

WHAT HAPPENED AT CALVARY

August 7, 2016

Isaiah 53:1-12

The Lord's Supper

“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5

Isaiah wrote some seven hundred years before Christ. He wrote to people of Judah, warning of judgment, and to comfort believers, assuring them that God had not forsaken His covenant.

Jesus Christ is the embodiment of that covenant. Chapter 53 speaks of Him. It describes man's natural response to Him and the cause and effects of His suffering. Six New Testament passages, reference Isaiah 53 to teach the life and work of Jesus Christ (Matthew 8:14-17; John 12:37-41; Luke 22:35-38; 1 Peter 2:19-25; Acts 8:26-35; Romans 10:11-21). From our text, consider:

I. THE SUFFERING OF CALVARY: *“he was wounded . . . he was bruised”*

Christ's suffering on the cross is well known, having been recounted often. Yet the agonies He endured can be known only by one who has been crucified, whose crucifixion was preceded by the brutalities He endured and the indignities that accompanied it. The betrayal, rejection, mockery, ridicule and causeless hatred, inflicted by scorning liars, constitute the utmost extremes of suffering. Moreover, He was forsaken by God. All of this befell the only righteous man, exacerbating its sting. His appearance was astonishing. “His visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men” (Isaiah 52:14).

II. THE SIN OF CALVARY: *“he was wounded . . . for transgressions, he was bruised for . . . iniquities”*

Isaiah makes it clear that it was “transgressions,” “iniquities,” “the sin of many” and their “chastisement” that necessitated such suffering. His suffering was judgement for sin.

III. THE SUBSTITUTION OF CALVARY: *“he was wounded for **our** transgressions, he was bruised for **our** iniquities: the chastisement of **our** peace was upon him”*

It was not His sin, for Christ “did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth” (53:9; I Peter 2:22-25). He suffered crucifixion for the sins of others, of everyone who would ever be forgiven. “By his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities” (53:11).

IV. THE SATISFACTION AND SALVATION OF CALVARY: *“with his stripes we are healed”*

It is often taught that Christ's death provided the potential for man to be saved. This misperceives our text, and the biblical teaching. The prophet exclaims, “by his stripes we are healed.” The death of Christ was an actual redemption, not merely a potential. The Scriptures teach Christ's atoning work as having been completed, not by sinners' cooperation, but by His sin-bearing on the cross. Thus Isaiah affirms, “He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

