

### **Isaiah's Passion History**

**Sermon Text: Isaiah 53:10-12** <sup>10</sup> Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. <sup>11</sup> He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup> Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

### **Sermon Theme: Isaiah Prophecies the Perfect Completion of Jesus' Mission of Salvation.**

In the name of Jesus Christ, who offered up His life so that we might have eternal life, dear fellow redeemed;

Through Isaiah's prophecy in chapter 53 the prophet has accurately and vividly presented the sufferings and death of our Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus Himself on the night of His betrayal made reference to this chapter in making known to His disciples what was going to happen to Him in the following hours, as He declared, "For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: 'And He was numbered with the transgressors.' For the things concerning Me have an end." (Lk. 22:37)

Isaiah has shown us the great depths of humiliation Jesus allowed Himself to be subjected to; the soul rending sorrow He experienced; His willingness to be the substitute for the guilty ones while in the midst of suffering; His submissive attitude in allowing Himself to be so cruelly and shamefully mistreated; and finally, permitting His life to be cut off from the land of the living and His body laid to rest in the grave.

Isaiah's account does not end here. He does not leave us wondering whether or not there was something truly significant accomplished by all this. And He does not leave us without a confident hope of how all this affects the spiritual condition of our lives and our future eternal destiny. For in the concluding verses of chapter 53, Isaiah reveals the Savior's mission fully accomplished.

Jesus, the incarnate Son of God, had been sent into this world to carry out the gracious will of His heavenly Father for our sake. In John chapter 6, Jesus tells what that wonderful will is by declaring to us, "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I

should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.” (Vv.38-40) Out of love for us the heavenly Father wanted Jesus to deliver us from the power and dominion of Satan, and rescue us from eternal death and condemnation. In order to do this Jesus had to liberate us from the oppressive guilt of sin and from the condemnatory curse of the law. The blessed result of this would be reconciling us unto God, adopting us into His family, and making us heirs of eternal life in heaven.

For us sinful mortals to try to accomplish this it would be simply impossible. But not so with Jesus, because He is the only begotten Son of God in whom the heavenly Father is well pleased.

This extraordinary mission of mercy Jesus performed for us was not just the will of the heavenly Father. It was also Jesus’ will as well. He said as much in the Garden of Gethsemane during those anguish filled hours, declaring to His Father, “Your will be done.” Willingly Jesus carried out the mission He was given to perform.

As we read through verses 10-12 of our text and take note of the phrases that tell of Jesus’ fulfillment of this task, we can not help but marvel at this tremendous work of God and His great love for us sinners. We read there that “It pleased the Lord (the heavenly Father) to bruise Him (that is, Jesus); He has put Him to grief...You make His soul an offering for sin...He (that is, Jesus) shall bear their iniquities... He poured out His soul unto death...He bore the sin of many.”

Although it was the Jewish leaders who were the driving force behind Jesus being crucified on the cross, yet it was not simply the will of Jesus’ enemies that Jesus die in this manner. It was ultimately the will of God that Jesus suffer and die on the accursed tree. We read of this in the book of Acts where Christians spoke the following prayerful words, “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.”

God allowed Jesus’ enemies to carry out their evil plan against Jesus in order to perform His will of giving His Son the bitter cup of suffering hell for us and offering Him up as a ransom for the whole world. God sacrificed His Son on the altar of the cross as a sin offering to make full payment for all the countless sins mankind has or ever will commit against God.

Jesus who was innocent of any wrongdoing allowed Himself to be numbered with the transgressors, labeled by His accusers as the worst criminal, and crucified between two convicted felons. He did this so that He could bear in His body the guilt of every man, woman, and child, and suffer the very agonies of hell as a punishment for them all. And in the end His holy, precious blood was poured out unto death.

When Jesus breathed His last breath, the Jewish leaders could well have thought they finally succeeded in killing Him. And yet, it was not man who took Jesus’ life. Jesus willingly

laid down His life of His own accord. In John's gospel, Jesus said concerning this, "I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again." (10:17,18) The final words Jesus spoke on the cross were a summoning of His death, saying, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." (Lk.23:46) With this Jesus laid down His life for the sake of all the lost and condemned sheep of this world.

Isaiah's prophecy concerning Jesus' mission does not end here. He continues on to reveal that through Jesus' death He had successfully accomplished His mission. Just before Jesus died He declared His redemptive work completed when He said, "It is finished." God's will had been fulfilled and He was well pleased with everything Jesus did for our eternal salvation.

Isaiah writes of this glorious accomplishment by our Savior with these words in our text, "When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great." By this declaration Jesus is not pictured as defeated, but rather victorious.

Death had not conquered Jesus. It was Jesus who conquered death. For He was not only able to lay down His life, He was also able to take it up again, that is, raise Himself back to life from the dead. Isaiah presents Jesus as not remaining lifeless in the grave. Instead he speaks in terms of Jesus as one restored to life again to live forever. He lives to see and to delight in the fruits of His work. The fruits He delights to see are His seed or offspring, namely believers given new life and new hope as a result of Jesus' death and resurrection.

The apostle Paul writes of the new spiritual life and certain hope of salvation we enjoy because of our Savior Jesus. He says to us, "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." (2:1-7) Through Christ we are given a new life in which we are dead to sin and alive unto God to serve Him in righteousness and true holiness.

For over 2000 years now Jesus has seen with great delight the fruits of His labors as countless souls have been made children of God and heirs of heaven. This comes to fruition as the Holy

Spirit turns the hearts of many to believe in Jesus for forgiveness and salvation.

Those who have become Christ's spiritual offspring have been of different races, ages, and nations from all over the world. Among all these many diverse offspring of Jesus the one thing that makes them all alike is that they became redeemed children of God and heirs of eternal life not on the basis of any of their works or deeds, but solely on the works and merits of Christ Jesus. The hymn writer expressed it well in this way, "Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling; naked come to Thee for dress; helpless, look to Thee for grace; foul I to the fountain fly, wash me, Savior, or I die!" (LH 376 st.3) It is because of Jesus' precious blood and righteousness that we have been washed clean of all the stains of our sinfulness and are declared righteous and holy in the sight of God.

Having once again been reminded of what Jesus underwent to atone for our sins—the suffering, the pain, the agony, the torture, the verbal abuse, and punishment, our hearts feel a due sense of grief and sadness for making it necessary for Jesus to go through all this for us. Let us never look lightly upon our sins, thinking they are not so serious a matter in life. Rather let us look upon them as being a grievous offense to God, daily repent of them with sincere sorrow and seek the pardoning grace of God for Jesus' sake. Because of Jesus' sufferings and death on the cross, our hearts are also filled with great joy and thanksgiving, for through His redemptive work we receive the precious gifts of forgiveness, spiritual life, and eternal salvation. May we then ever look to the cross of Christ, trusting in Him to give us deliverance, peace, and hope. Amen.





