

J.J.

THE REASON FOR THE CRUCIFIXION Isaiah 53

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*Isaiah 53: 4 Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.
5 But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.
6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.*

Pray

Quotation : All heaven is interested in the cross of Christ, all hell is terribly afraid of it, while men are the only beings who more or less ignore its meaning. - Oswald Chambers.

STORY : People nowadays would wear a gold cross or silver cross necklace. When you look at the cross in churches, specially in cathedrals, it's gold and shiny. If it's not gold and shiny...it's clean.

One of the things that led me to think about the reality of the cross is when my father-in-law made the statement, that people do not really know the meaning of the cross. It's because if they knew, they wouldn't wear it as jewelry. It's because the cross was a means used in order to execute a person to die. Then he made this statement, "Would you wear an electric chair pendant?" It got me thinking.

That's true. The cross wasn't clean or sterile. It was rough and it was stained with blood. The image of our Lord Jesus Christ wasn't clean or shiny or gold. It was marred with blood and torn flesh, and muscles and sinews and you might even see bones.

In fact, if you see Jesus Christ on the cross in today's "humanistic" context, you might not even be able to look at it because of its grossness and some of you might even vomit because of the carnage.

But what is important to talk about is what is the Reason for the Crucifixion. Why did God has to become man in order to suffer the most horrific way to die ever invented by men?

We will study this according to Isaiah 53.

- A lot of theologians call Isaiah 53 as the heart of the Old Testament. It was written 700-740 years before Christ.
- **There are many prophecies about the coming Messiah that our Lord Jesus Christ fulfilled them all.** The last part of Isaiah 52 and the whole of Isaiah 53 gives us a view of the entire life of the Messiah from His coming into this world obscurely, being despised, rejected, crucified, buried, resurrection and glorification.

What we'll study is that part in Isaiah 53 that describes His suffering.

How He suffered

Look at the word Isaiah described

*4 yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.*

These are very strong words

- **Stricken** – (naka) to strike violently
- **Afflicted** – (anah) to be humiliated, to be put down

Matthew 26:67 Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him

Matthew 27:29 and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. 30 They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again.

- **Crushed** – (daka) to be beaten until almost dead

John 19:1 Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged

We already know that our Lord Jesus Christ was scourged by Roman soldiers by a whip that had three leather strands with bones and metal balls in the end that rips the flesh and they did it 40 times. No wonder our Lord didn't have the strength to carry the cross because of so much loss of blood.

That's why

Isaiah 52 : 14 Just as there were many who were appalled at him — his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness

Note : Now if we are asking if God understands what we are going through when we are suffering either by being rejected and despised by people or even physical suffering, we just need to remember that He went through it too.

How He was crucified

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions

This was also mentioned in Psalm 22

Psalm 22:16 For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet.

Matthew 27: 33 They came to the place called Golgotha. (Golgotha means “The Place of the Skull.”) 34 There the soldiers gave Jesus some wine mixed with gall. But when he tasted it, he refused to drink it.

35 The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross.

As we have mentioned earlier, crucifixion is the most gruesome invention in order to execute a person and it was only reserved for the worst or for rebels.

Now the more mind-boggling of this all is that they are not doing this to an ordinary man or they are not doing this to a great man, **they are doing this to THE VERY GOD HIMSELF, the One who is infinite, the One who is Most Powerful, the One who created us all.**

Illustration : Spring is already here and then summer. With summer, comes mosquitoes. One time, while I was relaxing, I noticed my arm was becoming itchy and I saw this mosquito drinking blood from my skin. As any other person, I immediately squashed that mosquito. Why can I do that? It's because the mosquito is doing me harm. I am bigger than the mosquito. I am 10x more powerful than the mosquito.

Jesus Christ is more than a man. He is God Himself. The One whom God sent. In fact, He can immediately squash this.

In fact, our Lord said to Pilate :

Matthew 26:53 Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?

So why did God allow this? In fact, God was the one who is doing this as we read earlier.

*Isaiah 53: 4 Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.*

Isaiah 53: 10 Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,

So what is.....

THE REASON FOR THE CRUCIFIXION

1. OUR REBELLION

Why did the Lord have to suffer?

*5 But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;*

Our sin is the reason behind the cross. I know there are many reasons behind the suffering and death of Jesus Christ. But if man hasn't sinned, there would be no need for God to send His Son.

What is sin?

- **Sin is rebellion against God.**

Transgression : "pesha" rebellion

When do we rebel against God?

When we don't recognize God's authority, we rebel against God.

When we don't obey God's commands, we rebel against God.

When we live life as if God doesn't exist, we rebel against God.

Rebellion is saying to God in His face, "I don't believe in you. I'm not afraid of you. I will do my own thing."

Let me give you an example :

What if your own child whom you fed, you worked hard everyday so that you can give him the best, you took care of when they were sick, you worried about what happens to them when they come home late, suddenly goes home and you asked them just to clean up their room, you had an argument, answers you back and then punches you in the face and says, "I hate you."

What would you feel?

That's what sin is.

Look at what the Lord said in the beginning of Isaiah

Isaiah 1:2 Hear me, you heavens! Listen, earth! For the LORD has spoken: "I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me."

- **Sin is a distortion of God's holiness**

Iniquity – avon, perversion; to bend; to twist; to distort; to pervert

Anything that we do that destroys or perverts God's design is sin.

That's what happens when we pervert God's design. For example with sex, with relationships, and etc.

Illustration : Ravi Zacharias was telling this story that he bought a gift for his wife and it's a very expensive gift coming from an exotic country (I forgot what the gift was but I think it's some kind of very rare and exquisite clothing) for their anniversary. He planned to give it when his wife comes home from travelling or something. He left the gift on the table. But when he woke up in the morning, he saw the dog tore up the gift in pieces. He felt so sad and angry at

the same time but the dog never knew what was happening. To the dog, it was nothing but to Ravi what the dog destroyed was something precious.

NOW THE ATROCITY OF SIN IS NOT SO MUCH THE ACT BUT TO WHOM WE DID IT TOO.
We sinned against a HOLY, HOLY, HOLY GOD.

Sin is rebellion against God and a distortion of God's holiness.

That's why Isaiah said,

*6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way*

And since God is holy and just God, He needs to punish the rebel, the sinner and the punishment for the sinner, since He rebelled against a holy and eternal and an Almighty God, the punishment must befit the crime.

Example : I gave before, the punishment of someone punching a neighbor is different from someone punching the King or a President of the U.S. But us, when we sin, and all of us have sinned, since we did not only punch a neighbor, or the president of the U.S. but the Holy and Almighty and eternal God, then the punishment must be as severe as hell.

Note : The reason why people do not believe the concept of hell is because they do not have an idea of the eternal thrice holiness of the Lord God.

But God loves us so much too that He doesn't want us to go to hell, but since He is also a good and just God, He needs to punish the sinner. So how can God satisfy His anger and His love at the same time?

2. OUR REDEMPTION

*5 But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;*

Illustration : Usually, in order for this to hit closer to home, I replace some of the verbiage in connection to me and specific sins.

Jesus was pierced for my loss of temper earlier.

Jesus was crushed for my lustful thoughts last night.

Jesus was pierced for my pride – comparing myself to others and thinking I'm better than them.

Jesus was crushed for my rebellion against authority – saying that they are stupid.

All of these are sins not against men....BUT TO A HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, GOD... and that's why it's much worst.

Some people think that their sins against men is not a sin against God. It's a sin against GOD!!! Or when they sin, specially sexual sins, they say, "no one gets hurt anyway..."

That's why David said in Psalms

Psalm 51 : Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just.

Quote : At the heart of our redemption is our Lord's substitution

A substitute is one who acts in place of another.

Listen carefully : **The heart of the gospel is substitution. Jesus Christ was punished instead of us.**

8....for the transgression of my people he was punished.

How did it happen?

*6....and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.*

*11....my righteous servant will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.*

*12... because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.
For he bore the sin of many.*

In short, when Jesus Christ was suffering and the culmination was at the cross, God was putting all of our sins on Jesus Christ so we don't have to suffer His wrath. Jesus was the one taking all the wrath of God on sin.

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

That's why on the cross, Jesus cried out,

Matthew 27:46 About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?")

It is because at that holy hour, God was putting all the sins of mankind on His Son. And since He is a Holy God, God cannot look at His Son because *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us* All the wrath of God on sin was being poured on our Lord Jesus Christ.

Remember, it was God who did this for us. His own Son would die on the cross for our sin.

*Isaiah 53: 10 Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,
and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin*

WHAT IS THE REASON BEHIND ALL OF THIS? LOVE!!!!

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Story : Ernest Gordon's Tells a story in Miracle On The River Kwai about Scottish soldiers, forced by their Japanese captors to labor on a jungle railroad. Under the strain of captivity they had degenerated to barbarous behavior, but one afternoon something happened.

"A shovel was missing. The officer in charge became enraged. He demanded that the missing shovel be produced, or else. When nobody in the squadron budged, the officer got his gun and threatened to kill them all on the spot . . . It was obvious the officer meant what he had said. Then, finally, one man stepped forward. The officer put away his gun, picked up a shovel, and beat the man to death. When it was over, the survivors picked up the bloody corpse and carried it with them to the second tool check. This time, no shovel was missing. Indeed, there had been a miscount at the first check point.

"The word spread like wildfire through the whole camp. An innocent man had been willing to die to save the others!

Our Lord is more than an innocent man. He is the Holy Holy Holy God who became Man in order to save us from the punishment for our sin because of His great love for us – that is “cheched”. **And for what reason is this love?**

3. OUR RECONCILIATION

Illustration : Kintsugi – the Japanese art of repairing broken vessels with gold.

Remember because of sin our relationship with God has been broken. Our Lord restored that relationship not with gold but with something more precious – His blood.

First, it brought us peace with God.

the punishment that brought us peace was on him,

Remember earlier that we mentioned that sin is rebellion against God, when we choose to disobey God, we rebel against Him. When we choose to follow our own way, instead of God, we rebel against Him.

In short, God has become our enemy. We don't have a relationship anymore.

But since our Lord Jesus Christ has gotten the punishment on our behalf, God is now satisfied.

In short, He is not angry with us. We are not far away from each other anymore.

Romans 5:10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

2 Corinthians 5:18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them

4. OUR RESTORATION

and by his wounds we are healed.

Etymology : rapha “ healed”

Illustration : Many of us have experienced this. We have a good friend before but somehow something happened in that relationship that you got offended or they got offended. Words were exchanged. But through the help of other people or your own initiative, you talked and forgave each other. There’s peace. But deep inside you, you know the relationship is not the same anymore. In short, the relationship isn’t completely healed. In tagalog, we call it, “May lamat na”. But there are also relationships were we fought, have peace and with the help of time, it seems nothing has happened between you too. That’s what you call a healed relationship.

What does healing/restoring a relationship mean?

What does the doctor do when you break a bone? He sets the bone straight.

As much as possible, the job of the doctor is to bring the body to its former perfect state.

Because of Jesus Christ, we are healed. In short, our relationship with God is back to its former perfect state. WOW!!!!

1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

In the eyes of God, we are holy and blameless and righteous because of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1: 5....in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

*2 Corinthians 5: 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that **in him** we might become the righteousness of God.*

In short, we are completely accepted and worthy before God BECAUSE OF JESUS CHRIST! THAT IS THE RESULT OF THE CROSS.

CONCLUSION :

In Montreal, there is a cross on top of Mont Royal. Mont Royal is the highest peak in Montreal and the cross is on that peak. There is an ordinance in Montreal that the buildings in downtown shouldn’t be higher than the cross.

To a Christian, there shouldn’t be no higher thought than what our Lord Jesus did for us on the cross.

It was so important to the Lord, that the breaking of the bread is the only ordinance He gave that we should do regularly. To remember, what He did on the cross for us.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

ALL GLORY TO OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. WE LOVE YOU LORD.

S.G.D.