

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

APRIL 20TH, 2025 // RESURRECTION WEEKEND

## WE ARE NOT STRANGERS TO SUFFERING.

It was sin that introduced brokenness into creation (Genesis 3) and brought pain, death, injustice, and separation from God into the world.

- Every kind of suffering we experience today—whether physical, emotional, or spiritual—can be traced back to the curse of sin.
- John 16:33

## WE ARE NOT STRANGERS TO SUFFERING.

The greatest consequence of sin is not the physical suffering but, instead, it is separation from God, who is the source of life, joy, and peace.

- Many people ask the question, “Why must we suffer?” but fail to ask, “How can I be restored to God (the source of life, joy, and peace)?”
- 2 Corinthians 5:18–21

## THERE IS ONE SOLUTION (JOHN 14:6)

There is no amount of good works, virtuous living, or religious practice that is enough to rid the world of sin and make humanity right with God.

- But God has provided His solution—His servant, the Messiah, to take our suffering so we could be healed, forgiven, and reconciled back to God.

## A MAN OF SUFFERING (ISAIAH 53:1–3)

### THE PLIGHT OF ISRAEL

The prophet Isaiah wrote this about 700 years before the birth of Christ at a time when Israel was divided as a nation, opening them up to attacks from surrounding nations.

- God's people were turning away from Him and filled the nation with all kinds of injustice, idolatry, immorality, and wickedness.

### A WARNING AND ENCOURAGEMENT

Isaiah's calling as a prophet was to warn God's people that if they did not turn back to God, they would face terrible consequences.

- Isaiah also prophesied that God would send a Savior to guide them, heal them, and bring them back to God. In Ch. 53, he tells how the Savior would undeservedly suffer for the wrongs of the people.

### “WHO HAS BELIEVED WHAT WE HAVE HEARD?”

When the Savior appeared, there would be people who had a hard time believing that He was God's servant.

- By His appearance, He would not seem special or powerful in any way. God's servant would look normal, He would be humble, He would not be flashy or glamorous, and He would suffer.

### “NO APPEARANCE THAT WE SHOULD DESIRE HIM”

This does not mean Jesus was ugly, but that His physical appearance was not what drew people in—it was His message!

- When we dress up the gospel to make it more attractive, we are using methods counter to Jesus' nature. The message of the gospel is beautiful enough to attract without us trying to make it more attractive.

### “A MAN OF SORROWS” (KJV)

Jesus' sorrow was not for himself but the fallen desperate state of humanity.

- God himself came into this world wrapped in flesh, experiencing the same struggles of this life that we all face, to save those in need of saving. But humanity overlooked Him, undervalued Him, despised Him, and treated Him poorly.

## PIERCED (ISAIAH 53:4–9)

### “HE HIMSELF BORE OUR SICKNESS...”

The Savior came to take on our pain, sadness, and suffering, but people thought He was being punished by God for something He did wrong.

- Jesus was sentenced to death for claiming to be God (viewed as blasphemy) and disrupting the peace of Rome (pax Romana) but He died as an innocent man.

### “HE WAS PIERCED...”

This was a mysterious part of prophecy, claiming that the Savior would be pierced, since this was written some 300–400 years before crucifixion was even invented.

- The gospel accounts tell of Jesus' hands and feet being “pierced” by 5–7 in. long iron nails as He hung on a Roman cross on the hill of Calvary.

### “...FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS...”

The Savior would be “pierced” because of our sins—not His. We all, “like sheep,” have wandered off and gotten lost, meaning we have all done wrong and broken God's righteous commands.

- Instead of punishing us, as we deserve, God put our sin and guilt on His Servant so we could have peace with God.

## SILENT, NOT HELPLESS

“Like a lamb led to the slaughter,” Jesus never fought back though He was treated terribly and unfairly.

He was “silent” and “did not open his mouth” to defend Himself.

- But He was not helpless. Jesus spoke, “No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the right to lay it down, and... to take it up again” (John 10:18).

### “...ASSIGNED A GRAVE WITH THE WICKED...”

Jesus was crucified with criminals and would be cast into a common grave for criminals, but God planned for the Savior to be buried in the tomb of the wealthy Joseph of Arimathea.

- In death and suffering, taking on the sins of God's people, the Messiah never sinned. He remained the Holy One and, as such, was buried with the rich.

## THE LIGHT OF LIFE (ISAIAH 53:10–12)

### “YET THE LORD WAS PLEASED...”

The plan of redemption for humanity through the suffering of the Servant of the Lord was all ordained by the Lord.

- It was not the suffering of the Son that pleased the Father. It was the completed work of reconciling the world to himself through suffering on the cross that pleased Him.

### “WHEN YOU MAKE HIM A GUILT OFFERING...”

We are introduced to the idea of substitutionary atonement as laid out in Leviticus 5, where a lamb, goat, two turtledoves, or pigeons would be sacrificed to cover the debt that an individual's sin accrued.

- The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23) and Jesus offered Himself as a substitute in our place for a debt we accrued.

### “MY RIGHTEOUS SERVANT WILL JUSTIFY MANY”

The death and burial of the Lord's servant is not where the story ends. Jesus lives (“after his anguish, he will see light”) to “see his seed” (spiritual descendants) respond to His sacrifice.

- It is by knowing the Messiah (who He is and what He has done) that we are justified (where God views sinners as righteous because of their faith in Christ) before God.

### “HE WILL RECEIVE THE MIGHTY AS SPOIL”

Through the cross there is victory! Jesus took our suffering so we could be healed, and He took our sin so we could be forgiven. Because He rose again, He guarantees an eternal future free from suffering.

- Revelation 21:4 promises that in eternity God will wipe away every tear, and there will be no more pain or death.

### WHO ARE THESE REBELS?

The end of verse 12 states, “yet He bore the sins of many and interceded for the rebels.”

- Paul tells us exactly who the rebels are—it is us! We all have fallen short of God's standard (Romans 3:10—12), “but God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners [rebels], Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

## THE GOSPEL (GOOD NEWS)

- Jesus died on the cross to pay **the sin debt we owed God**.
- Jesus rose from the grave victorious over the power of sin and death—**proving that He is God and His sacrifice was sufficient**.
- Jesus lives and invites us into a relationship with Him as **we surrender our lives to Him as a disciple**.

## MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

- The Suffering Servant has called His church to **take up the cross and follow Him**.
- Jesus declared a finished work on the cross, but He did not declare that our **work as His hands and feet** was finished.
- We are true ambassadors of Christ when **we are obedient to what he has told us to do (John 14:15; Matthew 28:18–20)!**