

Sunday 14 April 2024



Take a moment to live my best life with me



My favorite scripture in the Bible:

Isaiah 53

1 Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;

My favorite scripture in the Bible

Yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

My favorite scripture in the Bible

8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?

9 And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth

10 Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

My favorite scripture in the Bible

11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many and makes intercession for the transgressors.

What makes this my favorite Scripture?

Isaiah 53:

- It's prophetic – written around 700 years before Christ
- It joins the Old Testament to the New Testament like almost no other book
- It proves the bible.

And.....

- It clearly and accurately describes the Lord's plan of a future sacrifice of Christ for our salvation



I S A

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ARISE, SHINE

Y O U R L I G H T H A S C O M E

OUR SALVATION'S OUTPOURING

Our Sin and the Lord's response to it

Isaiah 1:10-20 NLT

(The Father to Sodom and Gomorrah through Isaiah)

When you lift up your hands in prayer, I will not look. Though you offer many prayers, I will not listen, for your hands are covered with the blood of innocent victims. Wash yourselves and be clean! Get your sins out of my sight. Give up your evil ways. Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows.

These harsh things are irrelevant to me today

- This is all rather dramatic.
- I am the nicest person I know
- This is all old testament and irrelevant anyway

and

- I am a good person – I've never committed any serious sins

Yet our justifications hold no water....

James 2:10

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

Our just punishment

2 Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Let's go back to Isaiah 53:10....

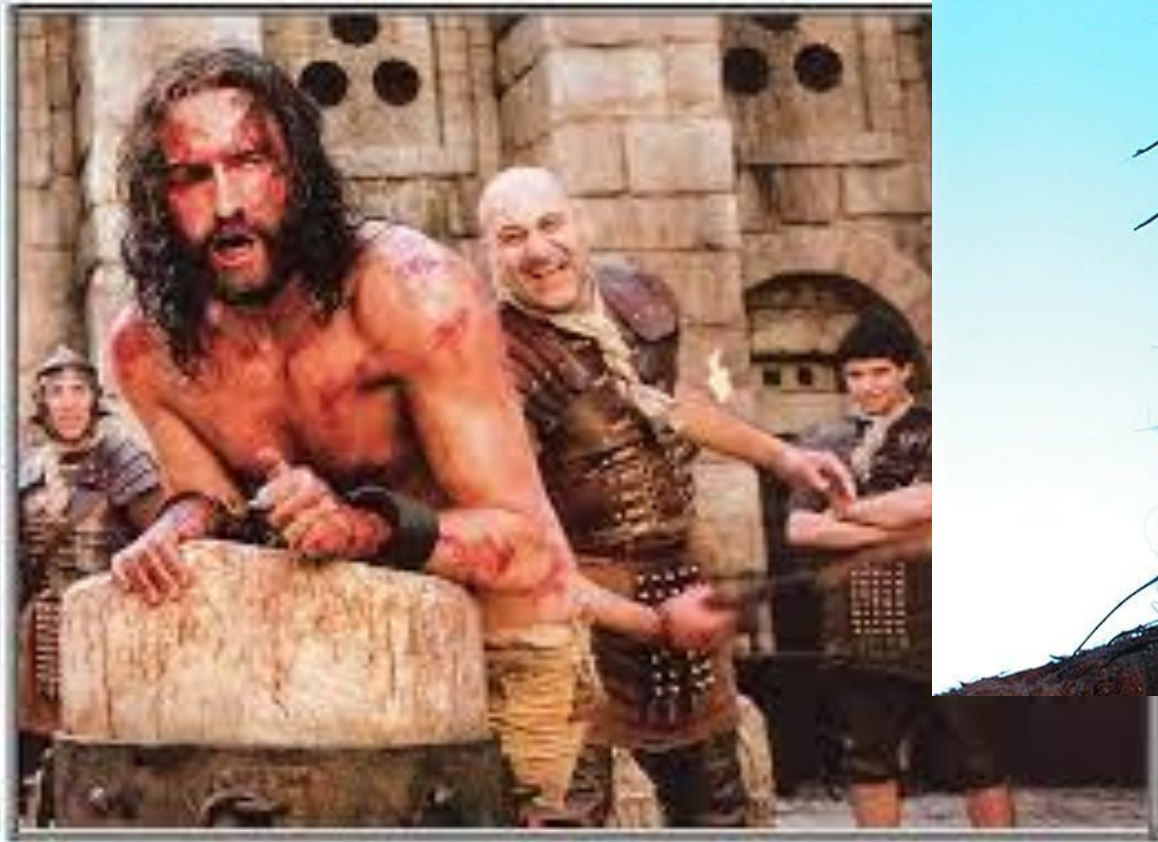
***“Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him;
he has put him to grief”***

- Why would He say that?
- The Father places a very high price on sin.
- The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23)
- No atonement without the shedding of blood (Hebrews 9:22)

Leviticus 17:11

For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.

Have you ever watched The Passion of the Christ?



Jesus. Our Advocate. Our Savior

1 John 2:1

But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

- Jesus is our advocate
- When he left, he left His Spirit with us to help us
- We turn to Him daily
- We humbly accept his sacrifice
- We know Him daily by spending time with Him and His word

Another part of the picture: our relationship

- There are times when we feel distant from God
- In my experience, this often is the result of unconfessed / repented for sin
- Sin separates us from God

Isaiah 59:2

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.

Repentance and Our salvation

Peter teaches repentance and baptism for our renewal in Christ:

Acts 2:38

“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Paul teaches repentance:

Acts 21:21

I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

Sincere repentance leading to our salvation

2 key things come out of our sincere repentance:

1. Our Sanctification

2. Our own response to our sanctification

1. Sanctification

We are sanctified by Him

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 NIV

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

2. Our response to our sanctification

Our Salvation's outpouring:

1 John 3:6

No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

- The fruit of the Spirit
- Our lives become dedicated to Him and we follow Him

We are called to live differently

“When we understand the magnitude and grace of our true salvation, we should automatically respond by living squeaky-clean lives, in a way that the modern world neither likes nor encourages.”

Our Salvation’s outpouring

Conclusion:

- Our sin separates us from the Father, but Jesus reconciles us
And we see our response to His generosity:
 - Christian lives become an outpouring
 - We follow His commands
 - Love the Lord your God and Love your neighbour
 - The Great commission
 - It's hard not to give back and respond in humility, love
 - We are then enabled to Arise, Shine - and we automatically do.

Once we've repented, we are renewed. We are called to live Jesus-like lives – to Arise and Shine.



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ARISE, SHINE

Y O U R L I G H T H A S C O M E