



# **HE DID IT ALL FOR ME**

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Isaiah lived over 700 years before Jesus Christ. Nonetheless, he gave an astonishingly accurate picture of the coming Messiah. In fact, his prophecy has been called by many “The Gospel of Isaiah” or “The Gospel of the Old Testament.” If we didn’t know better, we well might have thought that Isaiah was personally acquainted with the savior.

It was this Prophet of Calvary who first foretold that Jesus would be called:

- **“Immanuel.” (God With Us) “Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince Of Peace.”**
- According to Isaiah 9:7 (*New Century Version*), **“Power and peace will be in his kingdom and will continue to grow forever. He will rule as king on David's throne and over David's kingdom.”**
- **“The Spirit Of The Lord was to be upon him... And with righteousness was He to judge....”**
- **“He was not to fail or be discouraged....”**
- **“He was to be upheld by God's hand.”**

In another perfect reference to Jesus, he writes in chapter 61:1 (*New Century Version*), **“The Lord GOD has put his Spirit in me, because the LORD has appointed me to tell the good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort those whose hearts are broken, to tell the captives they are free, and to tell the prisoners they are released.”**

This is how the prophet spoke of the coming Messiah – Jesus – for much of the book. However, something changes when the writer gets to chapter 53. He takes a sharp turn. A dark cloud seems to sweep over his words. One famous early

Christian stated that the prophecies of this chapter seems to have been written “beneath the Cross of Calvary.”

Lets look at what he has to say in part, **(PP #2) “He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken.”**

What a contrast! A moment ago Jesus was **“Wonderful, Immanuel and Mighty God.”** Now...

- He has no beauty.
- He is despised and rejected.
- He is one who suffers.
- He is sorrowful.
- He is pierced as well as crushed.
- He is oppressed and afflicted.
- His earthly life could best be summed up in the brief phrase, **“He was**

**despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.”**

What made the difference? What brought about the sufferings of Jesus? When one discovers the answers to these two questions, one discovers what Easter is all about.

Notice with me once again Isaiah 53:6, **“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him (JESUS) the iniquity of us all.”** Verse 8 adds: **“...for the transgression of my people he was stricken.”**

In the New Testament, in Romans 5:8, the writings of the Apostle Paul, we read, (*The Amplified Bible*) **“But God shows and clearly proves his own love for us by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One, died for us.”**

It is simple.

- We strayed.
- We turned from the Lord.
- We were the ones who were guilty.
- We were the ones who had sinned.
- And yet, He who knew no sin bore the guilt, the shame, and the punishment of our sins for us! That is what these verses are saying.

**THAT, MY FRIENDS, IS A PICTURE OF THE WHY OF THE SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST. THE VICARIOUS SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST.**

Now, to be honest, a few here might have some problems with the word vicarious. This mustn't be. The word is much too important to miss. The writer stresses the vicarious nature of our Lord's suffering twelve times in nine verses in this chapter.

Let me explain what the term means:

- If I take the load that is hurting another's back and put it on my own, and do it knowing that soon my own back will ache...
- If I give my coat to another on a wintry day...
- If I go without food so that someone else might eat... then I suffer vicariously.

Vicarious suffering is simply suffering so someone else will not have to suffer. It is taking the other person's load, their pain, their grief, their affliction. That is what Jesus did for us!

## **LET US LOOK AT SEVEN DIFFERENT WAYS THE PROPHET NOTES THAT JESUS SUFFERED VICARIOUSLY FOR US.**

### **1. (PP #3) THE FIRST AGONY IS FOUND IN VERSE 4. THE PROPHET DECLARES THAT JESUS "TOOK UP OUR INFIRMITIES..."**

The word "infirmities" has also been translated, affliction, pain, as well as suffering elsewhere.

*Young's Literal Translation* writes, "**Surely our sicknesses He hath borne...**"  
*The Amplified Bible* says: "**Surely He has borne our grief's, sickness, weakness and distress....**"

The truth is, Jesus carried...

- Our infirmities on the cross as if they were His infirmities,
- Our pains as if they were His pains, and
- Our sicknesses as if they were His sicknesses!

We will come back to this later.

## **2. (PP #4) THE SECOND WAY HE SUFFERED IS LIKE UNTO THE FIRST, “AND CARRIED OUR SORROWS.”**

This tells of Jesus bearing our mental and emotional hurts.

The word “carried” means that He bore our sorrows along. He literally drug them as if they were a heavy burden.

Matthew 26:37 records a portion of the agony in **(PP #5) the Garden of Gethsemane**. Notice from *The Amplified Bible*: “...**And taking with Him Peter and the two sons of Jebedee, He began to show grief and distress of mind and was deeply depressed.**” *The Message* translates this, “**Taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he plunged into an agonizing sorrow.**”

Every once in a while, I encounter someone who believes that depression is a sin. That one actually has control over his or her depression. That an individual commits depression like a person commits adultery. That is error. Jesus was depressed and yet He was without sin.

Why was He depressed? Because someday we might be depressed. He entered into every pain, every sorrow, every grief, that we might someday face.

Before I leave this verse, notice the last part of the passage: “**yet we considered**

**Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted.”** This is a very important statement. Those who delivered Jesus up to death felt that Jesus had quite literally been stricken, smitten, and afflicted by none other than God Himself.

Why? Two reasons.

1) They truly believed that He was a sinner, a blasphemer. The philosophy of the Jews at that time was that when one suffered, it was due to some personal sin in his or her life or, perhaps, in the life of a loved one. The affliction was an act of punishment from the Lord. They looked at Jesus and declared that divine intervention had taken place.

2) **(PP #6) They had never seen anyone suffer** as He was suffering. Yes, they had seen numerous crucifixions. Death and suffering was common in those days. But none of them had ever seen anyone who looked like He looked, who suffered like He suffered.

Notice these verses:

Psalms 22:14-17 (*New Living Translation*), **“My life is poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart is like wax, melting within me. My strength has dried up like sunbaked clay.**

**My tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth. You have laid me in the dust and left me for dead. My enemies surround me like a pack of dogs; an evil gang closes in on me. They have pierced my hands and feet. I can count every bone in my body. My enemies stare at me and gloat.”**

Isaiah 52:14 (*New Living Translation*) adds, **“Many were amazed when they saw him—beaten and bloodied, so disfigured one would scarcely know he**

**was a person.”**

You might be interested to know that the Jewish Talmud called the Messiah, “The Leprous One.” He certainly looked like “The Leprous One”. That’s for sure.

The point is, on the cross Jesus bore in His body every kind of sickness and every mental anguish.

- He knew the pain of cancer.
- He knew the pain of shingles.
- Jesus knew what it was like to have AIDS.
- He felt depression.

And in bearing all of this -- in looking like He did -- the Jews thought that He was being punished by God!

In John 19:28 Jesus cried “**I thirst!**” Thirst was one of the greatest causes of suffering when a person was crucified. Through bleeding, the body would lose much of its body fluid. After 6-12 minutes, the blood pressure would drop 50%. The pulse rate would, at the same time, double. The pain would cause the person to perspire heavily. The sun sucked water from every pore of His naked body. Thirst simply went with crucifixion.

Jesus endured it all.

When you get sick, distressed, depressed, sorrowful, never be so foolish as to question whether or not Jesus knows what you’re going through. Yes, He knows! He has felt what you feel. He has sat where you set. Remember, He carried our sorrows.

I remember well visiting a lady years ago who was dying of cancer. She was in the hospital. Sister Luden was quite old while at the time I was somewhere in my mid-twenties. Nonetheless, I was her pastor. While there, I tried to sympathize with what she had to be feeling. As I was speaking, she stopped me rather abruptly and said, "What do you know about pain? You don't have cancer. You don't know what I feel." Needless to say, I was somewhat taken back by her attitude. God is faithful. In a flash, the Lord gave me a word for her. I said, "Sister Luden, you are right. I don't know what you're going through, I am young, I never have had cancer. But I am not here to tell you about me. I am here today representing the Lord Jesus Christ. There isn't a pain that you have ever felt that He hasn't felt first. He knows first hand what you're going through. He identifies with your suffering." She got the message. It is the message of an Old Rugged Cross and of what went on there! He bore our sicknesses and our distresses! He did it all for me, for you, for all of the Sister Ludens in the world!

### **3. (PP #7) THEN THE THIRD WAY THAT HE SUFFERED VICARIOUSLY IS THAT HE "WAS PIERCED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS."**

Have you ever noticed how easy it is to sin? We have to be taught how to read, to write, to even feed ourselves. However, no one has to teach us how to sin. Sin comes easy. It comes down to this: We are not sinners because we sin; rather, we sin because we are sinners. No matter how moral or religious we are, we still sin. You sin; I sin. We all sin. The Bible declares, "**There is none righteous, no not one.**"

Jesus suffered and died due to our sins.

Again, the Bible says that He "**was pierced for our transgressions**" – our

sins. He was pierced by the thorns in His brow, the tapered iron spikes which were driven into His flesh, as well as by the spear that was thrust deep into His side.

Jesus willingly took upon himself the sins of the entire world. The evil that I bring into this world, the evil that you bring into this world, the evil of every human being who has ever lived or who ever will live, was all put upon Jesus. For our sins He was pierced.

#### **4. (PP #8) "HE WAS CRUSHED FOR OUR INIQUITIES...."**

There was no stronger expression in the Hebrew language to denote severity of suffering than the words used here. This was it. It was a picture of one's life being crushed/forced out of them by a terrible weight or burden.

I personally believe that this is one reason that water and blood poured forth from the side of Jesus when He was stabbed with the spear. His heart was crushed beneath the awful load that He, the Sin-Bearer, was bearing for us! This meant suffering right up to the point of death!

While here, please let me note that although the Romans did not invent crucifixion, they perfected it as a form of torture and capital punishment. It was quite literally designed to produce a slow death with maximum pain and suffering. It was usually reserved only for slaves, foreigners, revolutionaries, and the vilest of criminals.

At one point early in Julius Caesar's political career, feelings ran so high against him that he thought it best to leave Rome. He sailed for the Aegean island of Rhodes, but en route his ship was attacked by pirates and Caesar was captured. The pirates demanded a ransom of 12,000 gold pieces. Caesar's staff

was sent away to arrange the payment.

Caesar spent almost 40 days with his captors, jokingly telling the pirates on several occasions that he would someday capture and crucify them to a man. The kidnapers were greatly amused, but when the ransom was paid and Caesar was freed, the first thing he did was gather a fleet and pursue the pirates. They were captured and crucified ... to a man!

Such was the Romans' attitude toward crucifixion. It was to be reserved for the worst of criminals, a means of showing extreme contempt for the condemned. The suffering and humiliation of a Roman crucifixion were unequalled.

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## **5. (PP #9) THE FIFTH AGONY IS SEEN IN THAT “THE PUNISHMENT THAT BROUGHT US PEACE WAS UPON HIM.”**

Friends, we were at war with God. Our sins blocked the way to any hope of reconciliation with our Lord. Yet, on the cross Jesus paid the necessary price to restore fallen man to His Sinless Savior! He paid the price for our well-being!

The story says that while Jesus was hanging on the tree He looked down and saw evil and sinful humanity. Mankind that had fouled His creation, people that had killed, raped and spoiled all that was good. Then with a mighty tug, He tore one hand away from the cross and grabbed hold of man. Then the Lord looked up toward heaven and there He saw the face of an offended God. A God that was good and forever righteous. A God who loved holiness and peace. Then with another mighty tug, Jesus freed His other hand and with it He reached up and took hold of God. Then, in a stroke of awesome love, at the cross He brought God down to man, and lifted man up to God and reconciled God and man back together once again!

Colossians 1:20 (*God's Word* translation) declares: **“God was also pleased to bring everything on earth and in heaven back to himself through Christ. He did this by making peace through Christ's blood sacrificed on the cross.”**

The Bible says that when Jesus died on that cross...

- He canceled the debt that had been leveled against us.
- He bore in His own body the penalty for our sins.
- He dealt a decisive blow against Satan and his demon powers.
- He purchased salvation for a lost world, and
- He signed a peace treaty with fallen humanity.

Hear me, people...

- God is not mad at us anymore!
- Peace has been restored.
- The war is over.
- He provided us with His well-being --- His peace --- while hanging on a cross at Calvary!

## **6. (PP #10) “BY HIS WOUNDS WE ARE HEALED.”**

Besides being cruelly beaten by hand and fist and slapped repeatedly with a reed, He was also whipped unmercifully at Pilate's court. Who can ever forget the scouring after having seen the movie, “The Passion of the Christ”?

**(PP #11) This beating** was accomplished by tying Him to a post, stripping Him naked, and striking Him with a leather whip. The whip was divided into several single or braided leather thongs of variable lengths, in which small iron balls or

sharp pieces of sheep bones were tied at different intervals. With each lash, pieces of flesh would be torn from the Lord's body. It is thought by many that our Lord received thirty-nine such lashes. The purpose of the scouring was to bring the victim to a point just short of collapse or death.

It was after this that Jesus had to carry His cross through the crowded streets of Jerusalem to Mount Calvary. He bore the weight --- the crossbeams alone often weighed between 75 and 125 pounds --- on a back and shoulder that was a bloody, lacerated mess!

**AGAIN, WHY DID HE DO THIS?** For love! Then, too, the Bible says that it was for our HEALING! OUR WHAT? OUR HEALING! He not only bore our sicknesses, He provided victory over them.

The Apostle Peter wrote in 1 Peter 2:24, **“He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds (stripes) you have been healed.”**

Listen to the latter portion of that verse again, this time from several translations:

- *The Message*, **“His wounds became your healing.”**
- *The New King James Version*, **“by whose stripes you were healed.”**
- *The New Living Translation*, **“You have been healed by his wounds!”**
- *The New Contemporary Version*, **“And you are healed because of his wounds.”**
- *God’s Word* translation, **“His wounds have healed you.”**

By His stripes, we are what? We are healed!

## 7. (PP #12) VERSE 8, “FOR THE TRANSGRESSION OF MY PEOPLE WAS HE STRICKEN.”

In verse five we saw that He was wounded or pierced for our transgressions. Here He is STRICKEN because of them. There is a difference.

The first spoke of pain or suffering. This one speaks of His facing death itself. Are you afraid of death? You needn't be. Jesus faced it on that old cross and defeated it. We do not have to be afraid of death anymore – in fact -- we simply do not have to be afraid period!

The song writer wrote:

“But none of the ransomed ever knew  
How deep were the waters crossed,  
Nor how dark was the night the Lord passed through  
Err He found the sheep that was lost.”

The lesson is that it cost a life to save a life. **“FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON....”**

- Physical.
- Mental.
- Spiritual.
- And even the agony of death itself.

Jesus endured each and every pain that was ours to suffer, in each and every area that we suffer. He missed nothing – nothing at all.

He was tempted -- or tested -- in every area as we are – so as to provide victory

for us in every area of our being.

The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:54-57, **“Death has been swallowed up in victory. ‘Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?’ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

### **SEVEN AGONIES. SEVEN GREAT AREAS OF SUFFERING.**

The songwriter, Gordon Jenson, wrote:

“A crown of thorns, a spear deep in His side,  
and the pain, it should have been mine.

The rusty nails were meant for me,  
And yet Christ took them and let me go free.

I should have been crucified,

I should have suffered and died:

I should have hung on the cross in disgrace,

But Jesus God's Son took my place.”

The death of Jesus was unlike any other death that has ever been. It was not an incident nor some accident in the course of His being. No, it was more, much more. Death was His very reason for living. It was the purpose of His coming to Earth in the first place. Dying on the cross was His chosen career!

Isaiah 58:8 (*The Living Bible*) notes, **“From prison to trial they led Him away to His death. But who among the people of that day realized it was their sins that He was dying for -- that He was suffering their punishment?”**

That is the real point, this morning. It is not what the people did to Him that really

matters most. In the end, it is rather what God did for us.

Christ did not die a victim, but as a Savior; not forced by brute power, but by the eternal love of God. He didn't go kicking and screaming, no, he freely gave his life for us!

John 10:17-18 declares, **“The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life- only to take it up again. No-one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again.”**

Think back to the movie for a moment. One of the most striking scenes was just before the crucifixion. Jesus had staggered and fallen once again. This time He was at the top of the hill. The cross was only a few feet away. What does Jesus do? He crawls to the cross. The soldiers did not have to lift him into position. Instead, slowly, in agony, but willingly – he crawled up onto the cross by himself. Jesus deliberately chose to endure the cross, the spikes, and the excruciating pain, to pay a price that we could not pay.

- He could have called ten thousand angels to deliver Him, but He didn't.
- He could have called down giant hailstones to crush his adversaries, but again He said no to any such temptation.
- He could have made fire fall and consume those there that day, but instead He prayed for them that they might be forgiven!
- He simply choose to die that we might live!

The great and famous of this world, their vaunted victories and their vast empires, fade away like the so many clouds under the heat of a summer's sun. They are

here but for a short season and many are so quickly forgotten.

Christ alone endures through time and eternity. His trophies of victory are the countless human hearts who have found forgiveness, redemption, and peace through His blood.

**RETURN WITH ME IN CLOSING TO ISAIAH 53:6** (*King James Version*), **“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”**

This great passage begins and ends with **“ALL.”** The first **“ALL”** is an acknowledgement of our deep need. We **“ALL”** have sinned and have come short of God's glory. The second **“ALL”** shows how fully that need has been met in the Cross of Jesus Christ. **“ALL”** our sins have been borne by Him.

**(PP #13)** **“Once a man whom we know as the Son of God**

Hung upon a cruel tree:

He suffered pain as no mortal man,

He took my place,

He did it all for me!”

Yes, He did it all for each and everyone of us here this morning. Let us pray.