

Jesus Christ is Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

**Isaiah 53:1 Who has believed our message?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been
revealed?**

**Isaiah 53:2 For He grew up before Him like a
tender shoot, And like a root out of parched
ground; He has no stately form or majesty
That we should look upon Him, Nor
appearance that we should be attracted to
Him.**

**Isaiah 53:3 He was despised and forsaken of
men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with
grief; And like one from whom men hide their
face He was despised, and we did not esteem
Him.**

**Isaiah 53:4 Surely our sickness He Himself
bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we
ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of
God, and afflicted.**

We are looking at three verbs that describe the suffering of Jesus Christ in our place: **stricken**, **smitten**, and **afflicted**.

Esteemed Him stricken. The first suffering verb was covered last week.

Now we come to the second suffering verb, **smitten** of God. Ok, they know that God must be involved, God must have *smitten* Him. What is so striking about this word is that it is in the unusual Hebrew Hophal

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stem [there is only two stems: past, and future; however there are some 7 roots, this is why I love Hebrew]

This Hebrew verb is used to describe the suffering of Jesus on the cross. It combines with another stem to add a richer picture of what is happening on the cross. The first verb here is causative but adding to that the passive idea. So lets look at the cross: He was smitten—the *Passive* tells us He allowed Himself to be smitten and the *Hophal* tells us the verb is intensive and causative.

He caused Himself to be smitten, by volunteering Himself to take our place.

There is just no way we can even come close to grasping the soul pain of Jesus Christ on the Cross.

He was Stricken and Smitten of God, and Afflicted.

This third word, *afflicted* means to be brought down by God; oppressed, and the one that disturbs me the most is to be humbled, to be brought low, brought down, to humble someone, to deal harshly, and to punish. To get an idea of this word look at

Genesis 15:13 God said to Abram, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years.

Think about this. This is the Son of God, Perfect Humanity—humbled, punished, for sins He did not commit but you and I committed them. They are our sins that humbled Him. It was for our sins that He was punished.

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Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted ...by God His Father, did all these to His Son. And to add to this, look down at verse

**Isaiah 53:10 But the Lord was pleased to
crush Him...**

But the sad point here is that they, the Jews, esteemed Him Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted because He deserved it!

It makes man – even Christians feel so much better when someone is suffering, by their hands, to just conclude—he deserved it! This is the view of the Romans, of the Jews—who put Him on the cross, to make themselves feel so much better by concluding he deserved it! And the Jews felt the same, he deserved it, this is not from us but from God! Yes it was from God, but no...He did not deserve it...they deserved it.

Stricken—He was touched by God the Father in Judgment.

Smitten—Pain...the suffering of sin.

Afflicted—Humbled and oppressed.

He was touched by His Father in Judgment, He bore the suffering of sin and He was humbled before angels and man.

I hope you can see why Satan thought he had won.

Stricken...Smitten—Afflicted or Judged—pain—Humbled. Was He not humbled enough when as God He became man? Lower than angels? Or when as man, He became the servant of all men? And now on the cross, He is humbled more than any man in all history—and His humility is our shame—by our sins.

Isaiah 53:4... *Stricken, Smitten of God and Afflicted* We are just in verse 4, but let's take a look at our Savior: He was despised, and forsaken

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of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; bore our griefs, and carried our sorrows, stricken, smitten and afflicted.

So: despised, forsaken, sorrows, grief, stricken, smitten and afflicted.

But now there is more following.

Isaiah 53:5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

The conjunction **but** is used to introduce a strong contrast!

A contrast to their thinking, their esteeming, and the truth!

Isn't that the way it is so often? Our arrogant opinion in contrast with God's truth! From Evolution to Salvation! From how we got here to how we spend eternity! Secular man has his thoughts. Religion has it's thoughts. But, until we come to the Word of God we will never see the truth!

But He was pierced through. the Hebrew verb means just that—to pierce through. You want to know why God darkened the earth around the cross for the last three hours of Jesus Christ on the cross from 12 noon to 3 PM? Right here is one of the reasons. For these three hours the soul of Jesus Christ was continually being pierced through by God in judgment of our sins and this piercing kept on until the fact of the judgment of all the sins of the world was complete. And when this was completed...Christ cried out *tetelestai* **'It is finished.'** The payment of sins was complete. He was pierced through for the payment of our sins! Completed...and I hope you know what this means—it is over, no one will pay for their sins in the final judgment. There are repercussions

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when we sin, but Jesus Christ bore all the judgment for our sins. The ‘minus’ of the gospel is paid in full, now the only issue is the ‘positive.’ Our having His Righteousness; and in spite of what religions say, in spite of the various teachings of different denominations, there is only one way of receiving or obtaining the Righteousness of God and that is by Faith alone in Christ alone!

Isaiah 53:5 He was pierced through. Please understand this is *His soul* that is pierced through. The Jews and the Romans have done a great deal to Him physically. And they, the Romans, pierced His feet and hands with nail spikes and they pierced His side with a spear, but none of that piercing is what is being referred to here. A multitude of people through history have died violent deaths, but none have died spiritually for we are all born Spiritually dead, but Jesus Christ was born spiritually Alive. On the cross, He died Spiritually and God made sure that it was not immediate death. When Adam and Eve died spiritually in the garden they spiritually died *immediately*. In the day you eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, immediately you will die a spiritual death, right then, that day. But not so with Jesus Christ. His spiritual death took three hours of piercing into His soul. The Spiritual death of Jesus Christ on the cross was different than the spiritual death of Adam and Eve.

1st Their’s was instantaneous, Jesus Christ’s was prolonged.

2nd We have no record that their spiritual death was accompanied by any pain—physical or inwardly, but with Jesus Christ—Spiritual death came with three hours of excruciating pain!

He was pierced through – for or because of our transgressions This is about as plain and clear as you can say it!

Every time you think of the cross, or sing of the cross, or talk to someone about the cross, you just remember that He was pierced because of your sins. Here is the phrase that encapsulates Substitutionary Atonement!

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We now have four more verbs to further try to describe to us even by the Filling of the Holy Spirit what happened on that Cross.

Isaiah 53:5 But He was

- (1) pierced through for our transgressions,**
- (2) He was crushed for our iniquities;**
- (3) the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His**
- (4) scourging we are healed from our sins**

First: **He was pierced through.** The Hebrew participle is used, indicating continual action to bring about a desired result. What was that desired result? And whose desire is being spoken of here?

First—This is the desire of God the Father. Always remember Jesus Christ came to fulfill the desire and the love of God the Father.

Second—The fulfillment of His desire. God the Father was pleased to crush His own Son—Why? This is the only payment that could be paid for sins! So do not let anyone tell you that man must add something to the cross-work of Jesus Christ. He paid it all! The desired result can be stated in one verse.

John 3:16 In this manner God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...

To be Stricken, Smitten, Afflicted and pierced through His only begotten Son that is the Servant of Isaiah 53. We know His name—Jesus.

That whoever believes in Him will not perish but will have eternal life.

In the understanding of why Jesus was pierced through let's add to John 3:16,

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**2 Corinthians 5:18 Now all these things are
from God, who reconciled us to Himself**

This is so interesting. Usually, the person who commits an offense has to do something in order for there to be reconciliation between him and the one offended. This is why religion has a list of all that man must do to please God. But not with God. In Mercy and Grace, God Himself establishes the only way in which we, the offenders (sinners), will be reconciled to God, He sent His Son and crushed Him—Stricken, Smitten, Afflicted and pierced and crushed. This is the cross-work of Christ and now God the Father.

**2 Corinthians 5:18...gave us the ministry of
reconciliation.**

This should be a joy, for us, a privilege for us to tell others of all that happened on the cross. Why Jesus Christ? Why do you Christians say that Salvation is only through and only by faith in Jesus Christ? Because of Isaiah chapter 53.

Continuing reading

**2 Corinthians 5:19 namely, that God was in
Christ (while crushing Him on the cross)
reconciling the world to Himself, not counting
their trespasses against them, (but pouring the
penalty of their trespasses on Him) and He has
committed to us the word of reconciliation.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20 Therefore, we are
ambassadors for Christ, (This is who you are,
this is why you are here, left on earth after Eternal
Life was imputed to you) as though God were**

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making an appeal through us; (to the world, and here is our message:) we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5: 21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, (and this is why He is suffering so on the cross, described in Isaiah chapter 53) so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

This is the positive side of the gospel, the imputation of God's Perfect Righteousness by Faith in Jesus Christ.

Back to Isaiah 53:5

But He was pierced through for our transgressions this statement is both so dear to us, and yet so humbling to us. We thought, we esteemed, that God had Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted Him because of His own sins but now we understand that the real reason He was Smitten and pierced was because of our sins. This should penetrate into our souls how wonderful He took our place.

Now: **He was pierced through.** His soul was continually pierced through from an outside source—God the Father, not the Romans, not the Jews but God Himself.

He was pierced through for, or a more definitive translation of this Hebrew *preposition* used to introduce the cause for His being pierced through: because of our transgressions. Describing this action that leads to our being pierced is the three destructions that leads us to being pierced by Jesus Christ.

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- (1) Stop trusting God! (which leads to...)
- (2) Rebellion against God (which leads to...)
- (3) Sins

This word transgression opens up an interesting and a very deep and long study of the words in the Old Testament (and the New Testament) to describe rebellion against God. Just here in Isaiah 53:5 we have two such words: in verse 5, transgressions and iniquities.

Next:

He was crushed because of our iniquities. The Hebrew word translated **iniquities**: Look at “Theological Wordbook of the OT”—Harris, Archer and Waltke, where this word is covered in some 5 columns. But let’s see if we can simplify some revelation from it. The basic meaning of this word is *to bend, twist, distort –to make crooked, to pervert*. It is from this word that we find that on the cross, Jesus Christ paid the penalty of guilt of perversions such as Homosexuality. He was crushed for such *twisting, perversion* of His design. The Hebrew idea of being crushed is exactly that—His soul was crushed—payment for sins. Another beautiful and graceful observation with this word *iniquities* is that this word is often associated with forgiveness or redemption:

Job 33:27 “He will sing to men and say, ‘I have sinned and perverted what is right, our word And it is not proper for me. But there is hope

Job 33:28 ‘He has redeemed my soul from going to the pit, And my life shall see the light.’

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And people, please remember this goes back to Job—1st book given to us...and Job understood sin, iniquities and perversion and he understood that the Redeemer provides forgiveness and redemption.

Back to Isaiah 53:5

He was pierced through because of our transgression. With the basic idea of sin as refusing to submit to His authority, to rebel against God, and to rebel against His design. And people let me remind you that every time you and I sin...we first stop trusting His Spirit and then in our flesh nature refused to submit to His authority and to rebel against His design.

In the next phrase of verse 5 we come to yet another verb describing what Jesus experienced on the cross and a second word on the revelation of sin against God.

He was crushed because of our iniquities. And the revelation here is that we twist, distort, or pervert what God says or designed.

In verse 5, we have looked at the verb *pierced through*. Now, let's take a look at the verb *crushed*. we have seen the *Hophal*, and the *Piel*. Well, this time we have the *Pual*. Although you may not even begin to understand these Hebrew verbs, you can easily grasp that this talking about the suffering of Jesus on the cross is dynamic in describing what happened on the cross. This study is so exciting in the Hebrew and I pray to our Heavenly Father that I can share some of the wonders going on in describing Christ's suffering on the cross, that is, we *twist*, *distort*, and *pervert* what God says or designed.

Not only do we have the drama of different Hebrew words for sin, but also four Hebrew verbal structures where even though you may not grasp the verbal structures you will see how absolutely breathtaking this is in describing the suffering of Jesus on the cross.

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Verse 4	He bore	Qal perfect
Verse 4	He carried	Qal perfect
Verse 4	Stricken	Qal passive
Verse 4	Smitten	Hophal participle
Verse 4	Afflicted	Pual participle
Verse 5	Pierced	Piel participle
Verse 5	Crushed	Pual participle

He bore, carried and He was stricken, afflicted, pierced and was crushed for our sins.

By the *Hophal* we see that he was on the cross voluntarily and was caused to be smitten.

By the *Pual* we see that He intensively accomplished the absolute suffering on the cross.

And by the *Piel* we see that God was caused to pierce Jesus Christ.

Now what was Jesus' attitude of being pierced through for our sins? We see both His and Jesus' attitude at being pierced through. First in 1 Corinthians 11:24 we are reminded at each Communion, Jesus' attitude at suffering on the cross.

1 Corinthians 11:24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you, do this in remembrance of Me."

Then at Isaiah 53:10 we learn that the Father was pleased to crush Him: **But the Lord was pleased to crush Him.**

So we learn that Jesus Christ gives **thanks** for the piercing of His soul for our sins and our rebellion against His Father. Now as we read through all this richness and learn from the Hebrew of the crucifixion of Jesus

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Christ, how can we put this richness into common words to communicate to others we witness to? How can we show that it is blasphemous to add any works whatsoever to the work of Jesus Christ on the cross? Why they cannot add mental repentance or verbal confession or overt actions of any list of do's to the work of Jesus on the cross.

Learn all that is involved on the cross by Isaiah chapter 53.

First you present them with the ageless gospel: Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. Then to press the point that there is nothing they can add to the work of Christ on the cross, you can take them to

**Isaiah 53:4 Surely, truly our griefs from sin
that belong to us He (Jesus Christ) Himself
bore,**

Yet we ourselves esteemed Him. We concluded that these things happened to Him because He deserved them.

Stricken He received being touched by God His Father in judgment for our sins.

Smitten pain—suffering of sin and here without going into the Hebrew we simply express three ideas of the Hebrew. Causative. He was caused to be smitten because He voluntarily went to the cross for all mankind, including the very person you are speaking with. And this being Smitten was to satisfy the desired plan of God the Father—for the payment of sins, which we could not do, because we are born spiritually dead. Jesus Christ was affected to carry the pain of our sins.

Afflicted stresses that He was Humbled on the cross; you think you can add to this? And the word afflicted shows this as an accomplished act on the cross. There is nothing that can be added. It is the payment for sins, it is finished, paid in full.

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Then you continue reading in verse 5.

Isaiah 53:5 But He was pierced through that is His soul was pierced through. And again this was to accomplish what was necessary for the payment of sins. Not making ourselves better by some works but pierced through His soul to accomplish what God the Father demanded for payment of sins. And you want to add to this? The next phrase shows why He was pierced through.

For –because of our transgressions, This word signifies to revolt or to refuse to be rightful toward the authority of God. It is more often translated *transgressions* or rebellion against God. Something that we do every time we sin. And on the cross Jesus Christ paid for all Past, Present and Future sins, they will ever be committed.

This word signifies to revolt or refuse to being rightful authority to God.