

Isaiah 53:

- Some Germans in 19th century said, “It looks as if it had been written beneath the cross of Golgotha”
- **Augustine** on Isaiah 53 - “It is not a prophecy, it is a gospel.”
- **Polycarp** on Isaiah 53 - “The Golden Passional of the Old Testament.
- Adam Clarke: This chapter contains a beautiful summary of the most peculiar and distinguishing doctrines of Christianity.”
- **J Vernon McGee** comments that Isaiah 53 is so to speak “A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE CROSS”
- **Wiersbe** adds that “Like Mt. Everest, Isaiah 53 stands out in beauty and grandeur, but only because it reveals Jesus Christ and takes us to Mt Calvary!
- Isa 53 is the Holy of Holies of the Old Testament.

**Why? The theme of this chapter:**

*“The innocent Servant died in the place of the Guilty sinners.”*

- Isa 53 divides evenly with a central stanza — vv.4-6:
  - STANZA #1 - Exaltation: The Shocking/Sovereign Servant (Isaiah 52:13-15)
  - STANZA #2 - Humiliation: The Sorrowing Servant (Isaiah 53:1-3)
  - STANZA #3 - Expiation: The Smitten Servant (Isaiah 53:4-6)**
  - STANZA #4 - Resignation: The Silent Servant (Isaiah 53:7-9)
  - STANZA #5 - Vindication: The Satisfied Servant (Isaiah 53:10-12)

**THESIS — From this magnificent “Servant Song”, we see God’s own commentary on the Work of the Suffering Servant:**

**I. A SUFFERING WORK (4-6)**

**II. A SUBSTITUTIONARY WORK (4)**

### III. **A SEVERE WORK** (4)

But it was the almost intolerable load of imputed sin—the imputed sins of millions. It was the tremendous pouring of the wrath of God into His holy soul; it was the hiding of His Father's face, and the very pangs of hell that there caught hold of Him. Our suffering Savior drank the cup of the wrath of God to the very dregs—when our vile, dreadful, and horrible sins were laid upon Him! (JC Philpot)

### IV. **A SAVING WORK** (5)

Was Christ wounded for our transgressions; were the iniquities of all his people laid upon him — then, surely, our iniquities shall never be laid upon us. He has borne and carried them away. He was made sin for us — that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. Away then, with all guilty unbelieving fears (Edward Payson).

### V. **A SECURE WORK** (6)

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse for us (Gal 3.13).

### VI. **A SWEET WORK** (6)

"All this great multitude of sins, and mass of guilt, and weight of punishment, came upon the Servant of Jehovah according to the appointment of the God of salvation, who is gracious in holiness. . . It was our sins that He bore, and for our salvation that God caused Him to suffer on our account" (Keil and Delitzsch).

In Sum: God's commentary concerning Christ's Crosswork shows:

- ➔Promised — prophesied in the OT
- ➔Propitiating — satisfied God's anger
- ➔Perfect — nothing else was needed
- ➔Permanent — everlastingly unbreakable/undoable.
- ➔Prized — cherish it and wonder and be in awe
- ➔Procuring — it *actually* saved; not potential or partial but really saved

The GOSPEL in 4 headings...

1. the **work** of God (God begins/initiates the work for helpless & heinous sinners)
2. the **substitution** of Christ (Christ dies for sinners)
3. the **propitiation** of God (Christ satisfies God's wrath)
4. the **imputation** of righteousness (Christ's righteousness imputed to sinners thru faith)

Gospel invitation from James Durham (from Isaiah 53):

- "O let these things sink in your hearts, that you are sinners, great sinners, under wrath, and at war with God; that Jesus Christ is the savior of lost sinners, and that there is no way to pardon and peace, but by closing with him, and laying hold on his satisfaction, that you may be drawn to cast yourselves over on this everlasting covenant, for obtaining the benefits that Christ has purchased"!

***Isaiah 53:4-6 — "God's Commentary Concerning the Crosswork of Christ"***