

## EXPOSITION OF ISAIAH

Message #81

Isaiah 53:10-12

By about three in the afternoon, it was all over. Jesus Christ was dead. He had been beaten and marred more than any man. Hardly any had believed on Him. He had been despised, rejected, and forsaken by humanity. He had been turned over to evil, godless people who nailed Him to a cross. It is true that He was on that cross for us but most didn't believe that. In fact, while He was on that cross they said, if you really can save let's see you save yourself.

At the trials he never once defended Himself. He never threatened that He would get even; He just allowed Himself to be led like a sheep to Calvary. They nailed Him to the cross and now six hours later He was dead. His body was taken by Joseph and put in a tomb. Most thought that's the end of that; that's the end of Him. But what most didn't understand is that this whole thing was the Sovereign plan of a Sovereign God. When Jesus Christ died at 3 that afternoon, it was just the beginning. The beginning of an amazing Sovereign plan of God.

Dr. S. Lewis Johnson said when you track Jesus Christ through this poem you first see Him as the Startling Messiah, then the Misunderstood Messiah, then the Substitutionary Messiah, and then the Submissive Messiah. But Dr. Johnson said when you come to these verses, you see Him as the Sovereign Messiah (*Isaiah 53:10-12*, Message #5, p. 2).

So far we have examined four of the five stanzas:

**Stanza #1** - Jesus Christ was God's shocking Servant. 52:13-15

**Stanza #2** - Jesus Christ was rejected as God's suffering Servant. 52:1-3

**Stanza #3** - Jesus Christ was our substitute to be God's saving Servant. 53:4-6

**Stanza #4** - Jesus Christ was totally submissive as God's silent Servant. 53:7-9

Now as we come to the final stanza what we see is this:

**JESUS CHRIST IS FULLY VINDICATED AND WILL BE HIGHLY EXALTED  
BECAUSE HE COMPLETELY SATISFIES GOD AS HIS SOVEREIGN .  
SERVANT/SAVIOR/SON.**

When Jesus Christ died, it wasn't a normal death. We have records of martyrs who died joyously. Many martyrs sang hymns on their way to their own death, and we have accounts of many who said that God stood by them and with them every step of the way.

According to Eusebius, when Polycarp was about to be burned at the stake, he prayed a prayer that actually thanked God that he was considered worthy enough to be martyred. Then many eyewitnesses said that when the flames were first lit, the fire was like a wall around Polycarp and his body wasn't even burning and, finally, someone came with a spear and killed Polycarp (Eusebius, *The History of the Church*, p. 173).

These martyrs died heroic deaths praising God, singing and testifying of the presence and help of God. But it was not that way with Jesus Christ.

When Jesus died, something very mysterious was happening, because He did not speak of the presence of God but the abandonment of God. He cried, “My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?” He spoke of being forsaken by God. Jesus had been perfect, so why is He dying so miserably. No man has ever died like Jesus Christ died. No man could die like Jesus Christ died. What was happening here? What was this all about? It was all God’s judicial Sovereign plan to save sinners. God the Father working in perfect harmony with God the Son and both had Sovereignly planned and executed everything. This death was the Father’s work and it was the Son’s work and the end result is glorious.

That is exactly what is revealed in these final three verses. There are a series of Sovereign theological realities brought out in these verses. What is specifically grammatically interesting about these last three verses is that in Hebrew, Isaiah uses a series of imperfect tense verbs which speak of continual, unfinished, repeated, and sequential action (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Grammar*, p. 125). What this means is that in many of these things the action is still taking place. We will point these out as we journey through the text:

**SOVEREIGN REALITY #1** – The Lord was pleased to crush Jesus Christ. **53:10**

What is revealed in this verse is that the proposition of Jesus Christ becoming a guilt offering for sinful people pleased the Lord. That word “please” is one that means God found favor and delight in this plan because this became a solution as to how God could be just and still justify sinners (*Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 296).

In order for God to save sinners, it required that someone must pay the price for sin and to appease things with God; that someone was His own Son. He would die as a sacrifice for sin. No man gets a free pass. No man is free from condemnation for all have sinned. God’s perfect justice demands punishment. His Son was willing to die as a sacrifice for our sins and that willingness and plan pleased the Lord.

At the Godhead level there was a plan; Jesus Christ would come into this world and become a guilt offering for us. The plan would require that He be “crushed.” That word means He would have to be broken into pieces and take the full brunt of the wrath of God (*Ibid.*, p. 198). Christ was willing to do that and this plan pleased God.

But Jesus would be compensated for His work. There would be some very special results that He would receive for permitting Himself to be crushed:

**Result #1** - He will see His offspring. **53:10a**

One of the results of Christ’s sacrifice is that He would continually see His offspring. The verb “see” is in the imperfect tense meaning that Jesus Christ would continually be able to see His offspring come into His family because of His sacrifice. He would see millions and millions of people come into the family of God.

Who of us does not want to see our offspring? Not only do most grandparents want to see their offspring, but they want you to see them too. They pull out their pictures and take you on a journey so you can see their pedigree.

What is actually amazing is that the thing that would enable Him to see His offspring would be His death. This is such an odd thing because most people who die cannot see their offspring. But in this case, His death would lead to Him seeing all of His offspring.

**Result #2** - He will prolong His days. **53:10b**

The word “prolong” means God is promising that the Lord would have His days extended and stretched out (*Ibid.*, p. 79). Now since it has just been revealed that Jesus Christ would have to be crushed and die, how do you prolong His days? Furthermore the imperfect tense indicates those days would be continually prolonged. **The solution is the resurrection !**

In our case, we die and typically are buried for a long, long time. We die and into the ground we go either in body or ash form. We are there day after day, month after month, and year after year. Martin Luther has been buried for 464 years; John Calvin has been buried for 446 years; George Whitefield has been buried for 240 years; C. I. Scofield has been buried for 89 years; Lewis Sperry Chafer has been buried for 58 years; Mr. Miles has been buried for 8 months. Many of us have parents who have been buried for many years. Once they died their death has been prolonged but not their days.

But in the case of the Lord Jesus Christ, He died and came back to life three days later. His days were prolonged after His death. One of the results of Christ paying the price for our sins is that God would not allow His body to be in that grave very long. He did prolong His days and Jesus came out alive.

**Result #3** - He will have prosperity and pleasure of the Lord. **53:10c**

Everything Jesus Christ would do would please the Lord and prosper the Lord’s work. That word “prosper” is one that means everything Jesus Christ would do would continually cause the work of God to succeed and flourish (*Ibid.*, pp. 709-710).

The entire program of God will come to complete success through Jesus Christ. There is coming a day when Jesus Christ will crush Mohammed’s demonism. There is coming a day when Jesus Christ will destroy the false gods of Joseph Smith and Brigham Young. There will come a day when there will be no false religion on this earth again. Jesus Christ will take care of it all.

Furthermore, I want you to think about this; when God saved you, it was all part of the successful program of God.

**SOVEREIGN REALITY #2** – The Lord will be completely satisfied with Christ’s sacrifice.  
**53:11**

The Hebrew word “satisfy” is one that means to be continually satisfied to the fullest possible level (*Ibid.*, p. 783). The imperfect tense of the verb indicates that God is continually and repeatedly satisfied with the work of Jesus Christ. In other words, the Godhead was completely and thoroughly satisfied with Christ’s sacrificial work.

One question that comes to mind is who is actually satisfied - God the Father or God the Son? The answer is both. God the Father is completely satisfied with the judicial work of God the Son, and God the Son is completely satisfied with the work as well.

When most people build a house, they think and plan and research and then build it. Inevitably if you talk to someone who has done this, they will say if we had to do it over again, we would have done this differently. The Godhead never says that about the work of Jesus Christ. Every time they see it and analyze it they are fully satisfied. There is nothing lacking at all in Christ’s work.

That work required meant that Jesus Christ would have “anguish” in His soul. The word “anguish” means to be weary and troubled in your soul (*Ibid.*, p. 639). Not only did this work of Jesus Christ require that He suffer physically, but also that He would suffer internally, mentally, and emotionally. **In order to save our soul, He had to have anguish in His own.** As we said, when He cried, “My God, My God why hast Thou forsaken Me?,” there were things happening you and I know nothing about. As G. Campbell Morgan said, Jesus Christ took our hell so we could take His heaven.

God was completely satisfied with the sacrificial work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**There are two specific legal satisfaction realities of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ:**

**Legal Satisfaction Reality #1** - Jesus Christ can give justification .

His Righteous, Holy Servant came into this world and He went to that cross for our sins so that we could be justified.

Notice carefully that He will justify many, not all. He will bear the iniquities of all who believe in Him. His cross-work is acceptable to God and God the Father is fully satisfied with what He did on our behalf, and any who will believe on Him will be justified.

Donald Grey Barnhouse told the story of a man who had grown up in the ghetto of New York and became a tremendous success. He wrote plays and became very wealthy. He bought his own yacht and he also went out and bought himself a captain’s uniform to wear. It was a beautiful uniform. It had all of the gold and braid of a captain’s uniform in the United States Navy. One day he went and picked up his mother and told her that he wanted to take her to his yacht so she could see it. She went onto his boat and he slipped downstairs and put on his beautiful captain’s uniform.

He went back up to where his mother was and said, “Look, Mom, I am a captain.” His mom said, “Son, by my calculation you are a captain and by your calculation you are a captain, but by a real Navy captain’s calculation you are not a captain.”

What we are up against in our eternal case before a holy God is His righteousness. We may look nice when we compare ourselves to others, but when we compare ourselves to His standards and His calculations, we do not come close to His glory.

God says, our plan was that My Righteous Servant come into this world to justify you. And for one who believes on Him, He will bear your iniquities and give you justification in your status with God.

**Legal Satisfaction Reality #2** - Jesus Christ can bear our iniquities.

The word “iniquity” (awon) is one that refers to the depraved and perverse sin crimes that we have committed against a holy God (*Ibid.*, p. 614).

What is interesting here is that the verb “He will bear” is not a reference to just our initial justification. The verb in Hebrew is future imperfect tense which means that after we are justified, Jesus Christ continues to carry out an advocacy work on our behalf for the perverse and depraved things that we do. The assumption is that when Jesus Christ saves us, we do not become some perfect holy person in practice. In fact, there will be moments when we will sin, and if we say differently, we are a liar (I John 1:8, 10).

What this verse says is that when we sin, God continually dispenses the merits of His cross-work on our behalf as our great High Priest. He distributes necessary grace as our continual advocate. When we do something sinful, evil, depraved and we confess it, God looks at that cross-work of Jesus Christ and is fully satisfied that the case is settled.

**SOVEREIGN REALITY #3** – The Lord will completely reward and exalt Jesus Christ.  
**53:12**

There are two major rewards that God the Father gives to God the Son because He was willing to tackle this assignment:

**(Reward #1)** - He will be seen and worshipped as the great God in control of everything.

There is coming a day when Jesus Christ will be seen as the great God. God will turn everything over to His Son and the whole earth will honor Him.

**(Reward #2)** - He will share God’s Kingdom with the strong.

Part of the reward given to Jesus Christ is that He will be able to select those strong believers and share His Kingdom with them.

In the last part of the verse there are four specific Christological sacrificial works that God states that become the reason for this:

**Christological Sacrificial Work #1** - He was poured out to death . **53:12a**

He was God's offering poured out for us.

**Christological Sacrificial Work #2** - He was numbered with the transgressors . **53:12b**

He who knew no sin became sin for us.

**Christological Sacrificial Work #3** - He Himself bore the sin of many. **53:12c**

All sin is washed away for those who believe in Him.

**Christological Sacrificial Work #4** - He interceded for transgressors. **53:12d**

What God is basically saying here is, My Servant/Son/Savior has taken care of your entire sin case and I am totally satisfied with His work; and one day He will reign on this earth and all will see Him as the King of kings, the Lord of lords, and as the only Savior of the world.