

**Isaiah 53v6
God's Answer to our Sin**

Two parts of the OT best known - Ps23 and Is. 53.

Is 53 is really part of what can call in Isaiah the 4th Servant Song. Is 42v1-4; 49v1-6; 50v4-9(see v10) and Is52v13 - 53v12.

Is. 52 - 53 needs to be divided into 3 parts,
52v13-15 God speaks about the servant.

53v1-10 the people speak. Not "my servant" but "our", v1,4-5, "us all", v6.

53v11-12 God speaks again, "my righteous servant".

In the section on the people it is almost like people giving their testimony.
What the servant once meant to them and what he means to them now.

A STORY OF SAD DEPARTURE v1-5.

A STORY OF GLAD DISCOVERY v5-6

A STORY OF HEART -FELT DISTRESS

My favourite verse, v6.

Note that here we have three things, THE SHEEP, "all we, as a flock" THE SOVEREIGN LORD and THE SERVANT.

THE GUILT OF THE PEOPLE. There is a DARK PATH.

"The iniquity of us all".

The nature of their guilt. Like a flock they have "gone astray" wandered from the right way, in the law it was laid down.

But there is MORE. They turned to their own way. First, departure from God, now rebellion. Their own way rather than God's way. Dethroned God.

The extent of their guilt. "All of us"- the verse begins and concludes with the same word, same emphasis. Turned "every one". This is you!

The consciousness of their guilt. 'all we' they are not blaming someone else. They were conscious they had sinned. They had done things that were wrong, and not simply that they had wronged others but they had wronged God. Lk.15v21. Against heaven first. You are guilty also. You deserve his wrath – we are all children of wrath (Eph.2v1-3 – the Christians acknowledge this! Have you?). No escape (Mr. Stewart missed me! God will not forget about you! You cannot hide from God!)

THE GRACE OF THE SOVEREIGN LORD. There is a DIVINE PLAN.

"The Lord" is the Sovereign Lord. See what he has done. When we were guilty and facing his wrath, he acted. He took their guilt and placed it upon another, the servant, he was made accountable. Reminds us of Rom. 3v25f 'whom God...' When we could do nothing about it God did everything about it! He did not ask us to pay the debt – 'God was in Christ...' The servant was not Israel or some other OT figure. It is a description of Jesus. Mark1v11; Is42v1. Lk.22v37; Acts 8v32-34.

In the testimony of the people we learn that they once thought nothing of the servant, v2-3; they though he was suffering for his crimes, v4. Then they made the wonderful discovery, "But he was wounded for OUR transgressions"...."The Lord laid on HIM".

THE GRIEF OF THE SERVANT. There is a DREADFUL PASSION.

“laid on him” The verb means “to hit “ or “to strike violently”. The iniquity of which we are guilty does not come back to us to meet and strike us as we might rightly expect, but rather it strikes him in our stead. He is our substitute. What a day when these people discovered this. It means that he bore the guilt or bore the punishment that was due to us because of our sins. We can be free, we can know peace with God. “The chastisement of our peace”. They discovered it. Have you? we receive peace when we believe, v1, Rom10v15-17. So we can be justified, v11. Remember Rom. 4v1-4 ‘Abraham believed God’ – he simply took God at his word. ‘to him that worketh not but believeth’.