

# POWER HOUR

12/08/2024

Lesson Text:  
Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-12

Background Scripture:  
Leviticus 16:20-22, Psalms 22:1-31,  
Matthew 8:14-17

Devotional Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:18-21  
1 Peter 2:21-25

“GOD SENDS HIS SERVANT TO SUFFER FOR US”

NLT TRANSLATION

**Golden Text:** *All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all. Isaiah 53:6 NLT*

**Time:** *about 700-695 B.C.*

**Place:** Jerusalem

## Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-12 NLT

**4** Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down.

And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins!

**5** But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. **6** All of us, like sheep, have strayed away.

We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all.

**10** But it was the LORD's good plan to crush Him and cause Him grief.

Yet when His life is made an offering for sin, He will have many descendants.

He will enjoy a long life, and the LORD's good plan will prosper in His hands.

**11** When He sees all that is accomplished by His anguish, He will be satisfied.

And because of His experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for He will bear all their sins. **12** I will give Him the honors of a victorious soldier, because He exposed Himself to death. He was counted among the rebels. He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels.

## **INTRODUCTION**

A study of world religions will show that they all promote doing something to earn salvation. Christianity, however, offers salvation for free to all who will believe in what has already been done.

**1. God's Son stricken (Isa. 53:4-6). This was no ordinary plan of God.** It was conceived in the mind of God long before the earth was created. It involved intense physical suffering. The Bible tells us that Jesus was "smitten of God, and afflicted" (vs. 4). Isaiah prophesied that Christ would carry our deep griefs and our sorrows on the cross. He took our place when we should have been the ones receiving the punishment. He was wounded (pierced through) and bruised (crushed) on the cross as a result of our transgressions. Because He was punished, we have peace with God. He suffered in our place. The standard form of punishment in the Jewish law of New Testament times was "forty stripes save one" (II Cor. 11:24). To avoid violating Deuteronomy 25:1-3, which stipulated no more than forty lashes, the Jews of Paul's day often inflicted thirty-nine lashes. Isaiah reminds us that Jesus received the "stripes" we deserved.

**2. The plan of God (Isa. 53:10-11).** Isaiah reminds us that all this suffering was part of God's plan. He had to crush His Son and fill Him with grief and sorrow so that we might trust in His sacrifice and be saved. We are told that Jesus will have many heirs of this salvation. Many will come to Him because of His death on the cross. Help the class understand that victory over sin and death has been accomplished. Jesus paid the price and opened the door to heaven and all its glory for us.

**3. The results of Jesus' being bruised for us (Isa. 53:12).** What does all this suffering mean for us today? Isaiah helps us understand. He tells us that Jesus was given a place of honor in heaven. He was honored for His obedience and His sacrifice. He faced death on behalf of the world. For us this means that He was counted as being among sinners like us; He bore our sins. He interceded for us on the cross. This means eternal life for those who have trusted in Him.

## POINTS TO PONDER

1. What God is doing is not always apparent (Isa. 53:4).
2. Remember that our free salvation was very costly to the Savior (vs. 5).
3. Christ bore my personal sin on the cross because I was and am personally a sinner (vs. 6).
4. Christ's death was no accident but rather the plan of God (Isa. 53:10; Acts 2:23).
5. Only Jesus' death can satisfy the wrath of God and provide salvation (Isa. 53:11).
6. Rejoice in the fact that Jesus intercedes even now for you (Isa. 53:12; Heb. 7:25).

## CONCLUSION

Isaiah 52:13—53:12 is the fourth of the Servant Songs in Isaiah and probably the most familiar, at least for Christians. Here we see both the travail and the triumph of the Servant. While some of the other Servant Songs could arguably be applied to Israel, this one definitely depicts the sufferings of an individual.

## QUESTION(S)

How does Isaiah 53 fit into the overall context of the book?

What does it mean that the Servant had "no form nor comeliness" (vs. 2)?

In what ways did Jesus carry our sorrows (vs. 4)?

What was the common view regarding Jesus' sufferings?

What is the nature of the healing we received through the stripes of the Servant?

Why are sheep an apt illustration of human sinfulness?

How would Christ see His seed and prolong His days (vs. 10)?

How would Christ "justify many" (vs. 11)? Does this mean everyone will be saved?

How was Christ "numbered with the transgressors" (vs. 12)?

Why does Isaiah's prophecy put so much emphasis on the term "transgressors"?

## ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week's lesson is *"God's Plan Is Affirmed"*

Lesson Text: *Luke 1:39-56*

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