

Much like **Romans 8** in the New Testament, **Isaiah 53** is a comprehensive, Old Testament declaration of the Gospel of God's free grace to guilty, undeserving sinners. It sets forth in detail man's total depravity – "*Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?*"(Vs.1). As we saw in the previous message, it sets forth the Scriptural prophecy of Christ's humiliation, as well as the refusal of any to look upon Him as anything other than a man, and subsequently a criminal who died a criminal's death – "*For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, [there is] no beauty that we should desire him.*"(Vs.2) Israel was looking for a King like David, one who would rescue national Israel from physical enslavement to Rome, restoring them to what they considered as the kingdom of God. **The Old Testament never set forth such a fallacy.** The Old Testament declared that the Messiah **SENT OF GOD** to "*save His people from their sins*", when He came, was to establish a kingdom in righteousness, a kingdom that is "*not of this world*". But before, or in order for His kingdom to be established, there was to be His humiliation, suffering, and death, followed by His exaltation and the salvation of all those He represented as their Surety, Substitute, Representative, Redeemer, and Savior. All of this is set forth in this **ONE CHAPTER**. With that said, let's pickup with where we left off last time.

Look at Vs.3 – "*He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were [our] faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*" This idea concerning "*the arm of the Lord*" being "*despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief*" was something the unregenerate Jew (**and in reality, every unregenerate sinner**) cannot comprehend, understand, or believe – "*But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, [even] the hidden [wisdom], which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known [it], they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed [them] unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned.*"(I Cor.2:7-14) **Think about this first statement:** "*He is despised and rejected of men.*" This conveys basically the same idea as the previous verse – "*when we shall see him, [there is] no beauty that we should desire him.*" The Apostle John wrote: "*In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*"(Jn.1:4,5); "*He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the*

*world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not.”(Jn.1:10,11)* Speaking by the Spirit of prophecy King David spoke these words of Messiah – *“But I [am] a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.”(Ps.22:6)* The word translated *“But I [am] a worm”* is the Hebrew word that means *“THE CRIMSON WORM”*, which a beautiful picture of Christ’s work as the Surety and Substitute of His people. Christ came as His people’s *“CRIMSON WORM”*, yet those Jews viewed Christ with contempt, just as all men do by nature. They weren’t looking for a Savior from sin, and **we weren’t either**. Like them, all sinners are looking for a co-pilot, one who can help them in their endeavors to secure salvation by their faithfulness and good works – *“For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.”(Rom.10:2,3)* In their opinion, Christ was no man at all, and if a man, a madman, one out of His senses. They declared the Son of God to have a devil, a man with no ranking in life, one who was followed by a few fishermen, some women, publicans, and harlots. Gill wrote in his commentary of the phrase *“despised and rejected of men”* – *“The Vulgate Latin version renders it, “the last of men,” the most abject and contemptible of mankind; despised, because of the meanness of his birth, and parentage, and education, and of his outward appearance in public life; because of his apostles and audience; because of his doctrines, not agreeably to carnal reason, and his works, some of them being done on the sabbath day, and, as they maliciously suggested, by the help of Satan; and especially because of his ignominious sufferings and death.”* Their problem, like all unregenerate sinners, is they **CANNOT SEE** the necessity of the **CROSS** before Messiah’s exaltation as **KING** – Turn to **Phil.2:5-11**. Think about what Peter said in response to Christ’s declaration to His disciples of the necessity of His humiliation, death, and subsequent resurrection – *“Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ. From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.”(Matt.16:20-23) ]*

Isaiah declared next of the *“arm of the Lord”* – *“a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were [our] faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”* Literally translated, *“A man of pains, and acquainted with sickness, And as one hiding the face from us, He is despised, and we esteemed him not.”* Without a doubt, no **MAN** has ever experienced the sorrows and grief the God sent Messiah encountered during His time on earth. Christ was born, not in a palace, but in a manger. He was pursued as a child by Herod, fleeing with His earthly parents to Egypt. *“IMMANUEL”*, being interpreted, *“God with us”*, earned His keep by the *“sweat of His brow”*, working as a carpenter’s son. According to His own words, He had no place to lay His head – *“And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air [have] nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay [his] head.”(Matt.8:20)* Christ met with great sorrow due to the hardness and unbelief of men’s hearts, even those He had chosen as His

disciples – “*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou [then], Shew us the Father?*”(Jn.14:6-9) Consider how the writer of Hebrews described the sorrow Christ endured for His people’s sake – “*Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset [us], and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. **For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself,** lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.”(Heb.12:1-4) Listen to a literal translation of Vs.3 – “for consider again him who endured such gainsaying from the sinners to himself, that ye may not be wearied in your souls — being faint.” Think about the sorrow Christ endured from the temptations of Satan. Think about the great sorrow our Lord endured as the Substitute and Surety of His people – “*And he was withdrawn from them about a stone’s cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. And being in **AN AGONY** he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”(Lk.22:41-42) The original word translated “*an agony*” is used only this one time in the NT, and it means ‘a struggle for victory, gymnastic exercise, wrestling or it speaks of severe mental struggles and emotions’. But more than all of this, consider the great sorrow “*the arm of the Lord*” endured on the cross as He bore the sins of His people, crying out – “*And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*” Think back to the words we sang: “Man of sorrows what a name, for the Son of God, who came ruined sinners to reclaim: Hallelujah, what a Savior! Bearing shame and scoffing rude, in my place condemned he stood, sealed my pardon with his blood: Hallelujah, what a Savior!”**

But notice man’s natural response to such agony, humiliation, and sorrow – “*and we hid as it were [our] faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*” The Holy Spirit moved Isaiah to use the personal pronoun “*we*”, including himself among those who by nature hide their face from Him, despising Him, and esteeming Him not. Can’t we, even as justified sinners, looking back on our lives before Christ was revealed to us and in us, understand somewhat the meaning of the Holy Spirit’s words by the Prophet? Even now, nearly 4 decades into this life of faith, I often find myself carefully pondering who and what I was **BEFORE** He drew me to Himself. The same Holy Spirit moved Paul to describe our state before regeneration and conversion – **Turn to Rom.3:10-18.**

What a **STATE** we were all in by nature! But thank God, “*the arm of the Lord*” came here on our behalf, doing everything required to secure our salvation. We’ll come back next Sunday and begin looking at **HIS WORK.**

