

In beginning this message today, I would remind you that all this work performed by *“the ARM of the Lord”* was performed in His office or role as the **Surety** of those given to Him by God the Father in the everlasting covenant of grace – *“By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament. And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: But this [man], because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an high priest became us, [who is] holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people’s: **for this he did once, when he offered up himself.**”*(Heb.7:22-27) Christ *“offered up Himself”* **“ONCE”** for those He represented as their Surety. That was what God required to **SATISFY** Himself. **Listen to me: NOTHING ELSE WOULD DO, and NOTHING MORE WAS REQUIRED** – *“I, [even] I, [am] the LORD; and beside me [there is] no saviour.”*; *“I, [even] I, [am] he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.”*(Isa.43:11,25) **As the Apostle Paul so plainly stated it:** *“And all things [are] of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”*(II Cor.5:18,19) All that was prophesied concerning what our Surety would endure in our place, and the actual fulfillment of it **IN TIME** by *“the ARM of the Lord”* was written for our comfort and encouragement – *“For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me. For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind [and] one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*(Rom.15:3-6)

Listen to Isaiah’s words – *“He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.”* I find the literal translation of the opening words of this verse enlightening – *“It hath been exacted, and he hath answered.”* There’s no doubt that the **JEWS**, along with the Romans oppressed and afflicted our Lord physically, seeing they hated Christ and His doctrine – *“I know that ye are Abraham’s seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.”*; *“But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.”*(Jn.8:37,40) They oppressed and afflicted Christ in both mind and body with their blows and their reproaches. But that isn’t the point the Holy Spirit is making by these words He moved Isaiah to record - *“It hath been exacted, and he hath answered.”* Just like all the other truths set forth in this chapter, these words are speaking of Christ’s work as His people **SURETY**. **That brings us to this all important question: WHAT** has been exacted

(which means ‘to demand or obtain payment’) from “*the ARM of the Lord*”? In the context of this chapter, it is **JEHOVAH** that has made the demand and must obtain the payment required from the One who is “*the ARM of the Lord*” – **Read vs.4-6**. The Lord Jesus Christ **OWED NO DEBT** to law and justice personally, seeing He is “*holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners.*” But as His people’s Surety, when **DIVINE JUSTICE** found the sins of God’s elect **LAI**D ON Christ by imputation, sins voluntarily received by Him, **DIVINE JUSTICE DEMANDED** satisfaction from Him – “it hath been exacted.” According to our text – “**and He hath answered.**” The original word translated “*and he was afflicted*” means ‘to humble oneself, to bow down, or to stoop’. That’s exactly how Paul described our Lord’s condescension on the behalf of those He represented – “*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth; And [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*”(Phil.2:5-11) **Think about it:** For the glory of God as both “*a just God and a Savior*”, Christ willingly was made sin for us, and bore the curse we rightfully deserved - “*For he hath made him [to be] sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*”(II Cor.5:21); “*Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed [is] every one that hangeth on a tree.*”(Gal.3:13) **I like Mr.Gill’s words in his commentary:** “being the surety of his people, was responsible for them, and did answer, and gave the satisfaction demanded: the debt they owed was required, the payment of it was called for, and he accordingly answered, and paid the whole, every farthing, and cancelled the bond; the punishment of the sins of his people was exacted of him, and he submitted to bear it, and did bear it in his own body on the tree; this clearly expresses the doctrine of Christ’s satisfaction.” In spite of the agony, oppression, and affliction on Christ’s glorious person from both man and God, notice **HOW** Christ endured it all – “*yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.*” Against those who oppressed and afflicted Him physically, namely the **JEWS** and Romans, Christ said **NOTHING!** Against the just judgment and justice of God which demanded full payment from Him as the Surety of those He represented, He graciously owned the obligation He willingly took upon Himself, **PAID THE DEBT**, and bore the punishment without any dispute or hesitation – “*Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?*”(Jn.18:11) Listen to the writer of Hebrews description of Christ under such a burden – “*Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*”(Heb.12:2) Isaiah’s words ring true according to God’s sovereign plan and purpose – “*yet He opened not His mouth.*” Peter wrote of the historical fulfillment of the suffering and submission of “*the ARM of the Lord*”, as well the accomplishment of His glorious

work – “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed [himself] to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.”(I Pet.2:21-25)

As I studied these verses this week, I found that this next verse is interpreted and applied in a couple different ways, either of which are acceptable, seeing they do no injustice to the entirety of this prophecy concerning “*the arm of the Lord*” in both His person and His work – “*He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.*” I’m not going to go into detail on either interpretation! What I will say is that either interpretation of these words teach the **SAME TRUTH**, namely, the doctrine of Christ’s **PROPIIATORY OFFERING** – “**HE** was taken from prison, and from judgment”; “for **HE** was cut off out of the land of the living”; “for the transgression of **MY PEOPLE** was **HE STRICKEN.**” **Think about it:** Christ being cast into prison and taken from judgment fully proved that in all of this Christ stood as the believer’s head or Surety, and not as an **INDIVIDUAL**. Christ said to the **JEWS** – “*Which of you convinceth me of sin?*”(Jn.8:46) The evil Pontius Pilate declared Christ **GUILTLESS** – “*Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him. Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And [Pilate] saith unto them, Behold the man! When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify [him], crucify [him]. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify [him]: for I find no fault in him.*”(Jn.19:4-6) Even the thief on the cross recognized Christ’s **INNOCENCE** – “*And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.*”(Lk.23:41) I love the way Mr.Hawker wrote of this – “Therefore, when he was cast in, the debt of his people was the cause; and his being taken out, is a plain proof that the prison keeper was paid, and the prisoner could no longer be left in confinement.” Listen to Christ’s own words: “*For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.*”(Ps.16:10) These words speak of Christ’s triumphant victory over sin and death by His complete satisfaction of God’s righteous demands. These words are speaking, not so much of His suffering, but of His **TRIUMPH** – “*Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.*”(Rom.4:25) Whatever the **HEAD** and **SURETY** received, those He represented will receive it as well – “*If the SON shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.*”(Jn.8:36)

Look at **Vs.9** and we’ll close – Making “*His grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death*” saw its accomplishment in His burial in the borrowed tomb – “*When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus’ disciple: He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. And when*

*Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.”(Matt.27:57-60)* We also see the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy by Christ’s crucifixion between **TWO THIEVES**, even though **HE WAS INNOCENT**. Here’s a literal translation of this verse – “And it appointeth with the wicked his grave, And with the rich [are] his high places, Because he hath done no violence, Nor [is] deceit in his mouth.” All of this was according to God’s predetermined plan and purpose to glorify Himself as both “*a just God and a Savior*” – “*Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.”(Acts 2:22-24)*

Thank God, the empty tomb is proof positive that God “*HATH reconciled us unto Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*” Christ “*who is OUR LIFE*” spoke plainly of the fact that His **LIFE** guarantees the **LIFE** of all who are His – “*Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: **BECAUSE I LIVE, YE SHALL LIVE ALSO.***”(Jn.14:19) **WHAT A GOD** and **WHAT A SAVIOR!**