

In **John 11**, as the **JEWS (meaning the religious leaders)** plotted to kill our Lord, fearing that all would believe on Him because of the miracles He performed, one of their leaders made the following declaration – “*And one of them, [named] Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.*”(Jn.11:49,50) In Christ’s High Priestly prayer He prayed – “*These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*”(Jn.17:1-3) Listen to our Lord’s words in His discourse before Pilate – “*Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews? Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me? Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done? Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. **To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.***”(Jn.18:33-37) The Apostle John stated the **PURPOSE** behind all of this in **I Jn.4:10** – “*Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and **SENT HIS SON** [to be] **THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS.***” This is the **SINGULAR MESSAGE** set forth in this **53rd chapter of Isaiah**, that the “**ARM of the LORD**” **was sent** by God for **A SPECIFIC PURPOSE**: “*And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name **JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.***”(Matt.1:21)

As I’ve showed you in the previous messages, the “**ARM of the Lord**” is rejected, despised, and disregarded by **ALL MEN (including God’s elect)**, seeing by nature they have no desire for the salvation of the Lord – **Read Vss.1-3**. The Apostle John declared when the “**arm of the Lord**” was sent into this world the world wouldn’t receive Him. Matter of fact, John wrote basically the same things Isaiah set forth – “*In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; **and the darkness comprehended it not.** There was a man sent from God, whose name [was] John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all [men] through him might believe. He was not that Light, but [was sent] to bear witness of that Light. [That] was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, **and the world knew Him not.** He came unto his own, **and his own received Him not.***”(Jn.1:4-11) You’d think, that in the face of such rejection of the One sent of the Lord, the next words would be – “*And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*”(Matt.7:23) But thank God, that’s not the case. Look at our text

this morning – “**Surely** He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.” The original word translated “surely” means ‘nevertheless’. I’d have you to notice, Isaiah again used a personal pronoun - “**OUR**” - including himself in this number whom the “**arm of the Lord**” bore their griefs and carried their sorrows. If you’ll recall, in the previous verse Isaiah had included **HIMSELF** in the number that despised, rejected, and wouldn’t look upon Him – “**He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and WE hid as it were [our] faces from Him; He was despised, and WE esteemed Him not.**” **Let me be very clear:** This work the “**arm of the Lord**” performed, wasn’t a reactionary work, meaning it wasn’t God doing something in order to correct what sinners had failed to do, offering them salvation if they would accept it. This work He was sent to do was planned and purpose by the triune God before man ever fell in their representative man Adam in the garden. What these words set forth is the work of Christ as His people’s Surety, Substitute, Sin-bearer, and Savior! Paul stated this same work in this manner – “**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. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech [you] by us: we pray [you] in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him [to be] sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**”(II Cor.5:18-21) The “**arm of the Lord**”, the Lord Jesus Christ did bear in His **SINLESS HUMANITY** all the **SINLESS INFIRMITIES** His people are subject to because of their fallen condition, **e.g., hunger, thirst, weariness**, including all the sorrow and pain that arises from these infirmities. Everything His people were subject to, Christ became liable for, and by doing so He can sympathize with us – “**Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on [him the nature of] angels; but he took on [him] the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto [his] brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things [pertaining] to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.**”(Heb.2:14-18) But in order to show His power, Christ not only bore our physical grief and sorrow, but He actually healed the disease of His people’s souls. Christ did this by bearing the sins of His people as their substitute, making complete and perfect satisfaction for them. Matthew in his Gospel applies the words of **Isa.53:4** to the healing of bodily diseases - **Turn over to Matt.8:16,17**. John Gill in his commentary wrote this concerning Matthew’s words: “Though the principal meaning of the words may be, that all the sorrows and griefs which Christ bore **were not for any sins of his own, but for the sins of his people**; wherefore these griefs and sorrows signify **the punishment of sin, and are put for sins**, the cause of them and so the apostle interprets them of Christ’s bearing our sins in his own body on the tree”. **Peter wrote:** “**Who his own self BARE OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BODY ON THE TREE, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by**

whose stripes ye were healed.”(I Pet.2:24) All the sins of all the elect of all the ages were laid on Christ (as it states in Isa.53:6) and Christ bore them all as the Surety of His people. Christ made perfect satisfaction, for His people’s sins by His sufferings and death. Like the scapegoat in the Old Testament, Christ carried and took them away, never to be seen again – “*But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, [and] to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness.*”; “*And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy [place], and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat: And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send [him] away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.*”(Lev.16:10,20-22)

Look at the last part of this verse and we’ll close – “*yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*” **Literally translated, this reads this way:** “We thought him to be smitten, wounded by God, and afflicted.” We see in these words the ingratitude and wickedness of the Jews who did not and could not understand why Christ was so severely afflicted. His suffering and agony were like none had ever seen. They thought Christ was suffering for His own sins, even though they knew He was innocent. Even Christ’s judges declared Him innocent – “*When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but [that] rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed [his] hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye [to it]. Then answered all the people, and said, His blood [be] on us, and on our children.*”(Matt.27:24,25); “*Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault [at all].*”(Jn.18:38) This text makes it **ABSOLUTELY CLEAR** that Christ was “*stricken, smitten of God.*” Even though the Jews and Romans were the principle characters that inflicted the punishment on Christ’s sinless humanity, this verse teaches us that God was satisfying Himself, His Holiness and His justice, by pouring out His eternal wrath on Christ, **NOT FOR ANY SIN OF HIS OWN**, but for the sake of those He represented as their Surety – **Look down at Vs.10** – “*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.*” We always read from **Hebrews 10** when we take the Lord’s Table, and the writer of Hebrews words make this glorious Gospel truth of **SUBSTITUTION** and **IMPUTATION** crystal clear – “*For the law having a shadow of good things to come, [and] not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those [sacrifices there is] a remembrance again [made] of sins every year. 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 wouldest 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]. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, **after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever**, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. **For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.**”(Heb.10:1-14) We see in the words of our text today the simple message of **HOW** God is **”just and justifier of the ungodly”** – **“I, [even] I, [am] he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.”**(Isa.43:25) This work of redemption, the salvation of God’s chosen people rests exclusively on **“the arm of the Lord”**, and He accomplished everything necessary to glorify and honor God as both a **“just God and a Savior”** in the salvation of those given to Him by the Father in the everlasting covenant of grace.