**Advent 2022 Series December 4, 2022**

**God’s Plan for a Savior – Isaiah 53:1-12**

The Humility of the Suffering Servant Isaiah 53:1-3

* Many expected the Savior / Messiah to be an **exalted earthly King**, with a vast kingdom which would crush God’s enemies
* Instead, God shows that the Savior would not be believed by many, especially those from Israel
* His life **would not been** viewed as of or from royalty
* He would be rejected **by most**

The Sacrifice of the Suffering Servant Isaiah 53:4-6

* He took upon Himself, “bore”
  + Griefs: **deep wounds of the soul**
  + Sorrows
* He was “stricken” and “smitten / afflicted”
  + All of this points to the substitutionary sacrifice
    - Note the “He” and “our” language in the text
  + He was not bearing the penalty of His own transgressions but rather taking on Himself the sins of others
* He took on sins in His body
  + Transgressions: **crime or rebellion against God**
  + “pierced through” – clearly an indication of death
  + Iniquities: sin that is particularly evil because it has the idea of deliberate acts against God
* Why would the Suffering Servant do this?
  + His sacrifice, which seems unthinkable, is for the good of sinners
  + It takes a sinless sacrifice for the atonement of sins: we could never pay for own sins
* The Suffering Servant took on the **sins of all**
  + There is no one exempt from sin, of any kind
  + It is personal decisions to rebel against God
  + The sinless took upon Himself the sins of all

The Willingness of the Suffering Servant Isaiah 53:7-9

* He would not **resist His fate** to suffer, die, and bear the weight of sin
  + “He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth”
  + “Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth”
* Isaiah keeps repeating the fact that He would step in as a **substitute for sin**
* Isaiah is also stressing the voluntary nature of the sacrifice: He would not be coerced into giving His life, but rather give of Himself fully to death
* His death was marked by the fact that **He was buried**, just as all other people are who die
  + Yet, there was no sin in the Suffering Servant, even when His persecutors killed Him, He did not sin even then

The Justification by the Suffering Servant Isaiah 53:10-12

* God’s plan (God’s will) was to cause Him to suffer and become the only offering to the Lord which could **remove the guilt of sin** from mankind
* It will result in many benefits:
  + “He will see His offspring”
  + “He will prolong His Days”
  + Both are indications of the success that the Suffering Servant will surely receive from the Lord
    - This is not a promise of natural children, but rather of spiritual children
    - This is not a promise of long earthly life but rather of eternal life
* As a result, God will grant Him the privilege of overcoming and His name will be “great”
  + Though He was believed to be a sinner, instead, His life took on the sins of many
  + Today He lives to intercede for those who have sinned!

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