

## Easter Series 2024c

### The Promise, The Proclamation, The Plan and The Power

#### Part3

March 17, 2024

#### “The Plan”

**Isaiah** has a perplexing thought concerning his prophetic utterance about a coming Messiah. It appears that this Messiah will be a suffering Messiah, whose *visage* (**facial expression**) is *marred more than any man*. Likewise, the Messiah is to bring salvation and cleansing to the nations. On the other hand, he anticipates the Messiah will be rejected because many would not believe **His report**.

Isaiah wonders to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed to. How is it that the Arm of the Lord depicts strength, power and might... yet the Messiah will be seen as weak and suffering. But the strength, power, and might of God will be expressed *in His suffering and weakness*.

Apostle Paul wrote in **1 Corinthians 1:27 NLT** *Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And He chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful.*

#### “THE PLAN”

**Scripture Text: Isaiah 53:3-8 NET 3** He was despised and rejected by people, one who experienced pain and was acquainted with illness; people hid their faces from him; he was despised, and we considered him insignificant. **4** But He lifted up our illnesses, He carried our pain; even though we thought he was being punished, attacked by God, and afflicted for something he had done. **5** He was wounded because of our rebellious deeds, crushed because of our sins; He endured punishment that made us well; because of his wounds we have been healed.

**6** All of us had wandered off like sheep; each of us had strayed off on his own path, but the LORD caused the sin of all of us to attack him. **7** He was treated harshly and afflicted, but he did not even open his mouth. Like a lamb led to the slaughtering block, like a sheep silent before her shearers, He did not even open his mouth. **8** He was led away after an unjust trial but who even cared? Indeed, he was cut off from the land of the living; because of the rebellion of his own people, He was wounded.

**VERSE 3** *He was despised and rejected by people, one who experienced pain and was acquainted with illness; people hid their faces from him; He was despised, and we considered him insignificant.*

Jesus, by appearance, did not command all the attention in a room. Neither was Jesus sullen and ill-tempered, yet He showed great joy when 70 of His disciples experienced power over demons in **Luke 10:20**. Jesus told them not to rejoice because demons submitted to them in His name but rather rejoice because their names were written in Heaven.

Jesus knew the plight of humanity intimately and was acquainted with their sufferings and the Father's desire for a relationship with every man and woman. He was a man of sorrow and knew the sufferings of the body and soul of people who actively struggled to obey. He knew the sorrows of man, who sits immobile and passively endures suffering rather than looking to God in faith. He knew the sorrows of people experiencing homelessness... He had no place to lay his head. He knew sorrows, relative and personal, mental and spiritual; all kinds and degrees assailed him.

People hid their faces from him in shame and condemnation. There was nothing outwardly beautiful or charismatic about the Messiah. Since he had no physical appeal, mankind's reaction was to withdraw from Him, despise Him, and hold Him in low esteem. When we don't see the "**It factor**" (the physical beauty and charisma), we are prone to reject the ones God accepts.

**VERSE 4** *But He lifted up our illnesses, He carried our pain; even though we thought He was being punished, attacked by God, and afflicted for something He had done.*

Isaiah doesn't reveal immediately how the Messiah took our guilt and God's wrath upon Himself. He knows that the Messiah would take our *pain* upon Himself. He made **our griefs** His and **our sorrows** as if they were His own. We can barely carry our own grief and sorrow without being overwhelmed with the waves of impending anguish. Every person who comes into our lives and departs, He carries their grief, and we do not bear it alone!

The imagery is that Jesus (Messiah) has come to acquire all our grief and sorrow to carry them upon His back. He will take them... if we release them to His care. Men would witness His suffering but fail to understand it was for the sake of humanity.

**VERSE 5** *He was wounded because of our rebellious deeds, crushed because of our sins; he endured punishment that made us well; because of his wounds we have been healed.*

Isaiah reveals why Messiah (Jesus) would endure such afflictions. He was wounded as they crowned him with thorns and pierced him in the side. He suffered for all our sins because sin brought sickness and death, which would lead to eternal separation from God.

Every lash upon the back of Jesus was for our healing... by His stripes; we are healed. The text doesn't say that we could be or should be healed... it says, "that we are healed!" In **Matthew 8:16-17, 16** When evening had come, they brought many demon-possessed to Him. *And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, 17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: **He took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses.*** **1 Peter 2:24** *Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.*

The healing is twofold... physical and spiritual. More importantly, we are healed from the devastation of sin's effect on separating us from God's eternal presence. Receive your healing today in **Jesus' name!** God's ultimate healing for all believers is called "**Resurrection.**"

**VERSE 6** *All of us had wandered off like sheep; each of us had strayed off on his own path, but the LORD caused the sin of all of us to attack him.*

Isaiah clearly points out that we are like stupid sheep, headstrong animals going our separate ways wandering off the beaten path in need of a shepherd. It is a fact that we all have our own **way of sin** while **we condemn others who sin** and **justify our own way of sin**. But each way which includes our **own way** instead of the LORD's way is still sinful, destructive, and hellish.

Father God judged our **iniquity once and for all** as it was **laid on** the Son at Golgotha. **Claim your deliverance today!** **1 John 1:9** *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

**VERSE 7** *He was treated harshly and afflicted, but He did not even open his mouth. Like a lamb led to the slaughtering block, like a sheep silent before her shearers, He did not even open his mouth.*

The pain and the suffering of the Messiah were indescribable and He never **opened...His mouth** to defend Himself. He was silent before His accusers (**Mark 15:2-5**), never speaking to defend Himself, only desiring to glorify Father God. *He never asks his accusers, "Do you know who you are messing with?"* He purposed to glorify the Father in being the ultimate offering for sin. With extreme circumstances, Jesus exemplified power

under control. He was the only one qualified to take away the sins of the world.

Not even the highest-ranking Angel could be the sacrificial lamb. It had to be God incarnate. What unfailing love and matchless grace were extended to all humanity? How shall we escape Hell if we neglect so great a salvation?

**VERSE 8** *He was led away after an unjust trial but who even cared? Indeed, he was cut off from the land of the living; because of the rebellion of his own people, he was wounded.*

The Lord willingly allowed Himself to be taken as a sacrificial lamb offered to Father God for our sakes. He was willing to pay the price to purchase our eternal security. ***This is the bottom line my brothers and sisters: 1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.***

#### **Applications:**

**Despite our rebellion against God's will, He made the ultimate sacrifice in proving His eternal love to redeem us.**

**There is no more excellent and convincing demonstration of His love toward everyone than Jesus Christ.**