

Isaiah 53 was written in the context of the Babylonian Exile or the years leading up to it, when Judah faced judgment, suffering, and displacement. The prophet spoke of a “Servant of the Lord” who would restore Israel and bring light to the nations. Historically, some Jewish interpretations saw the servant as Israel itself, suffering among the nations. After the resurrection of Jesus, Christians understood Isaiah 53 as fulfilled in Christ’s suffering and atonement. Church leaders like Augustine of Hippo taught it as central to the gospel, emphasising substitutionary sacrifice and redemption.

Share a time when a person really supported and carried you through a challenging time.

Isaiah 53:4-12

1. What does verse 4 say the servant has carried or taken on Himself? How did people misunderstand the reason for His suffering in verse 4?
2. In v4 what does it mean that the servant bore our pain and suffering (grief and sorrows)—does this include both physical and spiritual suffering? Rom 6:23
3. What does “pierced” and “crushed” teach us about the cost of sin?
4. How should these verses shape the way we view our own sin?
5. In v5, what does it mean that “by His wounds we are healed”? What kind of healing is in view?
6. How does the picture of wandering sheep in v6 explain the nature of sin?
7. What does it mean that God “laid on Him” the sin of us all—how does this relate to God’s justice? Gal 3:13
8. What does this teach us about God’s love and justice working together?
9. What does the injustice in His trial (v. 8) reveal about the use of power and authority in our world today?
10. How do you respond when we face unfair treatment or suffering?
11. What is said about His death and burial in verse 9? What reason is given for His innocence in verse 9?
12. What does verse 10 say about the Lord’s purpose in His suffering? ‘Suffering is a necessary part of our discipleship’ – discuss whether or not you agree with this statement.
13. In v11 it says the servant will “justify many”, what does this mean? Romans 5:18-19
14. What is the significance of the servant “bearing sin” in verse 12?
15. How can this passage help you explain the gospel clearly to someone else?

Prayer Points

Please pray for the two young people as they continue towards getting baptised on Easter Sunday. Pray also for the event at Ashburnham on Easter Sunday; we will be inviting people from the community we are connected with.

Pray for stamina for Judy Cook and her colleagues in Thailand as they provide administrative support to Social Development Services Unit (SDSU), promoting improved quality of life for vulnerable communities. This is in the middle of a three-year project to support a community who face severe flooding.

Sermon Notes



BIBLE STUDY

March 29th 2026

Isaiah 53:4-12

Atonement

The Book of Isaiah presents powerful prophetic visions that have helped to shape theology, especially regarding God's holiness, judgment, and redemption. Written in a time of political turmoil, Isaiah foretells both near and distant events. Many prophecies have been fulfilled in history and in the life of Jesus Christ. Isaiah predicted the fall of Babylon, the return of Israel from exile, and the rise of Cyrus of Persia by name. Most notably, Isaiah 53 describes a suffering servant whose rejection, suffering, and redemptive death closely parallel the New Testament accounts of Jesus, reinforcing Isaiah's enduring significance.

This series will help us to be faithful as we renew our focus upon the Lord, and fruitful as He fulfils His word.

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001