

**The Suffering Servant
(Part Four)
How Jesus Christ Pays for Our Sin
Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12**

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Based on what we have studied so far, it is clear the entire Levitical system established in the Law of Moses was never intended to be the permanent remedy for sin. “The animal sacrifices under the Mosaic Law were intended to be of temporary duration, a temporary measure only. God’s intent was for there to be one final blood sacrifice, and that would be the sacrifice of the Messiah Himself. That is why Isaiah 53 uses the same type of wording, figures and emphasis found in the Book of Leviticus.” (Fruchtenbaum 1998, 130-131)

Why the Suffering Servant?

Hebrews 10:1–10 “For the law possesses a shadow of the good things to come but not the reality itself, and is therefore completely unable, by the same sacrifices offered continually, year after year, to perfect those who come to worship. For otherwise would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers would have been purified once for all and so have no further consciousness of sin? But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year after year. For the blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sins. So when he came into the world, he said, “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me. “Whole burnt offerings and sin-offerings you took no delight in. “Then I said, ‘Here I am: I have come—it is written of me in the scroll of the book—to do your will, O God.’ ” When he says above, “Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sin-offerings you did not desire nor did you take delight in them” (which are offered according to the law), then he says, “Here I am: I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first to establish the second. **By his will we have been made holy through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**” (NET)

What we have been reviewing here in this section of Isaiah are the detailed advance plans of YAHWEH to resolve our deepest need...redemption.

When this was written down by Isaiah, it was considered prophecy. Isaiah is providing detailed information of events that are to take place over 700 years in the future. If we haven't figured it out yet, prophecy is important in the Bible. "Twenty-seven percent of the Bible's content can be characterized as prophecy, and 20 percent of its books are prophetic." (Hitchcock 1999, 2)

We are studying the major passage of Messianic prophecy in the Bible, in Isaiah 52 and 53.

We have already been in the courtroom of the universe with YAHWEH where He made it very plain that only He can tell the future before it takes place.

Isaiah 46:9–10 "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My plan will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';" (NASB 2020)

YAHWEH challenged the fallen members of the unseen realm to a deity test. A test they did not respond to.

Isaiah 44:6–7

"This is what the LORD says, He who is the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of armies: 'I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me. 'Who is like Me? Let him proclaim and declare it; And, let him confront Me Beginning with My establishing of the ancient nation. Then let them declare to them the things that are coming And the events that are going to take place.'" (NASB 2020)

The language used also reminds us that there is a war going on. As believers we have changed sides in that war, a primary reason why the enemy attacks us constantly.

Ephesians 6:10–17

"A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." (NLT)

We will learn in the remaining prophecy we have before us to review, that we have joined the side that has already won the war. Thanks to those prophecies which have been fulfilled, we can fully trust those remaining to be fulfilled. Peter reemphasized that simple fact for us.

2 Peter 1:16–21

"When we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, we did not follow any clever myths. Rather, we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice of the Majestic Glory was conveyed to him as follows: "This is my Son, whom I love. I am pleased with him." We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain. Thus we regard the message of the prophets as confirmed beyond doubt, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a lamp that is shining in a gloomy place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all, you must understand this: No prophecy in Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever originated through a human decision. Instead, men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (ISV)

Let's revisit what it is Isaiah has given, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to us.

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

“Behold, My Servant will prosper, He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted. Just as many were appalled at you, My people, So His appearance was marred beyond that of a man, And His form beyond the sons of mankind. So He will sprinkle many nations, Kings will shut their mouths on account of Him; For what they had not been told, they will see, And what they had not heard, they will understand. Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root out of dry ground; He has no stately form or majesty That we would look at Him, Nor an appearance that we would take pleasure in Him. He was despised and abandoned by men, A man of great pain and familiar with sickness; And like one from whom people hide their faces, He was despised, and we had no regard for Him. However, it was our sicknesses that He Himself bore, And our pains that He carried; Yet we ourselves assumed that He had been afflicted, Struck down by God, and humiliated. But He was pierced for our offenses, He was crushed for our wrongdoings; The punishment for our well-being was laid upon Him, And by His wounds we are healed. All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the wrongdoing of us all To fall on Him. He was oppressed and afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth. By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off from the land of the living For the wrongdoing of my people, to whom the blow was due? And His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth. But the LORD desired To crush Him, causing Him grief; If He renders Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand. As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, For He will bear their wrongdoings. Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the plunder with the strong, Because He poured out His life unto death, And was counted with wrongdoers; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the wrongdoers.” (NASB 2020)

We are reviewing the gospel according to Isaiah, the high point of the Old Testament. So far, we have discovered 16 amazing prophecies made 700 years in advance of the coming of the Suffering Servant, Messiah, and how they could only be fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ.

1. The Suffering Servant is to be exalted.

- Prediction – Isaiah 52:13
- Fulfillment - Matthew 21:9. “Both the crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed him kept shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! How blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”” (ISV)

2. The Suffering Servant will be horribly disfigured and will suffer.

- Prediction – Isaiah 52:14
- Fulfillment – Matthew 27:26 – 31 “Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.” (ESV)

3. The Suffering Servant will amaze the Gentile kings and nations.

- Prediction – Isaiah 52:15
- Fulfillment – Matthew 2:1 – 2 “After Jesus had been born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who was born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.” (ISV) and Acts 8:26 – 39

4. The Suffering Servant and His ministry would not be believed.

- Prediction: Isaiah 53:1 & 2
- Fulfilled: John 12:37-38. “Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”” (John 12:37–38, ESV)

5. The Suffering Servant will be despised.

- Prediction: Isaiah 53:3
- Fulfillment: Mark 3:20 – 22. “Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, “He is out of his mind.” And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “by the prince of demons he casts out the demons.”” (ESV)

6. The Suffering Servant is the Burden-Bearer, Sin-Bearer, Consequences of the Fall Bearer.

- Prediction: Isaiah 53:4
- Fulfillment: Matthew 8:17 “This was to fulfill what was declared by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “It was he who took our illnesses away and removed our diseases.”” (ISV)

7. The Suffering Servant will be wounded and pierced.

- Prediction: Isaiah 53:5
- Fulfillment: “But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and blood and water flowed out immediately.” (John 19:34, NET)

8. The Suffering Servant, is our healer.

- Prediction: Isaiah 53:5
- Fulfillment: “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we may cease from sinning and live for righteousness. By his wounds you were healed.” (1 Peter 2:24, NET)

9. The Suffering Servant is Our Sin-Taker.

- Prediction: Isaiah 53:6
- Fulfillment: 1 Peter 3:18 “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,” (ESV)

10. The Suffering Servant will suffer in silence.

- Prediction: Isaiah 53:7
- Fulfillment: Matthew 27:13 & 14. “Then Pilate said to him, “Don’t you hear how many charges they are bringing against you?” But he did not answer even one accusation, so that the governor was quite amazed.” (NET)

11. The Suffering Servant will endure an unjust trial.

- Prediction: Isaiah 53:8a “By oppression and judgment He was taken away...” (NASB 2020)
- Fulfillment: John 18:12 – 24

12. The Suffering Servant’s ordeal will be misunderstood by His contemporaries.

- Prediction: Isaiah 53:8b “...And as for His generation, who considered...” (NASB 2020). “... but who even cared? ...” (Isaiah 53:8b, NET)
- Fulfillment: Luke 24:13 – 27 “And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.” (Luke 24:25–27, ESV)

13. The Suffering Servant will be cut off, killed because of the rebellion of others.

- Prediction: Isaiah 53:8c "...That He was cut off from the land of the living For the wrongdoing of my people, to whom the blow was due?" (NASB 2020)
- Fulfillment: Acts 8:33 – 35 "In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus." (ESV)

14. The Suffering Servant's body will be redirected from the normal criminal burial process to instead be buried in a rich man's tomb.

- Prediction: Isaiah 53:9a "And His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death..." (NASB 2020)
- Fulfillment: Matthew 27:57– 60, Mark 15:42 – 46

15. The Suffering Servant was sinless.

- Prediction: Isaiah 53:9b "...Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth." (NASB 2020)
- Fulfillment: Ephesians 5:2 "Live lovingly, just as the Messiah also loved us and gave himself for us as an offering and sacrifice, a fragrant aroma to God." (ISV)

16. The Suffering Servant's will be the guilt offering for all of us.

- Prediction: Isaiah 53:10a "But the LORD desired To crush Him, causing Him grief; If He renders Himself as a guilt offering..." (NASB 2020)
- Fulfillment: Ephesians 5:2 "Live lovingly, just as the Messiah also loved us and gave himself for us as an offering and sacrifice, a fragrant aroma to God." (ISV)

Isaiah 53:10

"But the LORD desired To crush Him, causing Him grief; If He renders Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand." (NASB 2020)

Last time, we ended with a discussion of the Suffering Servant's being our guilt offering to God. God "wants human beings to be able to offer this man up on the altar of their sins so that he can be "a full and sufficient sacrifice" (Book of Common Prayer, Ritual for Communion) for them, satisfying all the unpaid debts of their behavior, debts they could never hope to pay, but debts that if left unpaid would stand forever between them and a just God." (Oswalt 1998, 400)

The condition in the first half of verse 10 was "if He renders Himself as a guilt offering...". The Servant's life must be offered up as a sacrifice. The good news is, He did this.

Acts 2:22–23

"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— **this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God**, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men." (ESV)

Jesus knew this was His mission "even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and **to give his life as a ransom for many.**" (Matthew 20:28, ESV)

As we focus on the second half of verse 10, we see three things the Suffering Servant achieves through His suffering and sacrificial death.

He will see those who are justified as the result of His achievement.

Hebrews 2:10–13 “For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying, “I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.” And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Behold, I and the children God has given me.”” (ESV)

“...He will prolong His days...” which took place when He rose from the dead.

Romans 6:9 “We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.” (ESV)

“...the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand.” The Suffering Servant will do the will of God. God’s will for mankind will take place through Him.

1 Corinthians 15:25–28

“For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.” (ESV)

He who was crushed under the will of the Lord lives as the executor of that will. (Motyer 1996, 440)

Isaiah 53:11

“As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, For He will bear their wrongdoings.” (NASB 2020)

Here at the beginning of verse 11 we see a continuation of the thought that began in the mid-point of verse 10. The Suffering Servant will not remain dead. He will see the outcome of His sufferings. He will see all of those who are His because of their believing in the work He did on the cross. He will be resurrected.

This is not a simple return to life promise, the phrase “prolong His days” also implies a new quality of life; one that is vastly different than a simple return to life. When Jesus rose from the dead “there was a considerable degree of continuity between the physical appearance of Jesus before his death and after his resurrection. Yet Jesus did not look exactly as he had before he died, for in addition to the initial amazement of the disciples at what they apparently thought could not happen, there was probably sufficient difference in his physical appearance for Jesus not to be immediately recognized. Perhaps that difference in appearance was simply the difference between a man who had lived a life of suffering, hardship, and grief, and one whose body was restored to its full youthful appearance of perfect health. Though Jesus’ body was still a physical body, it was raised as a transformed body, never able again to suffer, be weak or ill, or die; it had “put on immortality” (1 Cor. 15:53). Paul says the resurrection body is raised “imperishable ... in glory ... in power ... a spiritual body” (1 Cor. 15:42–44).” (Grudem 2020, 753)

17. The Suffering Servant will rise from the dead.

- Prediction: Isaiah 53:10b–11a “... He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand. As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied....” (NASB 2020)
- Fulfillment: Luke 24:5b–7 “...Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here; he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and three days later rise to life.’ ” (GNB)

Isaiah 53:11b

“...By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, For He will bear their wrongdoings.” (NASB 2020)

The Suffering Servant will know God. His knowledge of God results in Him reflecting the Father to us. “If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!” Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do.” (John 14:7–11, NLT)

The Servant’s “knowledge” means He knew the Father in a loving, personal way. He also knew what He was doing in His sacrifice of himself for us, and He knew who He was and is. (Horton 2000, 394)

What took place was not a haphazard event, it was meticulously planned even before the world was created. Jesus Christ knew what was coming down in the future and what He would have to do prior to Genesis 1:1 becoming history.

Ephesians 1:3–6 “Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms in Christ. **For he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world** that we may be holy and unblemished in his sight in love. He did this by predestining us to adoption as his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the pleasure of his will—to the praise of the glory of his grace that he has freely bestowed on us in his dearly loved Son.” (NET)

John 10:14–15

“I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me—**just as the Father knows me and I know the Father**—and I lay down my life for the sheep.” (NET)

It was our Lord’s own knowledge of His Father’s wisdom and goodness which sustained Him in drinking the cup of anguish, and thus provided for sinners a justifying righteousness in His all-perfect sacrifice. Righteous himself, He has thus procured righteousness for many. (Birks 1878, 266)

The Suffering Servant, because He knew what the plan was and what His mission was, because He had perfect intimate knowledge of the Father and the plans which had been made, was able to achieve the goals of the mission He came to Earth to achieve; the redemption of mankind. “...My Servant, will justify the many, For He will bear their wrongdoings.” (Isaiah 53:11b, NASB 2020)

Accomplished in Jesus Christ

- He is our sin-offering suffering outside of the camp.
 - “For the bodies of animals, whose blood is taken into the sanctuary by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside the camp. That is why Jesus, in order to sanctify the people by his own blood, also suffered outside the city gate. Therefore go to him outside the camp and endure the insults he endured. For here we have no permanent city but are looking for the one that is coming.” (Hebrews 13:11–14, ISV)
- He has atoned for our sin past present and future if we accept that sacrifice as our own.
 - “Then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the creation of the world. But now, at the end of the ages, he has appeared once for all to remove sin by his sacrifice.” (Hebrews 9:26, ISV)
- He gave Himself for our sins and the sins of the world
 - “He gave himself for our sins in order to rescue us from this present evil age according to the will of our God and Father.” (Galatians 1:4, ISV)
- He has provided the means for us to be reconciled to God paying the necessary price for us to be ransomed from sin

- “But God demonstrates his love for us by the fact that the Messiah died for us while we were still sinners. Now that we have been justified by his blood, how much more will we be saved from wrath through him! For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life! Not only that, but we also continue to boast about God through our Lord Jesus the Messiah, through whom we have now been reconciled.” (Romans 5:8–11, ISV)
- The price paid is acceptable and sufficient and the one who paid the price continues to make intercession for us even now with the Father.
 - “But because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore, because he always lives to intercede for them, he is able to save completely those who come to God through him.” (Hebrews 7:24–25, ISV)

He became sin for us. I struggle with that and the pain it caused Him to suddenly, for the first time in all eternity, to have the Father turn from Him. “At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o’clock. At about three o’clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” which means “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”” (Matthew 27:45–46, NLT)

More awful than the pain of physical suffering that Jesus endured was the psychological pain of bearing the guilt for our sin. In our experience as Christians, we know something of the anguish we feel when we know we have sinned. The weight of guilt is heavy on our hearts, and there is a bitter sense of separation from all that is right in the universe, an awareness of something that in a very deep sense ought not to be. In fact, the more we grow in holiness as God’s children, the more intensely we feel this instinctive revulsion against evil. (Grudem 2020, 711)

The expression “my God,” while of course it is already provided by the psalm, nonetheless draws attention as a unique utterance by Jesus, who elsewhere in Matthew frequently refers to God as his Father but never as “my God”, and who in prayer has used “Father” to address God (11:25, 26; 26:39, 42; cf. 6:9). It thus marks a change of mood from Gethsemane, where, even though the cross was in view, Jesus could still address and trust God as his “Father.” Now that relationship appears to be broken and Jesus feels himself “abandoned.” This “God-forsakenness” rather than the physical suffering is, perhaps, what he had most dreaded in Gethsemane, so that he begged for the cup to be taken away. In giving his life as a ransom for many for the forgiveness of sins he must, for the moment, be separated from his Father. But it is surely also significant that Jesus, like the abandoned psalmist, still addresses God as “my God;” this shout expresses not a loss of faith, but a (temporary) loss of contact. (France 2007, 1076-1077)

18. The Suffering Servant will be our sin-bearer.

- Prediction: Isaiah 53:11b “...By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, For He will bear their wrongdoings.” (NASB 2020)
- Fulfillment: Hebrews 9:28 “so also, after Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many, to those who eagerly await him he will appear a second time, not to bear sin but to bring salvation.” (NET)

Isaiah 53:12

“Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the plunder with the strong, Because He poured out His life unto death, And was counted with wrongdoers; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the wrongdoers.” (NASB 2020)

The work of the Suffering Servant will be rewarded. This one who His own people thought was unworthy, this one who was beaten to the point of not being recognizable as a human, this one who would take the sin of us all onto Himself yet who has never done anything wrong...ever; He achieves the highest triumph possible. Who would have ever even thought this possible?

The Suffering Servant, to achieve the goals of YAHWEH, will have to sink down to the point that He becomes sin, the Father will momentarily turn His back on the Servant. Because of His faithfulness to what He was tasked with, there is reward, beyond what anyone could have ever conceived of, for this one who appears to have been rejected by man and by God.

Philippians 2:5–11

“Have the same attitude among yourselves that was also in the Messiah Jesus: In God’s own form existed he, and shared with God equality, deemed nothing needed grasping. Instead, poured out in emptiness, a servant’s form did he possess, a mortal man becoming. In human form he chose to be, and lived in all humility, death on a cross obeying. Now lifted up by God to heaven, a name above all others given, this matchless name possessing. **And so, when Jesus’ name is called, the knees of everyone should fall wherever they’re residing. Then every tongue in one accord, will say that Jesus the Messiah is Lord, while God the Father praising.**” (ISV)

Revelation 5:1–10

“Then I saw in the right hand of the one who sits on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the outside, sealed with seven seals. I also saw a powerful angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” No one in heaven, on earth, or under the earth could open the scroll or look inside it. I began to cry bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or look inside it. “Stop crying,” one of the elders told me. “Look! **The Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered. He can open the scroll and its seven seals.**” Then I saw a lamb standing in the middle of the throne, the four living creatures, and the elders. He looked like he had been slaughtered. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who sits on the throne. When the lamb had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders bowed down in front of him. Each held a harp and a gold bowl full of incense, the prayers of the saints. They sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals, because you were slaughtered. **With your blood you purchased us for God from every tribe, language, people, and nation.** You made us, a kingdom and priests for our God,” and they will reign on the earth.” (ISV)

I find it interesting that after we see the reference to His reward, we see language reminding us that this is also an act of warfare, one that decimates the enemy. “Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, **And He will divide the plunder** with the strong...” (Isaiah 53:12a, NASB 2020)

The word translated plunder is the Hebrew word *salal* meaning booty, spoil; goods that have been plundered; gain...valuables taken by violence; especially in war, whether people or goods. (Lexham Press 2017)

The use of these terms brings into focus that what Christ did on the cross was an offensive action totally unexpected by the enemy resulting in the complete and total destruction of the enemy. When Jesus Christ rose from the dead, He won. He won it all for us.

1 Corinthians 2:6–8 “Yet I do proclaim a message of wisdom to those who are spiritually mature. But it is not the wisdom that belongs to this world or to the powers that rule this world—powers that are losing their power. The wisdom I proclaim is God’s hidden wisdom, which he had already chosen for our glory even before the world was made. None of the rulers of this world knew this wisdom. If they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” (GNB)

Colossians 2:8–15

“See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead

in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. **This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.**” (ESV)

Why is it the Suffering Servant will achieve so great a victory that He defeats the fallen members of the unseen realm with one offensive actions? “Because He poured out his life unto death, and was counted with wrongdoers.” (Isaiah 53:12b, NASB2020)

He is our goel, He is our kinsman redeemer, He has purchased back what was lost and has set us free from our slavery to sin by paying the price of redemption. “The goel among the Hebrews was the nearest male blood relation alive. Certain important obligations devolved upon him toward his next of kin. (1.) If any one from poverty was unable to redeem his inheritance, it was the duty of the kinsman to redeem it (Lev. 25:25, 28; Ruth 3:9, 12). He was also required to redeem his relation who had sold himself into slavery (Lev. 25:48, 49).” (Easton 1893, 409)

Romans 5:6–11

“For at just the right time, while we were still powerless, the Messiah died for the ungodly. For it is rare for anyone to die for a righteous person, though somebody might be brave enough to die for a good person. But God demonstrates his love for us by the fact that the Messiah died for us while we were still sinners. Now that we have been justified by his blood, how much more will we be saved from wrath through him! For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life! Not only that, but we also continue to boast about God through our Lord Jesus the Messiah, through whom we have now been reconciled.” (ISV)

19. The Suffering Servant achieves unheard of victory because He identifies with those who He came to redeem...sinners.

- Prediction: Isaiah 53:12a “Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the plunder with the strong, Because He poured out His life unto death, And was counted with wrongdoers; ...” (NASB 2020)
- Fulfillment: Luke 22:37 “For I tell you that this scripture must be fulfilled in me, ‘And he was counted with the transgressors.’ For what is written about me is being fulfilled.” (NET)

Isaiah 53:12c

“...Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the wrongdoers.” (NASB 2020)

Not only did the Suffering Servant identify with us, and pay the redemption price required to free us from the slave market of sin, He made sure that the victory He achieved on our behalf on the cross, was anchored in justice. He intercedes for us, and it was our sin that nailed Him to the cross, but He knows what it is He has purchased and as a result, we are the Fathers gift to Him for what He did.

Isaiah 62:11–12

“See, the LORD has proclaimed To the end of the earth: Announce to Fair Zion, Your Deliverer is coming! See, his reward is with Him, His recompense before Him. And they shall be called, “The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD,” And you shall be called, “Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.”” (Tanakh)

And He makes intercession for the wrongdoers? Where does that begin? While He was still on the cross. “And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments.” (Luke 23:34, ESV)

This continues on as part of His ministry for us.

Hebrews 7:24–28

“But because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore, because he always lives to intercede for them, he is able to save completely those who come to God through him. We need such a

high priest—one who is holy, innocent, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. He has no need to offer sacrifices every day like high priests do, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he sacrificed himself. For the Law appoints as high priests men who are weak, but the promised oath, which came after the Law, results in a Son who is eternally perfect.” (ISV)

20. The Suffering Servant intercedes for those who He has rescued, the same ones who were responsible for His crucifixion.

- Prediction: Isaiah 53:12c. “...Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the wrongdoers.” (NASB 2020)
- Fulfillment: Luke 23:34

Twenty prophecies, at least that we have notated, there are hints of others here as well, all predicted 700 years in advance, and all fulfilled in just one person...Jesus Christ.

The odds of this...astronomical. Here is the other thing about this...there are other prophecies He fulfilled as well. God did this all so that we can have peace with Him. “Jesus replied, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”” (John 14:6, NET)

So, what do we need to do? Recognize we are sinners that He died for is the first step.

Romans 10:9 – 10

“because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and thus has righteousness and with the mouth one confesses and thus has salvation.” (NET)

Salvation is a Gift

1. Admit you are a sinner, agree with Him and ask Him to forgive you.
2. Talk to Him and tell Him that.
3. Believe in your heart that Jesus died for your sins, was buried and He rose from the dead three days later.
4. Call on the name of the Lord.

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