

# The Tragedy of Unbelief pt 1

## John 12:37-43

John 12:37–43 (NKJV)

<sup>37</sup> But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, <sup>38</sup> that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke:

“Lord, who has believed our report?  
*And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?*”

<sup>39</sup> Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again:

<sup>40</sup> “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts,  
Lest they should see with *their* eyes,  
Lest they should understand with *their* hearts and turn,  
*So that I should heal them.*”

<sup>41</sup> These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.

<sup>42</sup> Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess *Him*, lest they should be put out of

the synagogue; <sup>43</sup> for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

## Introduction

This past week there was much discussion and news coverage concerning the fire of cathedral of Notre Dame. A Historic Landmark of Roman Catholic Religion.

In his article titled [History Burning Before Our Eyes: The Tragedy of Notre Dame and the Soul of Modern France](#),

Dr. Albert Mohler wrote

“History burned before our eyes. One of the most important architectural achievements of western civilization endured catastrophic damage from a raging fire. The victim of this great tragedy was Notre Dame Cathedral—a nearly 900-year-old masterpiece in the center of the city of Paris.

Notre Dame’s iconic image is more than a feat of architectural genius; the cathedral stood as an essential monolith of French identity, western civilization, and the central role of Christianity in the development of European identity. This story teems

with worldview and theological significance, which will be absent from much of the major media coverage.

Construction of Notre Dame began in 1163. This marked the emergence of Gothic architecture—a style laden with theological meaning as it communicated the transcendence and glory of God. Gothic architecture is designed to make a person entering through its doors to feel *infinitesimal*; indeed, by pointing to the greatness and magnitude of God, mankind ought to sense their own smallness as they enter the grandeur of a cathedral like Notre Dame. The message sent by Gothic architecture within the Christian tradition is clear: “This building is about God, not about you.”

In order for a cathedral to be a cathedral, it requires the presence of a bishop. Indeed, the word *cathedra* means a seat or chair—the seat of a bishop’s power and authority. A cathedral may be large or small, and most are large, but a cathedral is designated by the presence of a bishop. And, when Notre Dame was built, a bishop was indeed a prince of the Roman Catholic Church.

Evangelical Christians looking at the burning of Notre Dame mourn the absence of the gospel within

that great building, even as we feel the loss of such a powerful symbol of historic Christianity. Notre Dame is a place of Catholic worship. Evangelicals fundamentally disagree with the sacramental design of the church and its elevation of the Catholic mass. We do not design our own church buildings to follow the same pattern. Our church buildings, rightly designed, demonstrate the centrality of biblical preaching and the identity of the church as the gathered people of God, bought by the blood of the Lamb.

Nonetheless, we do mourn the loss of this great architectural marvel, which stood as a massive testament to the centrality of Christianity in western civilization.”

Dr. Albert Mohler.... wrote a few things that trouble me and a theme I see again and again.

“The cathedral stood as an essential monolith of French identity, western civilization, **and the central role of Christianity** in the development of European identity.

“The message sent by Gothic architecture within the Christian tradition is clear: **“This building is about God,** not about you.””

“even as we feel the loss of such a **powerful symbol of historic Christianity.** Notre Dame is a place of Catholic worship.”

Nonetheless, we do mourn the loss of this great architectural marvel, **which stood as a massive testament to the centrality of Christianity** in western civilization.”

**“the Protestant Reformers themselves would have mourned the loss of this great cathedral.  
—a symbol of the Christianity they sought to reform.**

“ This is an astonishing declaration from a historian, a theologian, and the president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Protestant Reformers suffered unimaginable, creative tortures invented by the Roman Catholic Church and its popes. They were often burned at the stake — *slowly*. They watched their co-laborers in the Gospel and beloved family

members who would not renounce salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone have hot pokers thrust through their bodies. They watched their friends and loved ones have their tendons, ligaments, muscles, and joints ripped apart on the rack. They watched their husbands, wives, and children burn at the stake (288 under Bloody Mary alone). The Protestant Reformers would *not* have mourned the burning and loss of this *abominable* cathedral!

What about the French Protestant Reformers? Would the Protestant Reformed victims of [the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre](#) mourn the burning of the Notre Dame Cathedral? **Catherine de Medici** was the adoring niece of Pope Clement VII and was therefore given the best education, training, and discipline that zealous, rod wielding nuns can provide. Catherine was the *very* Roman Catholic mother of King Charles the IX and arguably the real power behind the French monarchy at that time. In August of 1572 she called for the barbarous massacre of *all* Protestant Reformed French Huguenots — our Reformed forefathers in the faith. The bloody slaughter of Protestants started in Paris on St. Bartholomew's Day and swept the entire

country in the days following. It is estimated that 40,000 to 100,000 Huguenot men, women, and children were savagely butchered.

A century later, **King Louis XIV** (whose coronation was held in the Notre Dame Cathedral) threatened the Huguenots with torture and death if they would not convert to Roman Catholicism. Louis demolished 570 of the Protestants' 815 Gospel preaching, Reformed churches. He hunted down and mercilessly killed any Huguenots that attempted to meet and worship without a church building in local forests. King Louis deliberately selected soldiers known for their brutality and sent them into Protestant areas to cruelly oppress and further harass the Huguenots. The soldiers' harassment included abusing elderly men and women by bouncing them in blankets, forcing younger men and women to dance until they collapsed, whipping their feet with sticks, pouring boiling water down their throats, stealing their possessions, and raping their wives and daughters. It became clear to our Protestant Reformed brethren that they needed to flee. Four hundred thousand Huguenots escaped France. Those who remained were forced to take Roman Catholic mass. Anyone

who refused or spat out the wafer (the supposed transubstantiated body of Christ) was burned alive. The Protestant Reformers suffered and died for their faithfulness to the Word of God and their declaration and defense of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These men and women, husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, and boys and girls would *not* mourn the burning of the Roman Catholic cathedral that blasphemed Christ and His Gospel for approximately 700 years. The Protestant Reformers would *not* mourn the burning of the cathedral that was used to damn countless souls to hell under Catholicism's doctrines of demons for approximately 700 years.

The Protestant Reformers would *not* mourn the burning and loss of the cathedral that was used to inspire the bloody persecution of true followers of Christ for centuries. No.”

Antichrist Idolatry Burning Before Our Eyes: The Tragedy of Mourning the Destruction of a “Synagogue of Satan”

[Chuck O'Neal](#)

Review

Yet, Mohler isn't the only Southern Baptist doing this. At least two articles were published at the International Mission Board (IMB) website which painted the loss of the Notre Dame Cathedral as though a piece of the heart of Christianity were ripped out and tossed into depths of the sea.



THOMAS SIEBERHAGEN | APRIL 17 2019  
WROTE

“Notre Dame once stood as a physical symbol of how beautiful the church can be. It was a tangible reminder of God’s glorious vision for his church. Notre Dame will be rebuilt, its beauty restored, even though it rests in ash at this moment. As heartbroken as I am over the loss of history and art, this tragedy has served to renew my hope that the church will be beautiful in Europe once again.”

We are rapidly losing the historic perspective of false religion. We are not talking about arguments over where candles and curtains are placed in the church. We are talking about the destiny of the souls of Men. The Gospel of Christ is at Stake. There are many false religions in the world but none so dangerous as those that mask themselves as Christianity. When words are so inclusive as the “Christianity” is today and there is no distinction made between the false and the true and all are painted with the same brush. MEN WILL DIE Saying that Cathedrals and Cardinals and Bishops and Basilicas are all Christian without Clarification of the Doctrinal distinctive that make the gospel the gospel is deadly.

False Religion has damned millions to Hell and continues to do so. We need understand the severity of this and stand for truth.

This is the Tragedy of this passage before us. The False religion of Judaism and the misinterpretation of vital Old Testament passages and the addition of man made ritual and works led to the unbelief and judgment of a nation.

## **Lesson**

### **I. The Shock of Unbelief**

### **II. The Seriousness of Unbelief**

### **III. The Sign of Unbelief**

## **I. The Shock of Unbelief**

**37** But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him,

**37** Τοσαυτα δε αυτου σημεια πεποιηκοτος εμπροσθεν αυτων ουκ επιστευον εις αυτον

Newberry, T., & Berry, G. R. (2004). [The interlinear literal translation of the Greek New Testament](#) (Jn 12:37). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

**v 37b** ...they did not believe in Him,

**Yet they believed not on him** (οὐκ ἐπιστευον εἰς αὐτον [*ouk episteuon eis auton*]). No “yet” in the Greek. Negative imperfect active of πιστευω [*pisteuō*], “they kept on not believing on him,” stubborn refusal in face of the light (verse 35).

Robertson, A. T. (1933). [Word Pictures in the New Testament](#) (Jn 12:37). Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

What makes this so shocking is the first part of the verse that reminds us of all that Christ had been doing in front of them.

**37** But although He had done so many signs before them,

**He had done** Perf Act participle  
having been done

**poieó: to make, do**

**Original Word:** ποιέω

**Part of Speech:** Verb

**Transliteration:** poieó

**Phonetic Spelling:** (poy-eh'-o)

**Definition:** to make, do

**Usage:** (a) I make, manufacture, construct, (b) I do, act, cause.

**so many signs**

**tosoutos: so great, so much, pl. so many**

**Original Word:** τσοῦτος, τσοῦτη, τσοῦτο

**Part of Speech:** Demonstrative Pronoun

**Transliteration:** tosoutos

**Phonetic Spelling:** (tos-oo'-tos)

**Definition:** so great, so much, pl. so many

**Usage:** so great, so large, so long, so many.

5118 τσοῦτος (from tosos, "so much" and the demonstrative pronoun, [3778](#) /hoútos, "this, that") – properly, so much in this (that) case.

**before them,****emprothen: before, in front of (in place or time)****Original Word:** ἔμπροσθεν**Part of Speech:** Adverb; Preposition**Transliteration:** emprothen**Phonetic Spelling:** (em'-pros-then)**Definition:** before, in front of (in place or time)**Usage:** in front, before the face; sometimes made a subst. by the addition of the article: in front of, before the face of.**b.** before, in the presence ofOver 40 miracles are recorded as performed by Jesus

Healing of sick

Casting our Demons

Giving sight to the blind

Recreating the limbs of the Maimed

Making the Crippled walk

The Mute the Speak

Restoring to perfect health the Leper

Walking Water

Calming the storm

feeding Thousands by creating food

Resurrecting the Dead

Including the Last Public miracle of the Resurrection of Lazarus.

These were irrefutable miracles only explained by God's Power. Lazarus was such a problem for the Leaders to deal with that they hatched a plan to kill him.

John 12:10–11 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, <sup>11</sup> because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.

Even Nicodemus admitted

**John 3:2**

**2** This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

[The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Jn 3:2). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

**John 7:31 (NKJV)**

<sup>31</sup> And many of the people believed in Him, and said, “When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this *Man* has done?”

**John 9:16 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> Therefore some of the Pharisees said, “This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.”

Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them.

### **John 11:47 (NKJV)**

<sup>47</sup> Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, “What shall we do? For this Man works many signs.

### **Acts 2:22 (NKJV)**

<sup>22</sup> “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—

### **John 21:24-25**

<sup>24</sup> This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true.

<sup>25</sup> And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

Jesus has done many signs, but as elsewhere in biblical narratives, God's gracious and saving work on behalf of his people does not inevitably produce understanding or faith. Moses laments that although God had done "signs and great wonders" in the land of Egypt, Israel had neither seen nor understood what the Lord had done for his people (Deut 29:2–4

Thompson, M. M. (2015). *John: A Commentary* (First edition, p. 274). Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press.

### **Deuteronomy 29:2–4 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> Now Moses called all Israel and said to them: "You have seen all that the Lord did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land—<sup>3</sup> the great trials which your eyes have seen, the signs, and those great wonders. <sup>4</sup> Yet the Lord has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this *very day*."

The evidence was abundant, the Words and works of Christ were overwhelming. The Miracles were never denied, they were real, supernatural works of God. The Wisdom of the the Words of Christ were never refuted, the teaching of Christ was unique and authoritative.



**Matthew 7:28–29 (NKJV)**

<sup>28</sup> And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, <sup>29</sup> for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

The Sinless and purity of Christ was never doubted. Even when opportunity was give to bring accusation, the only thing they could say is that He claimed to be God.

The Climax of this rejection is seen in a refusal to give glory to God for the miracles in Matt 12

**Matthew 12:22–24 (NKJV)**

<sup>22</sup> Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw.

<sup>23</sup> And all the multitudes were amazed and said, “Could this be the Son of David?”

<sup>24</sup> Now when the Pharisees heard *it* they said, “This *fellow* does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.”

These commit the unpardonable sin, unbelief in face of all the evidence!!!!

## Matthew 12:31–32 (NKJV)

### *Pharisees Commit the Unpardonable Sin*

<sup>31</sup> “Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy *against* the Spirit will not be forgiven men. <sup>32</sup> Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the *age to come*.

### I. The Shock of Unbelief

## II. The Seriousness of Unbelief

### John 12:37–43 (NKJV)

<sup>37</sup> But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, <sup>38</sup> **that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled**, which he spoke:

“Lord, who has believed our report?  
*And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?*”

39 Therefore they could not believe, **because**  
**Isaiah said again:**

40 “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts,  
Lest they should see with *their* eyes,  
Lest they should understand with *their* hearts and turn,  
*So that I should heal them.*”

So the question would arise... has the plan of God failed. All that Jesus did and said was rejected. His Messiahship was scorned.

How is it that the Messiah can come to His own people and be rejected.

How is it that for so many years the prophets would foretell of Messiah and His kingdom and yet when he comes, they would turn away.

How can Christ come with such compassion and mercy and yet be refused and despised.

Had the best of intentions by God been stopped  
Is God a Failure and his plans meaningless

In the words of Apostle Paul in Romans 9-11

**Romans 9:6** (NKJV)

*6 But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect....*

**Romans 11:1** (NKJV)

11 I say then, has God cast away His people? ....

**Romans 3:3** (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect?

**Hebrews 4:2** (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard *it*.

But John explains that this was not failure on the part of Gods plan but rather it was Gods plan.

**Acts 2:22–24** (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup> “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in

your midst, as you yourselves also know—<sup>23</sup> Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; <sup>24</sup> whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

### **Acts 4:25–29** (NKJV)

<sup>25</sup> who by the mouth of Your servant David have said:

*‘Why did the nations rage,  
And the people plot vain things?*

<sup>26</sup> *The kings of the earth took their stand,  
And the rulers were gathered together  
Against the Lord and against His Christ.’*

<sup>27</sup> “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together <sup>28</sup> to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. <sup>29</sup> Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word,

### **Acts 13:27–30** (NKJV)

<sup>27</sup> For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled *them* in condemning *Him*. <sup>28</sup> And though they found no cause for death *in Him*, they asked Pilate that He should be put to death. <sup>29</sup> Now when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning Him, they took *Him* down from the tree and laid *Him* in a tomb. <sup>30</sup> But God raised Him from the dead.

### **Acts 3:18 (NKJV)**

<sup>18</sup> But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

### **Genesis 50:20 (NKJV)**

<sup>20</sup> But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive.

### **Psalms 76:10 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> Surely the wrath of man shall praise You;  
With the remainder of wrath You shall gird  
Yourself.

### **Matthew 26:24 (NKJV)**

<sup>24</sup> **The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man**

is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.”

**1 Peter 2:7–8 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, to you who believe, *He is precious*; but to those who are disobedient,

*“The stone which the builders rejected  
Has become the chief cornerstone,”*

<sup>8</sup> and

*“A stone of stumbling  
And a rock of offense.”*

They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

The unbelief of Israel was the catalyst that drove Christ to the Cross.

It was the means God designed to bring redemption to Gentile nations.

D.A. Carson states it this way,  
“Some explanation must be given for such large-scale, catastrophic unbelief. There is ample evidence that the substantial unbelief of the Jewish people before the resurrection was a

major hindrance to the conversion of Jews after the resurrection. Surely (it was argued) we may call into question the messianic claims of one so thoroughly rejected by the Jewish people by whom and for whom the prophetic Scriptures were written! The Christian answer, as clearly articulated in Paul (esp. Rom. 9–11) as here, is that this unbelief was not only foreseen by Scripture but on that very account *necessitated* by Scripture.”

Carson, D. A. (1991). [The Gospel according to John](#) (p. 447). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

Had there been full acceptance of Christ in his first coming, Had Israel, embraced Him as their Messiah, He would have never died. NO sacrifice would have taken place and you would still be in your sins.

Now, what John introduces is some of the most difficult truths in all of the Word of God.

The Theme running thru the text is the ultimate rejection and unbelief by Israel of there Messiah, Jesus Christ.



But the Reasons given are hard truths taught throughout the Bible

1. Sovereign Reprobation
2. Human Responsibility

Gods Willful Commitment of Human beings to unbelief and ultimate eternal Hell.

In this passage we are given a glimpse into the divine purposes of God, the perfect plan of a Sovereign God that will be carried out flawlessly and at the same time hold man fully responsible and culpable for his willful choices in carrying out the plan.

First it needs to be noted that there is a progression in the text.

1.

John 12:37 (NKJV)

<sup>37</sup> But although He had done so many signs before them, they **did not believe** in Him,

Imperfect Active Indicative

They are actively continually unwilling to believe then it moves to the inability to believe in verse 39

## 2.

### John 12:39 (NKJV)

<sup>39</sup> Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again:

Imperfect Middle/ Passive Indicative

**dunamai: to be able, to have power**

**Original Word:** δύναμαι

**Part of Speech:** Verb

**Transliteration:** dunamai

**Phonetic Spelling:** (doo'-nam-ahee)

**Definition:** to be able, to have power

**Usage:** (a) I am powerful, have (the) power, (b) I am able, I can.

Cognate: 1410 δύναμαι (a primitive verb) – to show ability (power); able (enabled by God), empowered. See the cognate-noun, 1411 /δύναμις ("ability, power").

whether is taken middle or passive

**middle**= they could not of themselves believe

**Passive** = they were not given the ability to believe.

Both are a direct result of God not enabling them to believe

**John 6:44** (NKJV)

**44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.**

v 37 is volition

v 39 is retribution

v.37 is willful

v. 39 is causal

v. 37 is determined by man

v. 39 is determined by God

Lets look more closely to the Progression of the text.

2 passages from Isaiah are quoted.

Each time a statement is made about the unbelief of the Jews, a quote is given from the prophet Isaiah.

One from Isaiah 53 and one from Isaiah 6

The first is given from Isaiah 53 in response to the unbelief stated in John 12:37

## John 12:37–38 (NKJV)

**37** But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, **38** that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke:

“Lord, who has believed our report?  
*And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?*”

**38** that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled,

Although the Greek conjunction *hina* sometimes has resultative force (the meaning here would then be that the unbelief of the people *resulted* in the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, not that it occurred *in order that* Old Testament prophecy might be fulfilled), no such weakening can be legitimate here

Carson, D. A. (1991). *The Gospel according to John* (p. 447). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

## Result

**37** But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, **38** that (so that) the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled,

## Purpose

<sup>37</sup> But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, <sup>38</sup> that (in order that or for the purpose that) the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled,

The Result would mean that the cause of the prophecy being fulfilled was the volition of man. He made it happen.

Whereas the purpose (hina) would mean that was was prophecy was the cause of mans fulfillment of this.

One places the prophecy dependent on man

The other puts man dependent on the prophecy.

In other words, Man does not believe because God Said he would not.

The quotation Isaiah 53 is not telling us why they did not believe. It is just stating that they didn't and that this was foretold by the prophet and that the unbelief was fulfilled that Isaiah spoke of.

Look at the Text.

## Isaiah 53:1-3

**53** Who has believed what he has heard from us?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

**2** For he grew up before him like a young plant,  
and like a root out of dry ground;  
he had no form or majesty that we should look at  
him,  
and no beauty that we should desire him.

**3** He was despised and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;  
and as one from whom men hide their faces  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

*[The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#)*. (2016). (Is 53). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

The second statement of unbelief is followed by a more definitive statement as to the reason why they did not believe.

## John 12:39–40 (NKJV)

<sup>39</sup> Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again:

<sup>40</sup> “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts,  
Lest they should see with *their* eyes,

Lest they should understand with *their* hearts and  
 turn,  
*So that I should heal them.*”

“In Isaiah 6 the prophet, after being granted a vision of the Lord that has resulted in his profound repentance and cleansing, offers to serve as the Lord’s messenger. And so he is commissioned—but with the chilling prospect of being ignored, scorned and rejected by the people to whom he is to speak. God commands Isaiah to undertake this ministry in the full knowledge that the results will be negative; indeed, such preaching to these people *evokes* a negative response, is in some sense the *cause* of the negative response.”

Carson, D. A. (1991). *The Gospel according to John* (p. 448). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

This quote is not a necessary fulfillment in Christ ministry but rather a reason for the earlier quote  
 Isaiah 53

Isaiah 53:1-3

**53** Who has believed what he has heard from us?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been  
 revealed?

<sup>2</sup> For he grew up before him like a young plant,  
 and like a root out of dry ground;

he had no form or majesty that we should look at  
him,

and no beauty that we should desire him.

- <sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;  
and as one from whom men hide their faces  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

[\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Is 53). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Notice the text again

### **John 12:39–40 (NKJV)**

<sup>39</sup> Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again:

<sup>40</sup> “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts,

Lest they should see with *their* eyes,

Lest they should understand with *their* hearts and turn,

*So that I should heal them.”*

This is Sovereign Judicial Blinding and Hardening.

Many reject this outright and say that this is not the God of the Bible. But it is.



**Exodus 4:21 (NKJV)**

<sup>21</sup> And the Lord said to Moses, “When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go.

**Exodus 7:3 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt.

**Exodus 7:13 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> And Pharaoh’s heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the Lord had said.

**Exodus 14:4 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> Then I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I *am* the Lord.” And they did so.

**Romans 9:17–18 (NKJV)**

<sup>17</sup> For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, “*For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be*

*declared in all the earth.*”<sup>18</sup> Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.

### **Joshua 11:18–20 (NKJV)**

<sup>18</sup> Joshua made war a long time with all those kings.

<sup>19</sup> There was not a city that made peace with the children of Israel, except the Hivites, the inhabitants of Gibeon. *All the others* they took in battle. <sup>20</sup> For it was of the Lord to harden their hearts, that they should come against Israel in battle, that He might utterly destroy them, *and* that they might receive no mercy, but that He might destroy them, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

### **Romans 11:7–8 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded. <sup>8</sup> Just as it is written:

*“God has given them a spirit of stupor,  
Eyes that they should not see  
And ears that they should not hear,  
To this very day.”*

This hardening and blinding is a direct result of Gods judgment on willful rebellion, disobedience and unbelief

## **2 Thessalonians 2:9–12 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, <sup>10</sup> and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. <sup>11</sup> And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, <sup>12</sup> that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

## **Psalms 81:11–12 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> “But My people would not heed My voice,  
And Israel would *have* none of Me.  
<sup>12</sup> So I gave them over to their own stubborn heart,  
To walk in their own counsels.

## **Romans 1:21–29 (NKJV)**

<sup>21</sup> because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became

fools, <sup>23</sup> and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup> who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

<sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. <sup>27</sup> Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

<sup>28</sup> And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; <sup>29</sup> being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers,