esteemed Him, "stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted", we were right, but it was not for Himself, but for our sins!

Isaiah continued: Isaiah 53:5: "But He was wounded (not for His), but for OUR transgressions, He was bruised (not for His) but for OUR iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes WE are healed"

To be wounded here means to be pierced fatally and violently, to be bruised literally means to be crushed and broken! His stripes literally mean the marks and print of the blows to His body! The blueness of His wounds!

This violent and fatal piercing and crushing of His Person at the hands of wicked men was nothing in comparison to the indignation and wrath of God, His Father against Him.

The wrath of God against His Son upon the cross was so violent, the guilt and punishment for my transgressions and sins so terrible that the sun refused to shine upon it; God would not allow any human eyes to gloat and glory or look upon His Son's worst agony! This was when, as written...

Isaiah 53:6: "When the LORD laid upon Him, the iniquity of us all"

All our iniquities and sins, (of God's elect people from every age) fell upon Him at once; God hath made to meet on Him the iniquity of us all!

THIS was the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God!

THIS was the fulfillment of Genesis 3:15, God crushed the serpent's head by crushing His Only Begotten Son. Jesus was the only One, who could offer up Himself as a sacrifice to God, He was the only One who could satisfy God's justice and make propitiation for the sins of the world.

There is no other way to be saved from your sins! There is none other Name given among men whereby we MUST be saved!

If you're lost this morning: "Be it known unto you, 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"

Listen to me, if there's anything that you OUGHT to desire this morning, if you're lost, it is that you might be reconciled to God and justified in the sight of God! The ONLY ONE that can do that for you is Jesus Christ!

Here's the biggest problem for every lost sinner; YOU think you know what is best for you pertaining to your standing and your salvation with God... BUT YOU DON'T!

I'll take my chances; I've heard this from people who don't believe in Christ...I'll do it MY WAY. I don't THINK God is this or that...and I'm not willing to give up this or that in this world for Christ!

Isaiah 53:6 teaches us that the ONLY thing we are capable of doing as sinners (here he speaks of those whom God will save, who are lost sheep), but before God saves any sinner, the only thing they are capable of is "going astray" from God, and doing their own thing, going their own way!

Proverbs 14:12, 28:26, 3:5-7, Romans 3:10-12

The only way that you can be reconciled to God and be at peace with God, forgiven for all your sins; MADE WHOLE, BE CURED and HEALED in your soul, is through Christ! Isaiah 53:5, 1 Peter 2:24-25

"Many hands were raised to wound Him, none would interpose to save, but the deepest stroke that pierced Him, was the stroke that justice gave"

1 John 5:9-13, John 3:16-21