

June 17, 2012  
"The Arm of the LORD"  
Isaiah 53:1-12

I. What is meant by the phrase, "The arm of the Lord?"

1. It does not mean that God is a physical being.

"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:24 NKJ)

"Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have." (Luke 24:39 NKJ)

2. Bodily parts ascribed to God picture to us His attributes. He is said to have eyes because He sees all, "THE ARM OF THE LORD" refers to God's power –

Have you an arm like God? Or can you thunder with a voice like His? (Job 40:9 NKJ)

You have a mighty arm; Strong is Your hand, and high is Your right hand. (Psalm 89:13 NKJ)

Fear and dread will fall on them; By the greatness of Your arm They will be as still as a stone, Till Your people pass over, O LORD, Till the people pass over Whom You have purchased. (Exodus 15:16 NKJ)

The LORD has made bare His holy arm In the eyes of all the nations; And all the ends of the earth shall see The salvation of our God. (Isaiah 52:10 NKJ)

3. The phrase "The Arm of the LORD" here in Isaiah is a reference to our Lord Jesus Christ. Notice the "Arm of the LORD" is referred to throughout this passage as "HE" or "Him"

4. He, Jesus Christ is God's Arm for us in the battle against sin and Satan, He is the Strength of God for our salvation –

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is **the power of God** to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. (Romans 1:16 NKJ)

II. What is meant by the questions: Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? (Isaiah 53:1 NKJ)

1. These questions were rhetorical, they were not meant to be answered ... They are meant to express great wonder at the lack of true believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, see John 12 for the fulfillment of this prophecy –

32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." 33 This He said, signifying by what death He would die. 34 The people answered Him, "We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?" 35 Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. 36 "While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them. 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?"

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." 41 These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him. (John 12:32-41 NKJ)

2. Christ's cross is opposite of what we would typically consider strength –

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1Co 1:18 NKJ)

- A. It was an instrument of death and punishment for criminals
- B. A man nailed to a cross typically was without "power"
- C. The message of the cross is called "foolishness"

III. Christ did not come in a way that met our natural or

*especially not sinful expectations –*

For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. 3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. (Isaiah 53:2-3 NKJ)

1. *He came to wage war with the devil but hardly appeared as a warrior –*

*And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7 NKJ)*

2. *He came with a define purpose –*

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21 NKJ)

<sup>45</sup> "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Mar 10:45 NKJ)

3. *Though Isaiah wrote his prophecy seven hundred years before Christ he speaks of Christ's mission as a mission accomplished –*

7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. 8 He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. 9 And they made His grave with the wicked-- But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth. 10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. 11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors. (Isaiah 53:7-12 NKJ)

A. *He bore our sin - this is symbolized in the Lord's Supper.*

B. *He became sin for us –*

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJ)

*The fact Jesus became sin for us shows us how intimately and wholeheartedly He is involved with us in our battle with sin and Satan!*

*Sin would destroy us!*

*Sin would send us to Hell!*

*Yet on the cross Jesus is the "Arm of the LORD" to save us from those things!*

IV. *Christ did this even when we were mindless to save ourselves –*

Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:4-6 NKJ)

6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom 5:6-8 NKJ)

*Therefore, as we celebrate the Lord's Supper today, let us be thankful for all God has done for us through Christ!*

1. *Our Heavenly Father sent His Son – John 3:16-17*

2. *Christ willingly came and died a humiliating, painful death to save us –*

<sup>9</sup> then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God..."

<sup>10</sup> By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all* ... <sup>12</sup> But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, (Heb 10:9-12 NKJ)