

What Predictions Did Jesus Fulfill?

International Bible Lessons

Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-12

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“Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities” (Isaiah 53:11—NRSV).

“As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities” (Isaiah 53:11—NASB-U).

“He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities” (Isaiah 53:11—KJV).

Before Jesus was born, He and the Father agreed that in order for Jesus to save believers He would need to suffer as our scapegoat. Furthermore, Jesus would need to endure the anguish of the Suffering Servant predicted by Isaiah. According to Isaiah’s prophecy, the Lord “laid on him the iniquity of us all;” similar to the priest in the Old Testament, who laid the sins of the people on the scapegoat and drove it into the wilderness (see Leviticus 16 and Isaiah 53:6). While dying, Jesus suffered anguish, because He bore our iniquities (our wickedness). When tempted, Jesus never sinned; therefore, He became “the righteous one,” who served as the scapegoat to remove the sins of all who repent and trust in Him. When the Father raised Jesus from the dead, He saw light as predicted.

Jesus removes the believer’s sins “to make many righteous;” however, we need more than our sins removed. Therefore, the Lord also promises, “I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts” (Jeremiah 31:33). In addition, the Holy Spirit lives within Jesus’ people to empower them to live rightly according to the Scriptures. While in this world, Jesus’ followers will always be tempted to sin; therefore, “with the testing he will also provide the way out” (1 Corinthians 10:13). Because Jesus knew how much people would benefit from His sacrificial death, He experienced “satisfaction through his knowledge.” Moreover, “for the sake of the joy that was set before him he endured the cross, disregarding its shame” (Hebrews 12:2).

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Thinking Further

1. What are some common misunderstandings about God? Why do some people have these misunderstandings? How might you answer those with these misunderstandings?
2. What are some of the benefits we enjoy now and will enjoy later because Jesus Christ died on the cross and we love Him as our Lord and Savior?
3. Outside of church, how and how often do people talk about iniquities, sins, and transgressions? Inside of church, how and how often do people talk about iniquities, sins, and transgressions? Does this make it difficult or easy to talk about why Jesus died?
4. Why is Jesus' death and resurrection from the dead considered "Good News"?
5. Why is it important for God to express His love for people in both just and merciful ways instead of just one or the other way? How might you tell someone that Jesus' death enabled God the Father and the Son to express their concern for both justice and mercy?