

“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”

We begin this lesson where we left of on the last lesson, so that it is a continuous flow of thought. As stated previously, Jesus Christ in fulfilling the law and His earthly mission, acted both as a prophet as well as high priest, but not the role of earthly king. He will visibly fulfill that role at His Second Coming. This idea does not negate the statement in Matthew 28:18 which says, “All power (authority) is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” This means that He is the ultimate authority and reigns, seated at the right hand of God, and will make the kingdoms of this earth His footstool, as per Psalm 2. His kingdom will bloom under His reign and the entire creation will be rid of the curse of sin and death. As Paul so states, death will be the final enemy to be conquered, 1 Cor. 15:54-56. All this is a result of His victorious sacrifice on the cross, the world will eventually be restored to it’s original state. This idea can be put under the umbrella of the atonement, and is in agreement with the words of John the Baptist, “Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.” This statement was never intended to mean universal atonement being that there is no universal atonement written in the Law. Jesus fulfilled the Law, He didn’t re-write it, or add to it.

Some critics of Christ and His followers hold that He was only human, though a good man, and what He suffered was His own fault. It was a bad case of miscommunication and misunderstanding that got Him crucified. Christ’s mistakes got him crucified, and according to this theory, He failed to clearly communicate His mission to the Sanhedrim which should have been and could have been sympathetic to His just cause. This misconceived idea is based on Isaiah 53:4, in the phrase, “We did esteem him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted.” The religious Jewish leaders had a hard time understanding Him and just what His intentions were, according to this. This theory is destroyed by just one verse, Matthew 27:18, “For he knew (Pilate) that for envy they (the Sanhedrin) had delivered him.” It was the envy of the Sanhedrim that led them to their actions. The trial of Christ was actually illegal under Mosaic Law, which the Sanhedrin was supposed to be the guardians and keepers of, as seen in the following list of Laws and traditions broken: “1. There was to be no arrest by religious authorities that was effected by a bribe. Exodus 23:8

2. There were to be no steps of criminal proceedings after sunset.
3. Judges or Sanhedrin members were not allowed to participate in the arrest.
4. There were to be no trials before the morning sacrifice.

5. There were to be no secret trials, only public.
6. Sanhedrin trials could only be conducted in the hall of judgment of the temple compound.
7. The procedure was to be first the defense and then the accusation.
8. All may argue in favor of acquittal, but all may not argue in favor of conviction.,
9. There were to be two or three witnesses and their testimony had to agree in every detail. Deuteronomy 19:15
10. There was to be no allowance for the accused to testify against himself.
11. The high priest was forbidden to rent his garments. Leviticus21: 10
12. Charges could not originate with the judges; they could only investigate charges brought to them.
13. The accusation of blasphemy was only valid if the name of God itself was pronounced.
14. A person could not be condemned on the basis of his own words alone.
15. The verdict could not be announced at night, only in the daytime.
16. In cases of capital punishment, the trial and guilty verdict could not occur at the same time but must be separated by at least 24 hours.
17. Voting for the death penalty had to be done by individual count beginning with the youngest so the young would not be influenced by the elders.
18. A unanimous decision for guilt shows innocence since it is impossible for 23-71 men agree without plotting.
19. The sentence could only be pronounced three days after the guilty verdict.
20. Judges were to be objective, humane and kind.
21. A person condemned to death was not to be scourged or beaten beforehand.
22. No trials are allowed on the eve of the Sabbath or on a feast day.

It is obvious the Sanhedrin (the Jewish national religious council) was of a one tract mind, and instead of their prayers said at a particular time, in a particular place, in a particular manner, they committed multiple illegal acts to get their sinful desires fulfilled. The Law strictly states that false accusers are to be punished with the

punishment they tried to put on the innocent. Deuteronomy 19:18,19. They, therefore, were guilty unto death. The Romans later in the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, crucified the Sanhedrin.

:53:4“Surely, he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.” Here is a plain statement about the Messiah carrying our sin in His act of atonement. This is one major point missed by the Jews: the Messiah was predicted as the sin bearer, not be a political leader. The Messiah was to come as a humble sin bearer. It is most important to remember He was fully our sin bearer. He lifted up and carried away our actual sin, the cause of our sorrow and grief. He didn't just take away our punishment and guilt.

:53:5. “But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed.” The word “wound” means, “pierced through,” which accurately describes the thrust of the Centurion's spear, as seen in John's account in John 19: 34. “He was crushed because of our iniquities.” This points to the fact that the person under the load was totally destroyed by its weight. The sins which we have and will commit were carried away from us by the Servant of God, Jesus Christ until it crushed Him. This is not just physical crushing but as Isaiah describes it in verse ten and thirteen, “Thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin...He shall see of the travail of his soul, and be satisfied...” The physical abuse that lead to physical death was horrible, but it wasn't just physical, or surface wounds, the weight of Calvary reached to the depths of His soul. Truly, He was a man of sorrows. Remember the far reaching results of sin, the next time it is taken lightly. Chastisement is corrective action. This shows that the Crucifixion of Christ, the Messiah, was the only plan of correction that would bring us peace (shalom), otherwise, “this cup” would have passed from Christ. Here is the picture of propitiation, Propitiation both makes peace and reconciles all at the same time. The offending sin is removed, and those who were once enemies are not only at peace but in good fellowship, one with another. This is our condition once we come to God for our peace with Him. “By His stripes are we healed,” is to be viewed as spiritually healed, since we are dealing with spiritual sin. By removing sin, Christ also removes the causes of sickness and death, spiritually and physically. Ultimately this will be in the World to Come, not in this present age since sin, sickness and death are still waiting for the final consummation of the age. Until then, we must patiently rely on God as the first Adam was supposed to do. God's way is now our way. We are to follow Him in paths of righteousness for His name's sake all the days of our lives. We are to thankfully live our lives for the sake of the One Who gave His life for us.