

Jesus: The Misunderstood Messiah

Who is Jesus? - Week 1

Isaiah 53:1-3



Week 1 - The Misunderstood Messiah - Isaiah 53:1-3

Week 2 - The Suffering Substitute - Isaiah 53: 4-6

Week 3 - The Silent Savior - Isaiah 53: 7-9

Week 4 - The Conquering Christ - Isaiah 53:10-12

Section 1 - Jesus was not the kind of Messiah the people were waiting for. (Isaiah 53:1)

→ See also John 6:10-15; Mark 10: 35-37; and John 7:1-8.

Section 2 - A king comes to a throne - not to a cross. (Isaiah 53:2)

→ See also Mark 6:3 and Matthew 13:55.

Section 3 - The people despised Jesus for being a Messiah who suffered instead of ruled. (Isaiah 53:3)

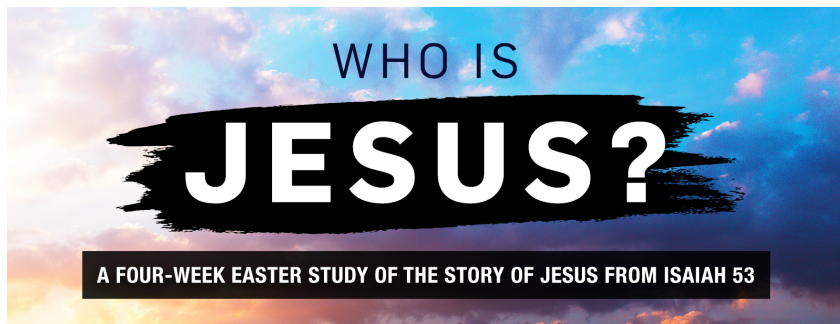
→ See also Matthew 12:9-14

Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

Truth #1 - A person can be wrong about some things and still go to Heaven. But a person can't be wrong about Jesus and still go to Heaven.

Truth #2 - If we don't want Jesus as our Savior, we will one day face Him as our Judge.

Truth #3 - Our sins caused Jesus to go to the cross but it was His love for us that kept Him there.



Jesus: The Suffering Substitute

Who is Jesus? - Week 2

Isaiah 53:4-6

Introduction: Today in verses 4-6 of Isaiah 53, we will see how Jesus was our substitute on the cross who suffered the penalty and the punishment for our sins. Here is an important truth we will look at today: We will never fully understand the character of God until we understand the cross of Christ. And perhaps no other place in the Bible helps us understand the full purpose of the cross like Isaiah 53.

What Jesus did for us on the cross

#1 - He took our pain. (Isaiah 53:4)

→ **Note this:** The primary work of the atonement of Jesus at the cross was for our spiritual healing. However, for every broken thing that has resulted in the grief, pain, and sorrow from living in a sin-cursed world, Jesus carried it on the cross in order to one day redeem it. That full redeeming will not happen on earth, but it will happen one day in Heaven. Revelation 21:4-5 tells us, "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

#2 - He took our punishment. (Isaiah 53:5)

→ **Note this:** The Bible tells us that Jesus was pierced with a Roman spear (John 19:34). The Bible tells us that Jesus was crushed under the beatings of the Roman flogging which traditionally was 39 lashes from the whip of a Roman soldier upon the bare back of its victim tied to a whipping post (John 19:1). The Bible tells us that darkness came over all the land from noon until 3 PM while Jesus was on the cross (Matthew 27:45). It is believed that the darkness was the judgment of our sins being placed on Jesus. As Bible teacher, W.A. Criswell commented on those moments of darkness on the cross, "All that was involved can never be known."

#3 - He took our place. (Isaiah 53:6)

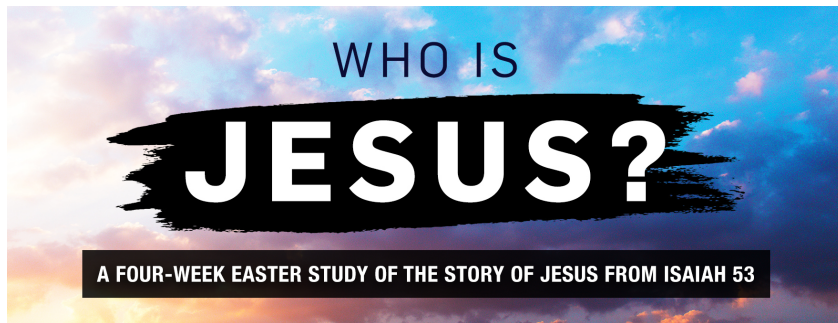
→ **Note this:** "And the Lord has laid on him." "Him" is the Son of God who came from Heaven to earth to be our Savior. God laid our sins on Jesus. Jesus took our place and our punishment on the cross. The gospel song, "*The Day He Wore My Crown*" says it correctly: "And I'm the one to blame. I caused all the pain. He gave Himself. The day He wore my crown." The hymn, "*Hallelujah! What a Savior!*" also demonstrates the truth of Isaiah 53:6, "Bearing shame and scoffing rude. In my place condemned He stood. Sealed my pardon with His blood. Hallelujah! What a Savior!"

Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

Truth #1 - What Jesus did on the cross He did for me.

Truth #2 - Jesus was crucified on a cross and placed in a tomb, but that's not the end of the story.

Truth #3 - Because Jesus died for me, I should live for Him.



Jesus: The Silent Savior

Who is Jesus? - Week 3

Isaiah 53:7-9

Introduction: Though Jesus had done no wrong, uttered no threats, and committed no crimes, the powers that be felt threatened by His growing popularity and decided that He had to go ... He had to be put to death. So, they trumped up some false charges against Him, brought in some false witnesses to testify against Him, shuffled Him from one court to another, and in the end, they got what they wanted - Jesus of Nazareth crucified on a cross.

What we see ... that Isaiah saw ... in this section of prophecy

1. **Jesus could have spoken a single word and been set free from all His suffering - but He never spoke a word.** (Isaiah 53:7)

→ **Note this:** It is crucial we understand why Jesus stayed silent (did not retaliate) before His accusers and during His sufferings. One, Jesus stayed silent before His accusers because He had no sin nor crimes to confess. Two, Jesus stayed silent before His accusers because He had no need to try to defend Himself. He already knew He was going to the cross (Matthew 16:21). However, the most crucial reason Jesus stayed silent before His accusers and during His suffering was to pay the price for our salvation. Even in Jesus not speaking a word, He was showing how much He loved us.

2. **The Just One is given an unjust sentence.** (Isaiah 53:8)

→ **Note this:** The word "judgement" refers to the six trials Jesus faced: three religious Jewish trials and three Roman civil trials. From the three Jewish religious trials, Jesus was declared a blasphemer, and the decision was to put Jesus to death (Matthew 27:1). From the three Roman civil trials, Jesus was ruled not guilty of anything worthy of being put to death (Luke 23:4). But when Pilate was pressured by an uproar from the religious Jewish leaders to crucify Jesus, he let the people decide (Matthew 27:20-26). To them, the bruised and beaten man who claimed to be the Messiah was not THEIR Messiah. Therefore, the people shouted, "Crucify Him."

3. **Jesus was assigned a burial grave with the wicked but then reassigned a burial tomb from the wealthy.** (Isaiah 53:9)

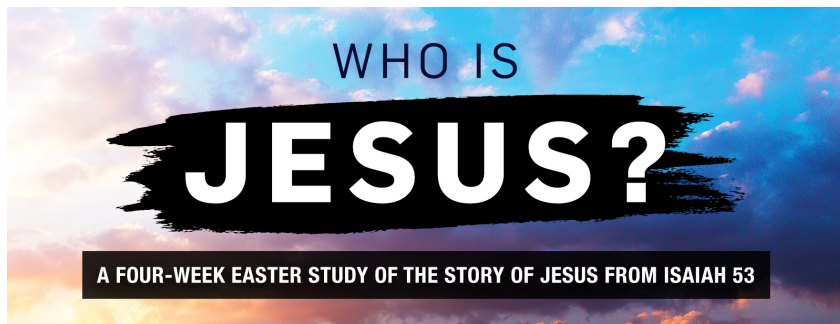
→ **Note this:** How could Jesus be assigned a grave with the wicked and yet also with the rich? Matthew 27:57-60 tells us how. Tombs like the one Jesus was placed in were very expensive. It was a very great sacrifice for Joseph of Arimathea to give this tomb for Jesus. But we know what Joseph didn't know - Jesus would only need to borrow the tomb for the weekend!

Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

Truth #1 - Every sinner needs a Savior. Every person is a sinner. Therefore, every person needs a Savior. Jesus Christ is that Savior.

Truth #2 - From the worst evil, God brought the greatest good.

Truth #3 - One test of the strength of our walk with God is found in what we don't say. Following in the steps of Jesus means we sometimes have to trust some things to God and say nothing (1 Peter 2:21-23).



Jesus: The Conquering Christ

Who is Jesus? - Week 4

Isaiah 53:10-12

Introduction: In the book of Isaiah, we find God showing the prophet Isaiah a look into the future to the coming of the Messiah/Savior. 700 years before the time of Jesus, Isaiah recorded exact details about the life, death, and even the resurrection of the Messiah/Savior, Jesus.

Isaiah shares three surprising truths

Surprise #1 - God was the catalyst of the cross. (Isaiah 53:10a)

Note this: It is a remarkable truth to know that God had planned the cross as told by Isaiah, 700 years before it happened. But it is an even more incredible truth to know that before the world happened, God knew we would sin and would need a Savior, and Jesus agreed to be that slain Savior to pay the price and punishment for our sins. In Revelation 13:8, Jesus is called, "*The Lamb who was slain before the creation of the world.*" The Bible tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:19, "*God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.*" God the Father and God the Son worked together at what happened at the cross. Even as Jesus was punished as a sinner on the cross, He was performing the most holy act of service to God the Father ever offered.

Surprise #2 - The crucifixion of Jesus is not the end of the story of Jesus ... not even close! (Isaiah 53:10b-12a)

Note this: Someone has said about the day Christ died on the cross, "*Darkness fell, His friends scattered, hope seemed lost. But Heaven just started counting to three.*" Someone added to this quote, "*Three, two, one - Resurrection!*" The crucifixion of Jesus was not the end of the story of Jesus. As Jesus said in Revelation 1:18, "*I died, and behold I am alive forevermore.*"

Surprise #3 - Jesus was not on the cross for any wrong He had done but for all the wrongs we had done. (Isaiah 53:12b)

Note this: With these last words from chapter 53, Isaiah comes full circle. He starts with the focus on Jesus being our sin-bearer and he concludes with the focus on Jesus being our sin-bearer. The pronoun "He" in this verse is emphatic. "He," Jesus, and none other was our substitutionary death on the cross. Because He died in a moment in time "bearing the sins of many," many will live with Him forever in Heaven.

Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

Truth #1 - The greatest story ever told is too important not to tell to others.

Truth #2 - In the Christian faith, salvation is not spelled "d-o," it is spelled "d-o-n-e." Through Jesus, God did everything that needs to be done for salvation. Now, "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Romans 10:13)

Truth #3 - Not the cross, nor the empty tomb, nor even the accession of Jesus is the end of the story of Jesus. There is a Second Coming of Jesus yet to come, when all that sin has ruined, Jesus will make it right!