

The Lord in His providence has given us undeniable evidence of His **HATRED OF SIN**. Because of man's sin, God destroyed the world that existed with a flood – “*And GOD saw that the wickedness of man [was] great in the earth, and [that] every imagination of the thoughts of his heart [was] only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.*” (Gen.6:5-7) Because of **SIN** God has afflicted individuals, families, and nations, proclaiming by His judgments His hatred of sin. Yet those He reveals His hatred of sin to for the most part won't acknowledge His righteous judgments. God by this same Prophet Isaiah declared – “*Lord, when Thy hand is lifted up, **THEY SHALL NOT SEE**.*” (Isa.26:11) The next words out of Isaiah's mouth were – “*they shall see, and be ashamed.*” Individuals, families, and nations on whom the consequences of sin fall, instead of turning from there ways, curse their King and their God, never willing or able to acknowledge their **SIN**. As children of God, taught by God's Holy Spirit, we understand painfully and confess with great shame the evil of sin as it is revealed to us by God's holy law. God's law accuses us in our conscience, and by God's grace we justify God in His dealings with our sins. We realize and confess as He deals with us by His Spirit and His word the infinite persistence and evil that remains in us. King David declared – “*Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done [this] evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, [and] be clear when thou judgest.*” (Ps.51:4) But this is what I want us to see in these verses this morning, if the Lord is pleased to reveal it to us: There is **ONE PLACE** and **ONE PERSON**, **WHERE** and **IN WHOM** sin in its utmost evil and punishment; where God's absolute hatred of sin **MET**. It wasn't at Adam's fall, or at the flood, or Sodom and Gomorrah, or the Holocaust. That hatred and eternal wrath of God **MET** in that **PERSON**, “*the ARM of the Lord*”, and **HIM CRUCIFIED**. You can **ONLY SEE** God's eternal wrath against sin as He dealt with His Son as His people's **SURETY** and **SUBSTITUTE**.

Keeping this truth in mind, let's begin looking at these verses – “*But he [was] wounded for our transgressions; the chastisement of our peace [was] upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*” The original word translated by the phrase “*but He [was] wounded*” means ‘to pierce, to be wounded **FATALLY**, or to bore through’. The original word translated “*for our transgression*” is one word which means ‘guilt of transgression, punishment for transgression, offering for transgression’. The Holy Spirit by the Prophet Isaiah states dogmatically by these words that “*the arm of the Lord*” was pierced, bored through, and fatally wounded for the guilt of **OUR** transgressions, the punishment of **OUR** transgressions, and as an offering for **OUR** transgressions. What all these verses are setting before us is a truth that is rejected and unknown to the natural mind, namely Messiah as His people's **SURETY**. The word is used only **ONE TIME** in the **NT**, and it speaks exclusively of Christ – “*By so much was Jesus made a **SURETY** of a better*

*testament.*”(Heb.7:22) The word translated “*surety*” means ‘sponsor, or **ONE WHO BECOMES RESPONSIBLE FOR ANOTHER**’. The word is actually derived from the word “near”, and is the equivalent to a Mediator – One through whom we draw near. Why do we need a Mediator? What is so essential about Christ as His people’s Surety? By nature, in our unregenerate state, none of us thought either necessary – **Look back up at Vss.2,3**. Our text teaches us that Christ was fatally wounded and pierced, **NOT FOR ANY SINS OF HIS OWN**, but for **OUR SINS**. When you think about it, the **CROSS** and **Christ on the cross** are offensive to the natural mind because of what it represents to the unregenerate mind. The natural mind cannot and does not see what was necessary in order for salvation to be accomplished. In our unregenerate state, we think we did something to get ourselves into this situation, so like Adam, we can do something to correct the situation – **NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH**. But the “*offense of the cross*” is removed in our minds when by God’s grace we see, know, and understand that by His death as our Surety our sins are expiated and salvation has been obtained for us.

**Notice the next statement** – “[he was] *bruised for our iniquities.*” The word translated “[he was] *bruised*” in the original means ‘crushed, to be crushed, or **TO ALLOW ONESELF TO BE CRUSHED**’. John Gill wrote this in his commentary on the meaning of these words - “as bread corn is bruised by threshing it, or by its being ground in the mill, as the manna was; or as spice is bruised in a mortar, Christ was broken and crushed to pieces under the weight of sin, and the punishment of it.” Again, not for any sins of His own, but crushed under the weight of all the sins of all the elect **IMPUTED** or **LEGALLY ACCOUNTED** to Him as their Surety – “*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)

Next Isaiah declares – “*the chastisement of our peace [was] upon Him.*” What a blessed truth these words speak to the heart of the sinner who is “*laboring and heavy laden.*” The word translated “*the chastisement*” means ‘discipline, chastening, or correction’. The original word translated “*of our peace*” is **SHALOME**, which means ‘completeness, soundness, welfare, or peace’. These words teach us that the punishment due to all our sins fell on Him (“*the ARM of the Lord*”), reconciling us to God and establishing peace with God – “*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*”(Rom.5:1); “*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) This “*chastisement*” isn’t speaking of the chastening of a child by a Father out of love, but speaks of an act of vindictive judgment and wrath on **OUR SIN** in the person of our Surety. By His work, Divine wrath is appeased, justice is satisfied, and **PEACE WAS MADE** – “*But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition [between us]; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, [even] the law of commandments*

[contained] *in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man*, [so] **making peace.**”(Eph.2:13-15) This same Isaiah declared this same Person – “*The PRINCE of Peace.*”

Isaiah continues to declare the accomplishment of our Surety in these next words – “*and with his stripes we are healed.*” There’s **NO MENTION** of us, i.e., of our faith, or our repentance, or our reformation, or our perseverance. All of it **RESTED** on “*the ARM of the Lord.*” The phrase “*and with His stripes*” is one word in the original, meaning ‘bruise, stripe, or blow’. Here’s the same word used by Moses – “*And if [any] mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life, Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.*”(Exo.21:23-25) I love what Gill wrote on this part of the verse – “Sin is a disease belonging to all men, a natural, hereditary, nauseous, and incurable one, **but by the blood of Christ; forgiving sin is a healing of this disease; and this is to be had, and in no other way, than through the stripes and wounds, the blood and sacrifice, of the Son of God.** Christ is a wonderful physician; he heals by taking the sicknesses of his people upon himself, by bearing their sins, and being wounded and bruised for them, and by his enduring blows, and suffering death itself for them. The Targum states, “**when we obey his words, our sins will be forgiven us**”; **BUT FORGIVENESS IS NOT THROUGH OUR OBEDIENCE, BUT THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.**” Turn over and look at **Luke 4:16-21**. All of this is talking about spiritual healing, in, through, and by Christ bearing our stripes – “*And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners? When Jesus heard [it], he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*”(Mk.2:16,17)

Look at **Vs.6** – “*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way.*” Here’s YLT of the verse – “All of us like sheep have wandered, Each to his own way we have turned.” The Prophet refers to **ALL THE SHEEP**, which include God’s elect for every kindred, nation, tongue and people, both Jew and Gentile. The fact that he compares His elect to sheep, isn’t because of any redeeming quality in gentle animals like sheep, but because of their foolishness and stupidity. By nature, sheep are prone to wander away from the Shepherd, the safety of the fold, and the benefits of the good pasture. Here’s another thing: When sheep do these things, they will **NEVER** return on their own. They have to be sought and found, and brought back by the Shepherd. The Apostle Peter (**who KNEW firsthand about this reality**) wrote these words – “*For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.*”(I Pet.2:25) Paul stated it this way – “*There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*”(Rom.3:11,12) Those born of God **SHOULD** and **DO** give thanks for our Great Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ – “*Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom [be] glory for ever and ever. Amen.*”(Heb.13:20,21)

Look at the last part of **Vs.6** and we'll close – "*and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*" This statement is the Old Testament declaration of II Cor.5:21. I love the literal translation of these words – "And Jehovah hath caused to meet on him, The punishment of us all." God the FATHER who we all sinned against, from whom we turned, and whose justice must be satisfied, **LAI D ON** Christ, **HIS OWN SON**, all the sin of all His elect. They were **LAI D ON** Him, and Christ willingly bore the entire punishment due unto those sins. I can't even begin to imagine the weight of such a burden, can you? **I do know this:** It was such a burden that **ONLY ONE WHO WAS GOD** could bear it! When I consider this gracious work of Christ, it always brings to my mind a stanza in the hymn we occasionally sing – "Thy cross, not mine, O Christ, Has borne the awful load; **Of sins that none in heaven; Or earth could bear BUT GOD.** I believe these words refer back to what is typified perfectly in the **OLD TESTAMENT** by they laying of hands, and laying of sins **upon** the sacrifice, and putting the iniquities of Israel **upon** the head of the scapegoat, and that scape goat bore, and carried away their sins **FOREVER. Listen to Jeremiah** – "*In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and [there shall be] none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve.*"(**Jer.50:20**) The Prophet Micah spoke of the same thing in this manner: "*He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.*"(**Micah 7:19**) How can a holy and just God, who will by **NO MEANS** clear the guilty do this? Does He pretend we are something we aren't? Absolutely not! The sins and iniquity of all those Christ represented as their Surety and Substitute can't be found because God has satisfied Himself through the work of "*the ARM of the Lord*" – "*For by **ONE OFFERING**, He hath perfected forever, them that are **SANCTIFIED.***" What a gracious and merciful God we serve!!!!!!!

We'll stop right there, and pick up with vs.7 next time.