

Man of Sorrows

Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

Man of Sorrows Introduction

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- Throughout much of the book of Isaiah, God reveals himself as holy and the people as continuously rebellious.

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Isaiah 1:3-5 (ESV) ³ The ox knows its owner,
and the donkey its master's crib,
but Israel does not know,
my people do not understand.

⁴ Ah, sinful nation,
a people laden with iniquity,
offspring of evildoers,
children who deal corruptly!

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Isaiah 1:3-5 (ESV) They have forsaken the LORD,
they have despised the Holy One of Israel,
they are utterly estranged.

⁵ Why will you still be struck down?
Why will you continue to rebel?

The whole head is sick,
and the whole heart faint.

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Isaiah 5:24 (ESV) ²⁴ Therefore, as the tongue of fire devours the stubble, and as dry grass sinks down in the flame, so their root will be as rottenness, and their blossom go up like dust; for they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts, and have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

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Isaiah 30:9-14 (ESV) ⁹ For they are a rebellious people,
lying children, children unwilling to hear
the instruction of the LORD;
¹⁰ who say to the seers, “Do not see,”
and to the prophets, “Do not prophesy to us what is right;
speak to us smooth things,
prophesy illusions,

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Isaiah 30:9-14 (ESV) ¹¹ leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel.”
¹² Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel,
“Because you despise this word
and trust in oppression and perverseness
and rely on them,

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Isaiah 30:9-14 (ESV) ¹³ therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach in a high wall, bulging out, and about to collapse, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant; ¹⁴ and its breaking is like that of a potter's vessel that is smashed so ruthlessly that among its fragments not a shard is found with which to take fire from the hearth, or to dip up water out of the cistern.”

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- How can such an unholy people ever survive the scrutiny of such a holy God?
- And if Israel, God's chosen nation, cannot survive, where does that leave the rest of us?

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- Our passage helps to explain it.
- The Man of Sorrows comes to the rescue.

Man of Sorrows Introduction

- I. He receives glory through suffering. 52:13-15
- II. He was rejected. 53:1-6
- III. We are made righteous. 53:7-12

I. He receives glory through suffering.

52:13-15

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52:13-15

- 52:13 The servant will be “high and lifted up.”
- 52:14 At the same time his appearance will be so disfigured no one would even be able to recognize him.
- 52:15 The word sprinkle can also here be “startle.”

I. He receives glory through suffering.

52:13-15

- From our vantage point, so many centuries after Christ, it is easy for us to see how these prophecies point to Jesus.
- From the point of view of ancient Israel, this contrast might have seemed more like a contradiction.

I. He receives glory through suffering.

52:13-15

1 Peter 1:10-12 (ESV) ¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹ inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

I. He receives glory through suffering.

52:13-15

- Besides the sheer facts of the prophecy, this contrast also give us insight into the character of God.

I. He receives glory through suffering.

52:13-15



[Isaiah] next explains why this humiliation of God's servant was necessary. The first reason is that God does not play to appearances in order to win ... Thus the Gospels tell us nothing at all about what Jesus looked like – but they do tell us that he considered a right attitude of the heart far more important than any ostentatious display.

*– Edouard Kitoko Nsiku,
South African Theological Seminary*

I. He receives glory through suffering.

52:13-15

- The teaching of Jesus made this clear.
- His crucifixion was the ultimate way to live out his own teachings.

I. He receives glory through suffering.

52:13-15

Mark 12:38-44 (ESV) ³⁸ And in his teaching he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces ³⁹ and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, ⁴⁰ who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

I. He receives glory through suffering.

52:13-15

Mark 12:38-44 (ESV) ⁴¹ And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. ⁴³ And he called his disciples to him and said to them, “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. ⁴⁴ For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

I. He receives glory through suffering.

52:13-15

- The next chapter dwells even more on the rejection that Christ experienced from his own people.

II. He was rejected. 53:1-6

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- John quotes 53:1 in his Gospel.

John 12:37-38 (ESV) ³⁷ Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, ³⁸ 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?”

II. He was rejected. 53:1-6

- 53:1 God is going to reveal his strength – his strong arm – in an unbelievable way.
- What does the powerful arm of God look like?

II. He was rejected. 53:1-6

- **53:1** God is going to reveal his strength – his strong arm – in an unbelievable way.
- What does the powerful arm of God look like?
- It looks like Jesus – humiliated, rejected and beaten, and then dying on a cross.

II. He was rejected. 53:1-6

- **53:3** Immediately after Peter declared that Jesus was the Christ, Jesus began to teach his disciples about his suffering.

Mark 8:31 (ESV) And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.

II. He was rejected. 53:1-6



The book of Isaiah has made it abundantly clear that anyone who is faithful to God must know how to face persecution for the sake of righteousness. However, God's servant here is suffering not only for righteousness, but also for the sins that all of us have committed.

*– Edouard Kitoko Nsiku,
South African Theological Seminary*

II. He was rejected. 53:1-6

- Peter goes so far as to actually reference this passage in the first of his instructional letters.

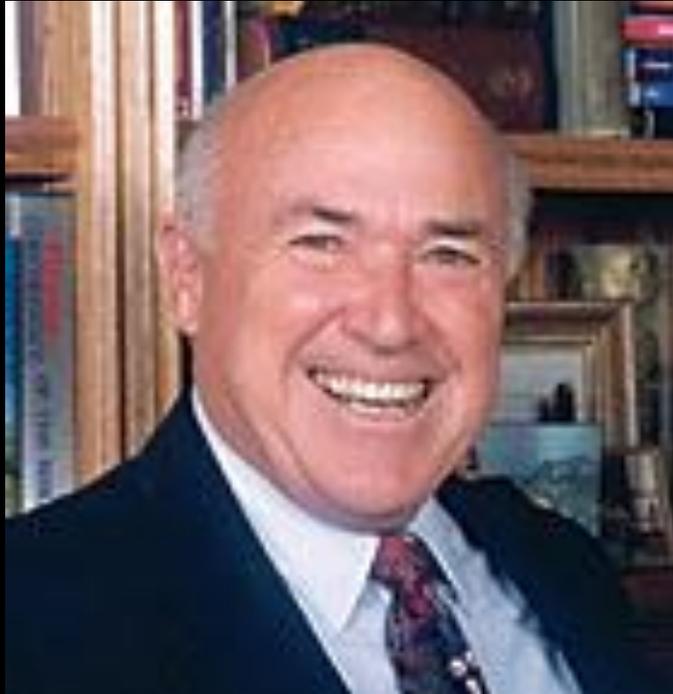
II. He was rejected. 53:1-6

1 Peter 2:24-25 (ESV) ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

II. He was rejected. 53:1-6

- In this light, it is so important for us to realize that the death of Christ was not accidental.
- Jesus went to the cross willingly, knowingly bearing “the iniquity of us all.”

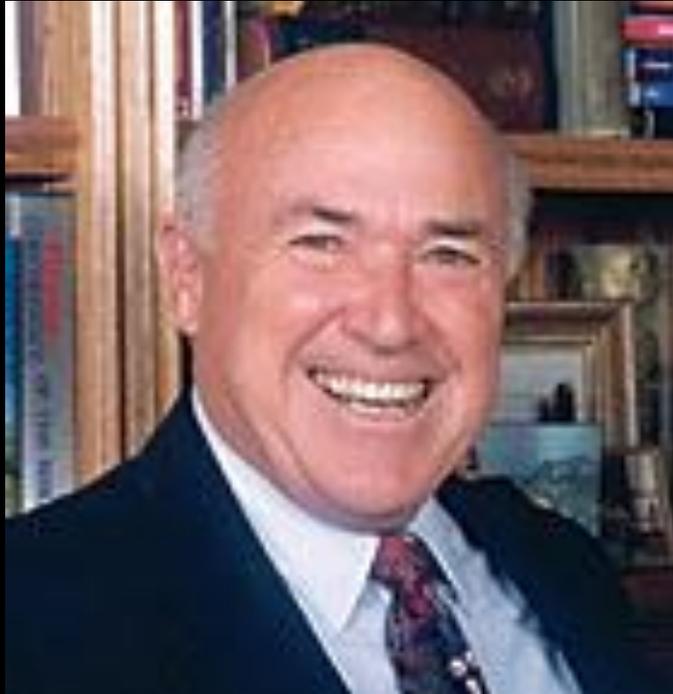
II. He was rejected. 53:1-6



Who killed Jesus? Jesus died for your sins and my sins. God laid on Him the iniquity of us all. It is ridiculous to try to place the blame for the crucifixion on the Jews. It's ridiculous! The Jews did not crucify Jesus. It is ridiculous to try to place the blame for the death of Jesus on the Romans. The Romans didn't crucify Jesus.

– Pastor Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013)

II. He was rejected. 53:1-6



I crucified Jesus. My sins sent Him to the cross. If you want to blame someone for the Crucifixion, you'll have to blame me. But you'll also have to blame yourself. "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquities of us all."

– Pastor Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013)

II. He was rejected. 53:1-6

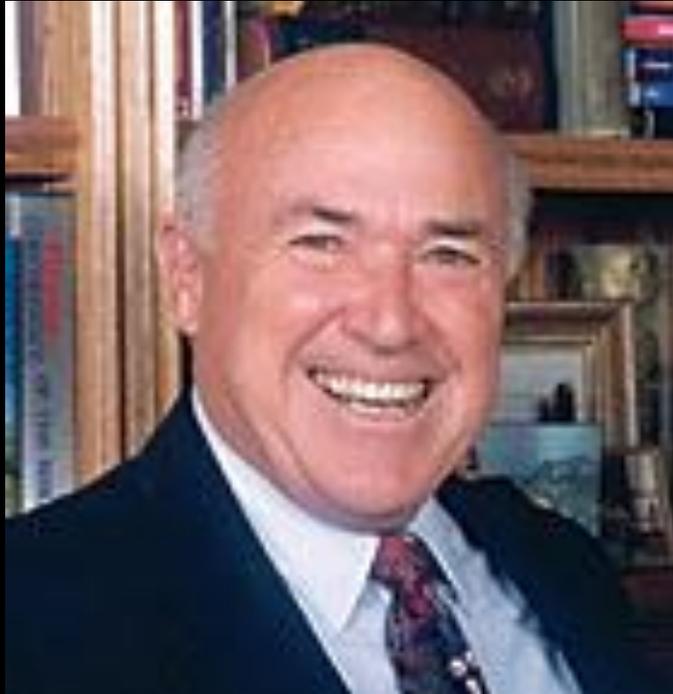
- Christ's death had a definite purpose, namely, to save us from our sins.
- His rejection, therefore, becomes the basis of our acceptance into the family of God.
- This is how the Man of Sorrows comes to our rescue.

III. We are made righteous. 53:7-12

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- 53:10 Who exactly are the offspring of Jesus?

III. We are made righteous. 53:7-12



What was Jesus thinking about as he suffered and died? Isaiah writes that he would “see His seed [offspring],” ... those who would be saved by His selfless act. He was thinking of us. And thinking of you and me, and knowing that He was purchasing our redemption, knowing that we could now spend eternity with Him, He saw us and was satisfied.

– Pastor Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013)

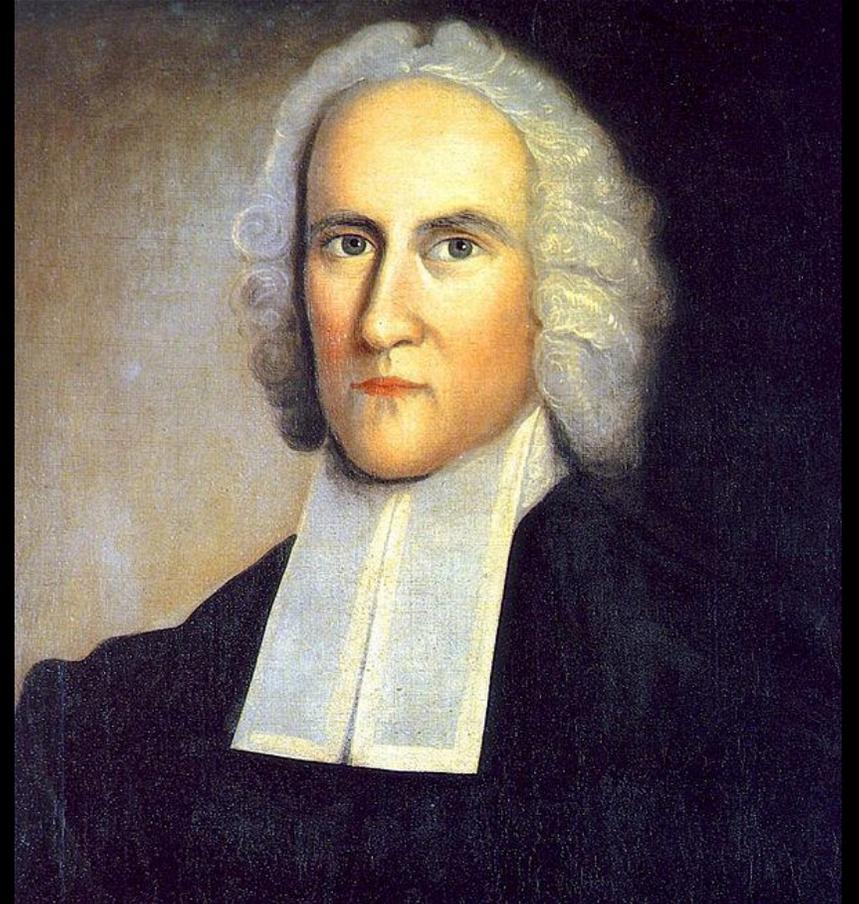
III. We are made righteous. 53:7-12

- 53:11 This Man of Sorrows shall “bear their iniquities.”
- See again 53:6 above.

III. We are made righteous. 53:7-12

The necessity of satisfaction for sin, and the reasonableness of that Christian doctrine, may appear from the following considerations: Justice requires that sin be punished, because sin deserves punishment.

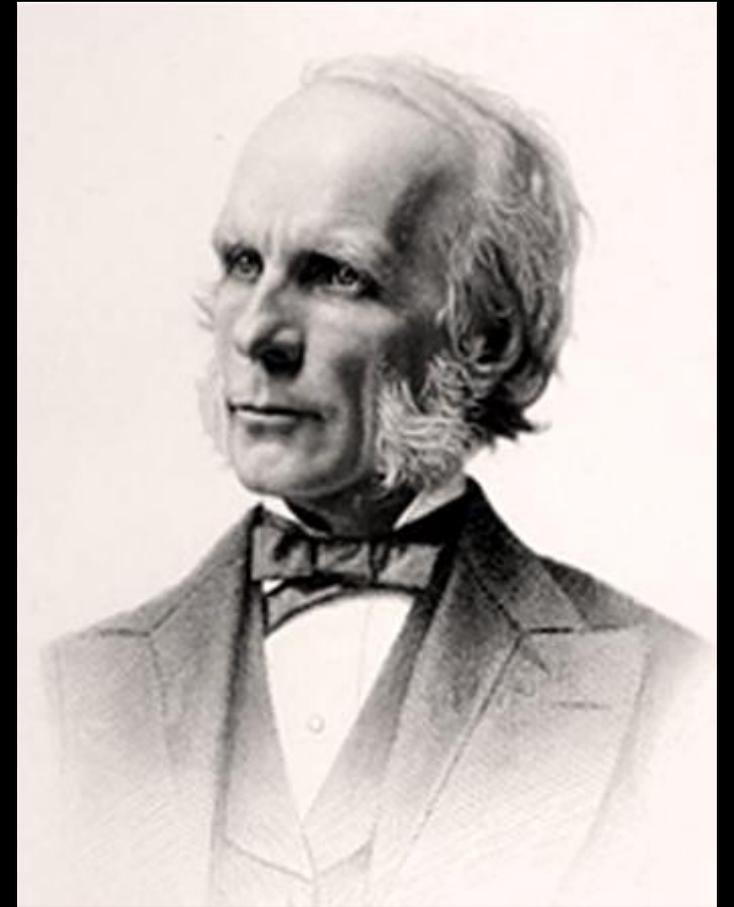
– Jonathan Edwards (1703 – 1758)



III. We are made righteous. 53:7-12

It is Divine justice that demands satisfaction, and it is the Divine compassion that makes the satisfaction. God is the one who holds man in a righteous captivity, and He is the one who pays the ransom that frees him from it. God is the holy Judge of man who requires satisfaction for sin; and God is the merciful Father of man who provides it for him.

– William G. T. Shedd (1820 – 1894)



III. We are made righteous. 53:7-12

- 53:12 After predicting Peter's denial, and just before going to the Mount of Olives to pray, Jesus identified this passage as speaking about himself.

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- **53:12** After predicting Peter's denial, and just before going to the Mount of Olives to pray, Jesus identified this passage as speaking about himself.

Luke 22:37 (ESV) For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors.' For what is written about me has its fulfillment."

III. We are made righteous. 53:7-12

- Pantheistic religions, such as Buddhism, generally believe that the main problem that we have is caused by ignorance.
- For example, from BuddhaNet:
- *“Buddhists teach that as long as people remain ignorant of things about the world, they will suffer from all kinds of misunderstandings and delusions. ... The Buddha said that overcoming craving and ignorance leads to true happiness and Enlightenment.”*

III. We are made righteous. 53:7-12

- The Bible, however, teaches that **our primary problem is sin** – and that this sin has alienated us from God.
- God himself solved that problem, fully God and fully man, Jesus Christ took our sins upon himself.
- **“He bore the sins of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.”**

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Conclusions

Man of Sorrows Conclusions

- Exactly like the Israelites of old, we have been separated from God by our sins.
- God then comes to our rescue, in the person of the Man of Sorrows.

Man of Sorrows Conclusions

- Jesus paid the penalty for our sins.
- He paid the ransom that sets us free from sin's captivity.

Man of Sorrows Conclusions

Mark 10:42-45 (ESV) ⁴² And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³ But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Man of Sorrows Conclusions

- Concluding passage: **Acts 8:26-40**
- At end of service: **Hebrews 12:1-3**

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Conclusions

Hebrews 12:1-3 (ESV) Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.