

Let's Worship God

30th Sept. - 5th Oct. 2024

Isaiah



Isaiah

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Monday - Isaiah 53:1-3 - The Unexpected Saviour

In contrast to the nations, the people of Israel do not and cannot believe that the One Who is the Servant is, indeed, the Messiah of God. Even though He had been promised in all His Mediatorial offices, even though the time had been announced in Daniel 9:24, the people would not believe God's Word. The truth is that the Arm of the LORD must be revealed. That is, it is by sovereign and effectual calling alone, that enables a person to believe the reports (John 6:44-45); to believe the Word of prophecy and the portrayals of the ceremonies of the Old Testament.

He was altogether unlike what the Jews of His own day expected in their distorted misunderstanding of the Scriptures. They expected One Who would come with great glory, splendour, majesty, and power. He grew up as a plant out of dry ground; the Branch rooted out of the House of David, which house was sadly degenerated and pretty much lost track of by the general population and the Jewish leaders of the time. Unlike the expectation of the Jews, He was born in obscurity and poverty, and His childhood was largely anonymous. He did not look distinguished, as so often people desire their leaders to be. He was not tall and imposing, as Saul, or even ruddy and athletic like His forefather, David. He looked incredibly average. He did not look the part, thus many rejected Him. He came to His own, and His own received Him not, as we read in John 1:11. Instead of looking to Him and being saved, they looked at Him, found Him not to their taste, and looked away to their own righteousness and later to false "messiahs". Consequently, instead of acclamation and allegiance, He is despised and rejected - by the leaders and all too many of the common people, as we see in the Gospel accounts. All along this happens, culminating at the "trial" before Pilate. The rest of the Jews' history in Bible times is an outworking of that rejection.

The next phrase we meet is one we know well, but seldom think of. What were the sorrows and griefs He carried? They were the common hardships of man, but they were far more. He had none of the sorrow and grief we all experience for our own folly and sin, but He did have that of knowing the fallenness of the world far more than we do, and He bore all that which His people would have brought upon themselves. Instead of receiving, and loving, and adoring, and submitting to Him, they, and we, were we left to ourselves, were ashamed of Him and repelled by Him.

Question

1. What does this tell us about the appearance of Jesus?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would look to Jesus.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned -- every one -- to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6

Praise: Psalm 143- See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 53:4-5- For Us

Jesus bears our griefs and carries our sorrows (Hebrews 9:28). That which is rightly ours by our sin and folly, that which we could never carry, that which would sink us to the lowest Hell, is that which He has carried for us. Willingly He took this burden, a burden of many millions, burdens of lifetimes of sin, and willingly bore, willingly carried this burden. Those who have been tormented by sin and their guilt, whether it be in their awakening before conversion, or perhaps in a temporary "abandonment" without assurance, have some small notion of the overwhelming storm of wrath and cursing poured out upon the Servant for His people's sake. It was so evident, especially at the cross, that He was under a curse (Galatians 3:13), that the wicked and the unthinking attributed it to something horrible He must have done, and that He was under the curse of God for His own sin.

His time on the cross was due to our sin. Verse 5 explains that explicitly. He suffered in the body for our transgression. Thus, His wounding was what we deserve, and what we would endure through eternity. The second phrase, that He was bruised for our iniquity, expresses the intensity of the statement. Such could only be done by the sinless High Priest and Victim, Who willingly gave Himself to death that we might live. Note that this suffering -- internally in verse 4 and externally in verse 5 -- is something done for us, not in us. It is something done and finished. Christ accomplishes our salvation by His work done once for all as a substitute for us (Romans 3:26). His chastisement brought us peace, as Paul remarks upon in Romans 5:1. The clinging disease of sin is healed by Christ's work at the cross (1 Peter 2:24). Believe on this One so clearly portrayed by Isaiah, Who has come and has done exactly as prophesied. Believe on Him, and cry out to Him to save you from your sin, and He shall do so!

Questions

1. What did Jesus carry on the cross?
2. Why did Jesus die?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for all that Christ has done.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned -- every one -- to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6

Praise: Psalm 144 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 53:6- The Sin Of Us All

First we have the comparison of God's people to sheep. So many times we see this in Scripture. Many breeds of sheep have a strong herd instinct. But not all breeds are this way. The sheep we are compared to here are those who do not have much of a herding instinct. Sheep have distinctive behaviours. They are drawn towards food. They move towards light. They like to move up, to go up higher. Just like people, there are individuals who can be stubborn, but this is the tendency. What's that got to do with us? What we really attain to when we are left to our own wanderings is we go eat that which is really the deadly poison of sin. We go after the darkness of iniquity. And we go over the cliff of judgment because we have gone astray, left to ourselves in Adam. We all too easily love and follow after sin and idols. It's an old problem. We not only, of course, have the record of Adam's sin against us. We not only have our own marred and broken nature within us, but we have piled up since we were little, our own individual sins that are the fruit of the sin nature that we have. See Shorter Catechism #18.

In kindness, in grace, in love, before time, the triune God determined to save many sinners by the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. He, the son of God, became the son of Man. He became the lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). He comes to our world, full of sin, willingly. Sin must be dealt with. God is righteous, He is holy, He cannot abide sin and continue to be God. So somehow sin must be dealt with. How to save a people? It's here, plainly. The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. All the guilt of His people, with the responsibility for it, and the curse of it, all concentrated on Him. All the sin that you have done all your life, that's all loaded on Jesus Christ. It's a burden you can't possibly bear, but it's all loaded upon Him. The sin of all God's chosen ones, from Adam and Eve to the last sinner saved before Jesus comes again. It's all loaded up on Him. And all that is angering to God, all that guilt and all the curse it deserved, is concentrated down upon one pinpoint of the God-Man. And He did this to the Son He loved because He loved us so much. The Son said, 'I will do it', because He loved us so much. The Spirit of God takes this and He applies it to each of His people. Indeed, the Lamb died that the sheep might live.

Questions

1. What happens when we go our own way?
2. How does the Father deal with the Son?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Christ has borne our sins.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned -- every one -- to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6

Praise: Psalm 145 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 53:7 - As a Lamb to the Slaughter

Here is the Spirit of God enabling Isaiah to write of Christ's life in general, but in particular from the point where the mob comes to take Him at Gethsemane until His crucifixion the next day. He was taken, and He willingly went, taken before the Jews, taken before the Gentiles, judged and accursed by them all, and then judged and accursed by His Father in heaven there at the cross, oppressed and afflicted indeed. Why did He have to do this? It was because He took to himself the guilt of His people's iniquity. Jesus lived perfectly and then died as a sinner, so that we who have lived imperfectly, really horribly, actually might live as those who were righteous. We're justified by what Jesus, the lamb of God, did for us at the cross long ago.

Jesus was taken to death. He was led as a lamb to the slaughter. Jesus put up no more resistance to His own slaughter than does a lamb. He could have destroyed them all. He showed his power and ability to elude them, to be rid of them. Yet willingly He went, because He was yielded to His Father's will. We do not hear Him questioning His Father's understanding of things, His Father's goodness, His Father's right to do this. There is no questioning whatsoever. He opens not His mouth. He goes before the Sanhedrin. He said nearly nothing until He was forced under oath. He goes before Pilate under the judgment of the Gentile magistrate. He is shuttled off to Herod under the Jewish civil magistrate, back to Pilate again. And they are all marveling, all astonished, that they cannot get a word out of Him. He will not defend himself. He will not let justice be deferred. Rather, He's like a sheep being shorn, quietly taking it. Even at the cross He only says what is necessary. He endures with hardly a word there, only saying that which is necessary for us, His people, to be assured of His atoning work there.

For you and for me, He willingly went. And it was that love for you, His people, for you, Christian, that put Him on the cross, that kept Him on the cross till the last farthing was paid, till He was able to say with joy, joy that it was accomplished, joy that He had done it, joy that He had redeemed.

Question

1. How does this passage tell us about Jesus?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Christ willingly went to the cross for you.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned -- every one -- to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6

Praise: Psalm 146 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 53:8 - Cut Off

Jesus was taken from oppression and taken from judgment. He was under various Jurisdictions; the Sanhedrin, the Gentile rulers, the Jewish rulers, and God Himself, and in each one He was pronounced guilty, though He had done no sin.

God is having Isaiah, and us through him, look at the wickedness and depravity of the generation in which Jesus lived. All of it came to a head, we might say, in the rejection of the Messiah. He was attested to them by signs, miracles, and wonders, and they took the holy one of Israel and put Him to death (Acts 2:22-24).

The judgment on Christ, foreseen by Isaiah, was severe. He was cut off. He was severely punished in the body and far worse within His soul. What man could do to Him was as nothing compared to what He endured from the wrath of His Father in heaven. As we read accounts of the crucifixion, as we see His agony in Gethsemane, anticipating it, and the agony He bore on the cross, we see what sin really deserves, and we see how nasty it is. Do you imagine that the Father whose love for His son is infinite would subject Him to this were there another way?

Jesus went to the cross because of transgression. The payment for sin demanded it. He had to go to the cross if He were going to save His people from their sin. He went in the place of the transgressors. Jesus went to die in the place of sinners who deserved to die. He did not deserve it, for He never sinned. Jesus died so that those who believe on Him might live. He did it in the place of and as the stand-in for sinners. The full penalty for sin was paid by Him, for His people. He paid the entire price of redemption. He redeemed them utterly. There would be, there is, there will be nothing to be added by them. Do you long to have someone who will take your place? Do you see that you yourself really deserve death? You are a transgressor, but Jesus came to save transgressors. Do you want to be forgiven and have a living, and loving, and eternal relationship with a Father in heaven? Then cry out to Jesus in prayer for forgiveness and salvation.

Questions

1. What does the cross show us about sin?
2. Why did Jesus die on the cross?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the salvation of family and friends.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned -- every one -- to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6

Praise: Psalm 147- See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 53:9 - At His Death

Here we come to the deepest part of what our Catechisms call "Christ's humiliation". Jesus, Who is the God of life, has been brought to death itself and is now buried. His burial shows that His death was real. The real penalty for sin was truly and fully paid for His people. If you are united to Jesus Christ, His death for sin is your death to sin. No longer can you be judged or condemned by the law. Jesus has paid that penalty altogether, so that the grave can no longer hold Him.

These two members of the Sanhedrin, Joseph and Nicodemus, asked for, took, prepared, and buried Jesus' body in Joseph's own expensive cave. God honored His Son there at the grave. It was the ending of the humiliation. It was the preparation for the exaltation of Jesus Christ. He then went to resurrection, to ascension, to being seated at the right hand of the Father, continuing His work as prophet, priest, and king for His people. One last step of his exaltation remains. And that is when He returns, literally, physically, visibly, and gloriously to raise all His people from the dead bringing us all to our eternal state.

The second part of this verse shows us that there was nothing for which to judge Jesus. The Sanhedrin couldn't pin any charge on Him. They tried. They even got false witnesses, but it was evident that they were lying. The government magistrates said there was no sin in him. He had done no violence. And there was no deceit in his mouth. There was nothing he had said. There was nothing that an one could ever attack. If this be the case, why did He have to die? He was judged guilty that you and I might receive innocence. He endured the curse that we might receive blessing. He went through wrath that we might have words of welcome. He was abandoned by His Father in heaven that we might be adopted as children of our Father in heaven, and He died His death, that we might receive life evermore. He did this in the place of sinners. If you are in Jesus Christ, this burial is your assurance that God's wrath that you deserve is buried too. Now that Jesus is raised from the dead, you are raised. And as He lives forevermore, He gives you eternal life, the same as His.

Question

1. How was Jesus honoured at His death?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned -- every one -- to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6

Praise: Psalm 148 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
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