

# Isaiah

God's Servant Paid the Penalty for Sin  
Isaiah 53:7-9

1



## Introduction

52:12–53:12 is the last of our Servant Songs. In this passage we will see that Savior of the world is seen suffering for the sins of the human race. Our verses today speak of Jesus' humility and willingness to save us.

2



# Introduction

God's Servant, the Savior, suffered unjustly, but **willingly**. As the sinless Son of God, Christ did not have to suffer. He had the **foreknowledge** (omniscience) and the **power** (omnipotence) **to avoid the cross and all that led up to it**. Yet He undertook the mission of **His own free will**, not only out of obedience to God the Father but also out of love for the human race.

3



# Introduction

He died for the sins of the world, to save mankind from the penalty of sin, which is death, eternal separation from God. Christ's **selflessness** and **humility** are now emphasized by stressing three facts. Although He was the sinless Son of God ...

- He willingly suffered harsh treatment (v. 7)
- He willingly endured an illegal arrest, trial, and execution (v. 8)
  - He willingly suffered a burial with the wicked (v. 9)

4


 The word "Isaiah" is written in a stylized font over a background of Hebrew text.

## Isaiah 53:7-9

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. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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.

5


 The word "Isaiah" is written in a stylized font over a background of Hebrew text.

Isaiah 53:7

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**Christ silently endured brutal treatment.** Throughout His life, Christ was oppressed, afflicted, and treated cruelly by unbelievers. But He never opened His mouth to take vengeance or to react violently toward His oppressors. He was silent even when they led Him like a lamb to the slaughter as the sacrifice for the people's sins. He willingly went to the cross to die for the sins of the human race.

6



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Just as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so Christ never opened His mouth to object or retaliate against those who were mistreating Him. Note this fact: just as in the Old Testament unblemished lambs were led to slaughter, so Christ is the spotless Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (Jn. 1:29, 36; 1 Co. 5:7; Re. 5:6, 12; 13:8).

7



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Remember that a lamb was sacrificed for each Jewish household at Passover (Ex. 12:1–13). Christ is the Passover Lamb who died for the sins of the whole world (Jn. 1:29). Again, as a sheep is silent before her shearers, Christ was silent as He endured the cruel punishment of His enemies.

8



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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.

He was silent ...

- before Caiaphas (Mt. 26:62–63)
- before the chief priest and elders (Mt. 27:12)
- before Pilate (Mt. 27:14; Jn. 19:9)
- before Herod Antipas (Lu. 23:9)
- before the soldiers who mocked, beat, and crucified Him (1 Pe. 2:21–23).

9



Isaiah 53:8

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.

**Christ willingly suffered an illegal arrest, trial, and execution.** After being unjustly seized in the Garden of Gethsemane, Christ was illegally tried before all the officials mentioned on the previous slide. False witnesses were used and testified against Him (Mt. 26:60–61). He was then unjustly executed.

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But note: Christ's death was misunderstood just as His life and ministry had been. When the enemies cut Him off from the land of the living and put Him to death, they thought they were through with Him and His claim to be the Savior, the Son of the living God. But they completely misunderstood His death. Christ was being put to death for the transgressions of the entire human race. He was being stricken by *God Himself* for those sins. It was for that purpose that He knowingly and voluntarily surrendered Himself to God.

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Note also the statements that Christ “was cut off” and “for ... my people He was stricken.” The verbs are in the ***passive voice***, which indicates actions that were taken by God Himself. It was God who cut Christ off, God who put Him to death for the sins of the people. As the New Testament says, “God made Him ... to be sin for us” (2 Co. 5:21).

12



Isaiah 53:9

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.

**Christ willingly suffered a burial with the wicked, even though He was the sinless Son of God.** No act of violence was ever committed by Christ, and no word of deceit ever flowed from His mouth. Scripture declares that He was without sin. Yet, He suffered the horrific penalty for sin, which is death. Consequently, He was buried with the wicked, right along with mere men, sinners of the earth just like you and me.

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Note that though Jesus was placed in a grave, identifying with every person who has violated God's Law, He was buried with the rich. Joseph of Arimathea was a rich and secret disciple of Jesus. Through a member of the Sanhedrin, he did not consent to the council's decision and action. He took Jesus' body and buried Him in his own unused tomb.

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The actual burial of Jesus Christ is important, for it proves that He did indeed die (1 Co. 15:1–5). Remember that the Roman authorities released Christ's body to Joseph and Nicodemus. They never would have released His body to them unless Christ was truly dead (Jn. 19:38–42; Mk. 15:42–47).

15



## So What ...

We need to pause and reflect that Jesus did all this because of His great Love for you. He took your sins and paid for them in full.

Have you accepted His gift of salvation?

Since Jesus gave up His life for your sin, are you willing to give up your sin and live in His life?

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