

# The Risen Christ Testifies of God's Satisfaction in the Suffering of His Son

## The Truth of the Resurrection

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Resurrection Sunday April 21, 2019

### Isaiah 53

**1** Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

**2** For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root out of parched ground; He has no *stately* form or majesty That we should look upon Him, Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.

**3** He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

**4** Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.

**5** But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

**6** All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

**7** He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.

**8** By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the living For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke *was due?*

**9** His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

**10** But the Lord was pleased To crush Him, putting *Him* to grief; If He would render Himself *as* a guilt offering, He will see *His* offspring, He will prolong *His* days, And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand.

**11 As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see *it and* be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities.**

**12 Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.**

To the Glory of God

Now when the Lord graciously saved me back in 1971, the arguments about the Resurrection were more *prominent* and they were more *intense* than they are today. Back in the early 1970's, there was widespread consensus among believers and non-believers, alike (*especially* here in America), that deciding about that Biblical Claim that Jesus *literally, physically, and bodily* rose from the dead by the Glory of the Father really mattered.

Back then, you took a stand either way. You either eagerly *believed* in the Resurrection, or you eagerly and categorically *rejected* it. And there was no "middle-ground". And if you *did* believe in the Resurrection, you, also, generally believed the rest of the Bible and you called yourself a "Christian". And if you *rejected* the Resurrection, then, generally speaking, you categorized the rest of the Bible as a "myth" and as "superstitious nonsense", and you were *intentionally* and proudly *not* a "Christian".

But a strange thing has happened over the last 48 years. Today, that Question, that Debate, that Issue, "*Did Jesus literally and physically and bodily rise from the dead?*", is not nearly as prominent and not nearly as intense as it once was because, at one level, people feel that the Resurrection of a Man from the dead 2,000 years ago way across the ocean really doesn't have an impact on their own lives, because, after all, different people believe in different things, and maybe it happened, and maybe it didn't. And many people say to themselves, "*If the Resurrection actually happened, and that helps some people to get along in this life, then fine. But it really doesn't make much difference to me, and it really doesn't affect me and my life all that much. I have my friends and my smart phone, and I have my*

*life all mapped out, so, me, believing in some Resurrection, really doesn't mean anything to me either way."*

Far too many people today really think that they can call themselves a "Christian" and they can join a Church and they can be in right standing with God, and either be *unsure* about the Resurrection of Jesus or outright *reject it*. And that is horrible. But what is actually *worse* than that is that within many of those religious organizations, there is absolutely nothing said or done or discussed that would challenge these people about that, even though the Bible categorically teaches that if you do not believe in the Resurrection you *cannot* be saved.

You see, in our modern American Culture, where everything today is "relative", Objective, Propositional, and Absolute Truth is no longer vital. We have elevated "personal opinion" to be as valuable as "Truth". And, at the same time, we have *lowered* and *devalued* Divine Absolute Truth to be nothing more important than "personal opinion".

And so, it is common today to hear people say, *"Well, that's just the way you see it"*, when presented with clear Biblical Truth that they either don't like or don't want to hear. Or, when confronted with things that they really don't want to accept, they will quickly say, *"Well, that's just your opinion"*. It is common today for people to honestly believe that what they "believe" and what they "trust in" and what they "accept" is "Truth", as long as they are sincere about it or agree with it, even if what they believe or trust in *contradicts* the Absolute Truth of Scripture.

Many very sincere people say, *"God knows my heart"*, which is really just a catch-all phrase that seeks to justify *whatever* they are doing. And since they honestly believe that, deep down, they really are "nice" people, it really doesn't matter if they accept the Biblical claim that God physically, literally, and bodily raised Jesus of Nazareth from the dead on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day after His Crucifixion.

Many take the attitude that *"I may or may not call myself a Christian, and if the Resurrection seems helpful to me, then I may believe it, and if it doesn't, then I won't. But whether I do or I don't, it doesn't affect my relationship with God, and it doesn't change where I am going to spend Eternity."* But, is that true? Does it matter, as far as our Eternity is concerned, whether or not Jesus rose from the dead? The Answer to that question is what I want to explore today.

Now behind those two different kinds of unbelief, the kind from 48 years ago and the kind from today, is a completely *different* set of assumptions. For example, back when I was first saved, the assumption among unbelievers then was that there was a body of fixed, closed, natural Laws that make the world understandable and scientifically manageable. And those Laws simply *did not allow* the claim that intelligent and thinking people had to believe that Someone rose from the dead 2,000 years ago.

And that was a commonly held assumption back then, that the modern world with its scientific understanding of natural laws does not allow for Resurrections. So, "unbelief", back then, was often rooted in that kind of smug, intellectual, self-righteousness disguised as scientific analysis, when, in fact, it was nothing but your average blind, ignorant, disbelief.

But today, in 2019, that is *not* the most common working assumption that we face. Today, the assumption is *not* that there are natural laws, *outside* of me, that forbid my acceptance of the Resurrection of Jesus, but rather, the assumption that we face today is that there is a "*personal law*" that is *inside* of me that says: "*I don't have to accept anything in my life that I don't find personally helpful or personally relevant.*" Or, you could state this modern assumption another way by saying that many people today actually believe that: "*Truth for me is not Objective or Propositional, it isn't Divine or Absolute, but Truth is whatever I find personally attractive and helpful.*"

And with that new assumption in place, and with that new subjective and suppositional "*inner law*" in place, it really doesn't matter whether Jesus rose from the dead or not, because, whether He did or didn't has become completely irrelevant. Their only issue is: "*Do I care? Do I personally find that idea helpful? Do I 'feel' that it helps me flourish as a human being in this life and on this earth?*"

And if it seems like the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead on the third day *doesn't*, then they will view the Resurrection the same way they view UFOs, or life in some distant galaxy, or some special effects in a movie, they really don't need to bother with it. And their false, pseudo-humility will also say, "*But if it helps somebody else to believe or to trust in the Resurrection of Jesus, then, by all means, that's just peachy keen, but don't you dare try to impose that nonsense on me.*"

And that is increasingly becoming the attitude of more and more people here in America, *especially* those younger than 48. In fact, some of you sitting here today many actually think that way without even knowing that's the way you think. You have simply absorbed this carnal logic from the general culture because that way of thinking is now woven into most television shows and most advertising and most movies, and it is taught in modern educational curricula from the public school system. But, aside from all of that, thinking like that helps people buy into the notion that they are the most important person in the Universe, and so whatever makes them happy is what's best for them.

So, what I am attempting to do this morning is confront this issue head on, and honestly examine how we, as human beings, sift through the "new indoctrination" that is being "force-fed" to us every day from all these various sources. And my hope is that when I put the Resurrection of Jesus Christ before you today, *not* simply as a "religious belief", but as an historical fact, you will understand how essential it is. I wish to help you come to the realization that the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead is *not* something that "might be helpful to *some* people", but it is something that is required to be believed in if *anyone* is to spend eternity in Heaven. And, if I, by God's Grace, am successful this morning, then you will not so easily buy into the bombardment of pagan and humanistic and just flat out wrong information concerning this Issue.

But we need to know that the *rejection* of the Resurrection is not only being carried out by smug, self-righteous, apathetic, and atheistic people, but is also *officially, formally, and categorically* denied by genuine and sincere followers of Buddhism and Hinduism and Judaism as well. And the bodily Resurrection of Jesus is also categorically rejected by the fanatically dedicated followers of the demonic religion of Islam as well.

Now, I actually didn't know that until recently. I had my first serious conversation with a man who was well-trained in Islam about 17 years ago, when I invited him to come and speak here. And I discovered, for the first time, that if you share the Good News of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ with a real, dedicated Muslim, you will find out that they do *not* believe that Jesus is God, they do not believe that Jesus died on the Cross for sinners, and they do not believe

that God raised Jesus from the dead. Islam goes on to teach that there was actually a *replacement* on the Cross. Islam proclaims that Jesus completely *escaped* death, and thus never needed a Resurrection. Islam teaches that later on, Jesus was taken bodily into Heaven. In the Q'ran, in sura 4:156&157 it says:

“. . . and for their [the Jews'] saying: ‘We slew the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, the Messenger of God’ – yet they did not slay him, neither crucified him, only a likeness of that was shown to them. Those regarding him; they have no knowledge of him, except the following of surmise; and they slew him not of a certainty – no indeed; God raised him up to Him; God is all-mighty, All-wise.”

Therefore, Islam teaches that the central Message of the New Testament and of Biblical Christianity is built on a mistake: Jesus Christ is *not* God, He did *not* die, and He did *not* rise. And that means two things:

1. Islam very clearly and precisely *rejects* the very core of the New Testament Scriptures.
2. Those who understand and believe what Islam teaches *cannot* be saved.

And there is absolutely no “wiggle room” here. The Holy Bible teaches clearly and repeatedly that fallen human beings of every stripe and color are “justified” and “made Righteous” before God by what we “believe in”, what we “confess”, and what we “trust in”, and *not* by what we “do” to make ourselves acceptable in God’s Sight. All of the “doing” in Biblical Christianity is carried out by those who have already been born from above, as a human *response* to what God has already done in us and for us in, by, and through the Lord Jesus Christ.

For example, Baptism involves people who have *already been* justified by Grace alone through Faith alone in the finished Work of Christ alone. Each person, who is baptized has *already* trusted in Jesus *personally* and in His completed Work in three areas:

1. His sinless Life
2. His vicarious Death

### 3. His physical and bodily Resurrection

... and the water that saved people are immersed in *does not* have the power to wash their sins away.

Conversely, the Lord's Table that we enjoy on the first Lord's Day of each month *does not* have the power to forgive sin or save souls. Attending the Church Service *does not* have the power to save sinners.

And that is why genuine Christians do not believe or teach that participation in the Sacraments forgives sin or saves souls. Christians do not believe or teach that Baptism forgives sins or saves souls. Christians do not believe or teach that our sins are forgiven and our souls are saved by Human Determinism.

Being gifted with the ability to see Jesus, in all His Glory, and to love what you see, and to be changed into what you see, is what saves people. And that means that Christians believe and teach what the Apostle Paul wrote in **Romans 10:6-13**:

**6** But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: "***DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, 'WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?'*** (that is, to bring Christ down),

**7** or '***WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?'*** (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)."

**8** But what does it say? "***THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART'***" — that is, the word of faith which we are preaching,

**9** that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

**10** for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

**11** For the Scripture says, "***WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.***"

**12** For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same *Lord* is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him;

**13** for "***WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.***"

So, all lost sinners must be *graciously* and *sovereignly* brought to a place by God the Holy Spirit where they know they are lost and that

their sins are horrible. A sinner must be granted with the ability to understand and believe and publicly confess that Jesus Christ is God Almighty in human flesh. And that same person is also graciously and sovereignly given the gift of "saving faith" where he may believe that God raised Jesus from the dead. And Paul wrote here that this Faith, this Belief, *results* in Righteousness, and this open and joyful Confession *results* in Salvation.

So, it is very important to understand that we get our information about what to believe, and what to teach, and what we are to confess, and what to trust in, from the Scriptures, and from the Scriptures alone. We do not trust our own intuition, we do not trust our own hearts, or what some ecclesiastical hierarchy has said.

We are those who believe and teach that what the Scriptures say about Jesus, and about Salvation, and what the Scriptures say about Creation, and Right and Wrong, and Heaven and Hell, are *historical facts*, *not* merely theological debate points.

A Biblical Christian believes and teaches that God Almighty humbled Himself not only in taking on flesh in the Incarnation, but also in taking on nouns and verbs through the inspiration of Scripture. A manger in an obscure Jewish village in the first century, and a bloody Cross outside the gates of Jerusalem 33 years later, were not sensational events at the time. And neither are pronouns and the various tenses of verbs. But that is how the one, true, and living God chose to reveal Himself to Man.

A poor Jewish peasant and a prepositional phrase have something in common: they are both very human and they are both very ordinary. And the fact that this poor peasant was God in human flesh, and these prepositional phrases are the inerrant Word of God doesn't change that.

Therefore, if God so humbled Himself to drape human flesh over perfect Deity and to make sure that very common human language was recorded on scrolls, how can any thinking person be so arrogant to ignore either the full Humanity of Jesus Christ or the Words of Scripture?

And so, when the Bible tells us that three days after He died on a Cross that Life from God entered back into Jesus' dead Body, and He opened His Eyes and He stood up and He walked out of that tomb and He rose from the dead. We believe, and we trust, and we confess, and



we teach, and we defend that because *that* is what the Bible says. And it goes on to say in **1 Corinthians 15:17**:

**and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.**

And that means that if Jesus "was" and "did" *everything* that the Bible says He "was" and "did", but did not rise from the dead, the Bible says our faith is absolutely *worthless* and we are still in our sins. Which means we are doomed. So, without the literal and bodily Resurrection of Jesus, not a single sin has been forgiven and not a single soul is saved.

Now there are several significant historical reasons *why* the Islamic *reconstruction* of the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus is not true. But here's the point in taking our text from **Isaiah 53** this morning. This Chapter was not written by Christians *after* Christ's Coming. This Chapter is *not* some effort by those in the early Church to *rewrite* history about what really happened on that particular Friday and that particular Sunday.

This Chapter was written by a Jewish Prophet about 700 years *before* Jesus was ever born. And it was copied thousands of times and was published and had been distributed as far west as England and as far east as India 200 years *before* Jesus Christ ever came. And what this Prophet saw in the future was *not* a mere Man who taught people some nice things about God, but God *Himself*, Who was born of a virgin and Who lived a perfectly sinless Life.

Isaiah doesn't record a man who *escapes* death, and thus has no need for a Resurrection, but a Messiah Who dies, and dies explicitly "in the place of sinners", and then rises again to make intercession for His redeemed and forgiven and justified people, forever.

So, this sermon is about what *really* matters, not just what your own heart says matters to *you*. It is about unshakable, unchangeable, absolute Truth and your relation to that Truth.

Now one of the great advantages of having the Old Testament and the New Testament in one Bible is that they give support to each other. Together they strengthen our faith that both are God's Word. So, if you are Jewish, or come from a Jewish background, your confidence in the

Old Testament, the Jewish Scriptures, may be strong. Yes, and with good reason.

And so, when you see the amazing *fulfillments* of the Old Testament in the Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ, and His Teachings, and the Movement of Christianity that he unleashed on the world, your confidence in the New Testament is made stronger.

Or if you have never read a syllable of the Old Testament, and hear the Story of Jesus Christ and His sinless Life and perfect Teaching and His Death and Resurrection, and the Movement He unleashed 2,000 years ago, you may be overpowered by the Truth and Relevance and Credibility of Christ, and believe that He really is Who He says He is, and you will become a Christian.

And then you discover that this Jesus embraces and endorses the whole Old Testament as being true and reliable Scripture (as in when he said, "**Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.**"). And so, your confidence in the Old Testament grows precisely *because* of the New Testament.

And so, it works all through the Christian life. The more you know Jesus Christ, the better you understand the *roots* of His Life and Ministry that are in the Old Testament where God was at work to *prepare* for the Coming of His Son into history. And the more you know the Old Testament, the better you know the Meaning of Jesus Christ and what He came to fulfill that God had been planning for so long.

So, this morning I thought it would deepen our understanding and strengthen our faith if we fixed our gaze on the Resurrection of Jesus as it was described by the Prophet Isaiah 700 years *before* it happened. And here in **Isaiah 53** we will see both the "Content" and the "Confirmation" of the Resurrection of Christ:

- ✓ *Content*, because the precious meaning of it for our lives is opened to us.
- ✓ *Confirmation*, because it was predicted 700 years before it happened.

So, let's go to **Isaiah 53** and see the Prophecy that the "Servant of the Lord" (52:13; 53:11), the Messiah, would die and would rise again, and that this Death and Resurrection are both *planned* by God and *necessary*. And as we look at this, keep in mind, it has to do with you,

not only right here and right now, but also for the rest of your life and into Eternity. Because what becomes clear from this Chapter and from its fulfillment in the New Testament is three things:

1. Your sins can be forgiven.
2. You can be declared "Righteous" before God.
3. You can have "Eternal Life" with the risen Christ in everlasting Joy.

So, first, let's notice that the promised "Servant of the Lord" was to die, and why. The Death is made explicit in verses 8, 9, and 12:

**8 By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the living For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke *was due?***

**9 His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.**

**12 Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.**

So, after verse 7 says that He was led "like a lamb to the slaughter," verse 8 says that the slaughter was successful:

**By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the living For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke *was due?***

The two phrases, "taken away" and "cut off out of the land of the living", tells us that whoever Isaiah was talking about was killed. And His Death was an "Execution". His Death was not accidental, and this one didn't die from a heart attack. Then verse 9 makes the Death clear by referring to His burial:

**His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.**

... but look also at verse 10:

**But the Lord was pleased To crush Him, putting *Him* to grief...**

So, this Death is *not* a historical accident. It is the Purpose and the Plan of God. But Isaiah says that the crushing Death here was also the "Pleasure" of God. So, the Death of God's "Redeeming Servant" is predicted here clearly. One more Confirmation from verse 12:

**Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death**

Now, *why* did Jesus die? We are told no less than 10 different times in this single Chapter:

1. Verse 4: **"Surely our griefs He Himself bore."**
2. Verse 4: **" . . . And our sorrows He carried."**
3. Verse 5: **"But He was pierced through for our transgressions."**
4. Verse 5: **"He was crushed for our iniquities."**
5. Verse 5: **"The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him."**
6. Verse 5: **"And by His scourging we are healed."**
7. Verse 6: **"The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."**
8. Verse 8: **"[He was] stricken for the transgression of my people."**
9. Verse 11: **"He will bear their iniquities."**
10. Verse 12: **"He bore the sin of many."**

Now if you have ever asked, *"What is the Essence of Christianity? What's at the very Heart and Center of it all?"* Here is the Answer. Let's use the words of verse 6:

**All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way;**

... and this, "going astray" and this "turning to our own way" is called "Sin". Turning away from God and making *ourselves* to be our own "master"

and our own "treasure" is the rebellion against God that is Sin. So, Sin is looking at the Glory of God in all its magnificence, and saying, "*No, thanks, I'd rather have something else.*" And you simply cannot *belittle* God's Glory any more than that. You cannot *insult* God any more than that.

So, our sin *insults* God. Our sin *tramples* the Glory of God under foot. And because God is Righteous, He must *defend* the Glory that has been belittled by our sin. God's righteous Character *compels* God to "adjudicate" the horror of His Glory being insulted by the rebellion of creatures from the dust. And that "adjudication" is the eternal Damnation of sinners in everlasting Torment.

You see, if God didn't defend His Glory that has been belittled by our wickedness, God would be agreeing with us that His Glory was not worth defending. So, this eternal Damnation is "certain" because we are all guilty and it is "eternal" because the offense must be corrected.

Now God could have left it at that. He didn't have to do *anything* to rescue us from our plight. God was not *obligated* to forgive or save a single soul. And He would have remained perfectly Holy had He chosen to leave us in this terrible condition. But He didn't! Thank God, He didn't.

Before the foundation of the world, God chose to magnify the Glory of His Grace by *rescuing* unworthy sinners by what He alone would do for them. So, from ages past, God chose to send a "Suffering Servant", not mainly to give us an example of Love, but to bear our sins as a "Substitute" for us. Verse 6 finishes by saying:

**But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.**

This is the very *Heart* of Christianity. Jesus Christ came into the world to fulfill this Prophecy. Now, He, also, fulfilled many other Prophecies, but this one is Central and Basic. Jesus came to die. And He came to die *in our place*. And He came to die *for our sins*. And this is our only Hope. And the New Testament is all about just *how* this happened, and *how* it affects our lives now and in the ages to come. And I beg you this morning to pursue after what the Bible teaches about these things with all your heart and all your mind.

But what about the Resurrection? Let's look at the Resurrection of the redeeming, suffering, "Servant of the Lord" in these words written

700 years before it happened. At least three times Isaiah tells us that the Sacrifice that this Servant made in dying *results* in a Resurrection triumph. Now he does not use the word "Resurrection," but the *reality* of the Resurrection is plain. Look again at verse 10:

**But the Lord was pleased To crush Him, putting *Him* to grief; If He would render Himself *as* a guilt offering, He will see *His* offspring, He will prolong *His* days, And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand.**

Now look closely at what Isaiah said:

**If He [Jesus] would render Himself *as* a guilt offering...**

... three things will result from that:

1. He will see His offspring.
2. He will prolong His days.
3. And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand.

In other words, if Jesus dies for others as a "guilt offering", or as a perfect "Scapegoat", or as a Substitute:

1. He will live to see His offspring, which are those whom He has saved by dying for them.
2. He will live for a long time ("prolong his days"), which by implication, means "forever", because once death is conquered it can't ever defeat you again.
3. God's great Purposes will triumph in His Hands.

So, by dying as a Substitute, Jesus will conquer Death itself, not just for Himself, but for all that put their trust in Him. **Romans 6:1-14** says:

**1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?**

**2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?**

**3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?**

**4** Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

**5** For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection,

**6** knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;

**7** for he who has died is freed from sin.

**8** Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

**9** knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.

**10** For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

**11** Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**12** Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,

**13** and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin *as* instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.

**14** For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

And then, according to **The Revelation 5:5**, this same Suffering Servant, Who has died in our place, and rose again, will take the scroll of history and *unroll* it as the "Lord of the Universe". So, this is a picture of the Messiah, Who was dead, and is now alive forevermore, and Who is victorious forever as the Lord of all those who receive His Salvation. Then **Isaiah 53:11** says:

**As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see *it and* be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities.**

Again, we see that eternal Triumph comes from this Death and Resurrection in three ways:

1. He sees the fruit of His Death and is satisfied. And that means that He doesn't stay dead. He lives and is satisfied. His Work is complete, and He is glad. He is alive and satisfied.
2. He justifies many, everyone who trusts in him, no matter how sinful they have been. If you trust in Jesus and all that Jesus has done, God Himself will declare you Just and Righteous, and He will forgive all of your sins. That is what "justify" means. A Christ Who dies but Who does not rise cannot justify anyone. Only a dead and risen Christ justifies.
3. "He will bear their iniquities." Yes, Jesus bore these iniquities when He died. But He *goes on* making intercession and bears them forever in the sense that as long as He lives, it is plain that His Death was utterly sufficient to pay for all our sins.

So, God is satisfied with Jesus, and the *result* of that is that wicked rebels are "justified". So, all our sins are carried by another *forever*. We will *never* bear our sins again! And if you have ever failed, if you have ever sinned, if you have ever committed wicked acts, *that* is the best News in all the world! And it only comes by believing in, and trusting in a Savior, Jesus Christ, Who not only *lived* perfectly, but Who *suffered* fully, and Who *died* completely, and Who *rose* victoriously!

Finally, verse 12. God speaks:

**Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.**

Now look closely at exactly why God will give Jesus "**a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong**".

**... Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many...**

This is the third Statement that the Resurrection existed because of the obedient Death for sinners that Jesus carried out. In other words, *after* Jesus pours out Himself to death, He then lives again! And



He then divides the booty with the strong, as though His Death were a great Triumph in war with much booty.

Now what this means is that the Resurrection of Jesus did *not* happen for His sake alone. It *was* for His sake! O, yes! And we would not have it any other way. Let Him be honored for His great Work of Salvation on the Cross! Verse 11:

**"He will see it and *be satisfied*."**

... so make no mistake about it, Jesus was raised from the dead for HIS Satisfaction. But what is the Son satisfied with? Verse 11 says, literally:

"He will see [it and] be satisfied."

Verse 10 says:

"He will see his offspring."

So, I conclude that *part* of Jesus' Satisfaction in the Resurrection is looking out on a great assembly of people from every race and tribe and language and nation, who have trusted Him, and who have been forgiven and justified. And with tremendous Joy, Jesus walks among them now and in the ages to come, and in the words of verse 12:

**a people "great" and "strong"**

And Jesus divides the spoil of His Triumph with them all. Because this is what He loves to do. This is His Satisfaction. He *delights* to save. Jesus loves to bring people from death to life, so they can enjoy His Majesty forever.

Now I purposefully preached from a Passage that is not normally used to illustrate the Resurrection. And I had one goal in mind: If you can see the value and importance of the literal and physical and bodily Resurrection of Jesus from an *obscure* Old Testament Passage, how crystal clear is the Resurrection illustrated in the New Testament?

So, I ask you: Are you His? Have you trusted in Jesus and in His finished Work? Have you turned from your wicked ways? You can. You

can belong to that “great and strong people”, even though you feel utterly unworthy. That is the whole point of the Death of Jesus Christ. He died in our place. And all who trust Him as the Savior and Lord and Treasure of your life will be forgiven and justified and live forever with Him. And that amazing Work was forever sealed by the Resurrection. So, I beg you to run to Jesus for forgiveness and the Salvation of your soul.

Amen. Let's pray

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.