

Vicarious Sacrifice: Isa 53:5: Jesus Pierced for Our Violations of Mosaic Law & Crushed for Our Unrighteousness; We Are Born Condemned by Imputed Sin & Inherited Sin, Rom 5:12; Divine Righteousness Imputed at Salvation; Jesus was Punished for Our Reconciliation

III. Isaiah's Report of the Gospel

C. Isaiah 53:2–12

2. Man's Condition and the Cross, vv. 5–6

Verse 5: Jesus Christ's Substitutionary Atonement:

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. (NASB)

1. The word "pierced" is a good translation of the Pual intensive passive of the verb **חָלַל** (*chalal*): "He was intensively pierced."
2. *Chalal* means to be wounded by being pierced resulting in death, in this case the spiritual death of our Lord while being judged for our sins.
3. Psalm 22 is a Messianic Psalm which uses this same word to describe the crucifixion:

Psalm 22:16 - Dogs [i.e., **גוֹיִם** (*goyim*), Romans] have surrounded Me; a band of evil doers [**religious Jews**] has encompassed Me; they pierced my hands and My feet.

4. Zechariah also uses this term to describe the Lord's evaluation of unbelieving Jews during the Baptism of Fire at the Second Advent:

Zechariah 12:10 - And I will pour out upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications, so they will be caused to look upon Me Whom they have pierced; and they will weep bitterly over Him as one mourns for an only son ...

5. Why they weep is indicated in Isaiah 53:5 by the object of the following prepositional phrase: “for our transgressions,” the masculine noun פֶּשָׁע (pesha): “violation of the Law” e.g., the Ten Commandments, et al.
6. The piercings refer literally to the nails hammered through His wrists and feet but more dramatically to the piercings of mankind’s sins imputed to Him and His being judged for them.
7. The next phrase, “was crushed for our iniquities” is explained in:
Psalm 22:6 - But I am a worm and not a man, a reproach of men and despised by the people.
8. The word “worm” references the word “crushed” in Isaiah 53:5. It is the noun תוֹלַעַת (tole’ah): (1) the colors crimson, purple, or scarlet, or (2) a worm.
9. The two seemingly antithetical definitions are harmonized when it is understood that crimson dye was produced by crushing the female tole’ah worm.
 The female is wingless and adheres to its favorite plant by its long, sucking beak, by which it extracts the sap on which it lives. After once attaching itself it remains motionless, and when dead its body shelters the eggs which have been deposited beneath it. The dye is made from the dried bodies of the females.¹
10. The tole’ah worms were collected with great difficulty and put into a vat. A stone was taken, the worms were crushed, and the blood was used to make crimson dye for the robes of kings.
11. The self-comparison of Christ to the tole’ah worm refers to His being crushed for the sins of the human race which made it possible for believers to wear the robes of the royal family of God.

¹ Alfred Ely Day, “Worm,” in *The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*, gen ed. James Orr (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1956), 4:3109.

12. The word “crushed” is the Pual passive participle of the verb דָּכָא (*dacha'*) indicating the continuous, intensive reception of our sins from the justice of God.
13. The Lord was crushed as a *tole'ah* worm for our “iniquities”: עָוֹן (*'awon*): “failure to measure up to God’s essence.”
14. God is impeccable in every aspect of His essence. We are not. Our fallen nature separates us from a relationship with perfect God.
15. Earlier in the verse we learned that Christ suffered spiritual death on the cross because of our sins which may be understood generally as violations of the imperative moods of Scripture.
16. The two terms – transgressions and iniquities – may be summarized thusly: we are sinners because of our fallen nature.
17. We are born condemned before the righteous bar of God. At physical birth we are imputed Adam’s original sin which separates us from God at the moment of our human life.
18. This we have previously illustrated by the term the Ray Morgan Factor. In a game played between the Washington Nationals and the Boston Red Sox in 1917, Boston pitcher Babe Ruth walked the leadoff hitter, Ray Morgan. Ruth argued the ball-four call to such a degree that Umpire Brick Owens threw him out of the game. Ruth was replaced by Ernie Shore who proceeded to retire every man he faced. But it was not an official perfect game because when Shore entered the contest he inherited Ray Morgan on first base.
19. When we are born we inherit Adam’s original sin which is imputed to the genetically formed sin nature. Every person is born physically alive but spiritually dead.

Romans 5:12 - Just as through one man [**Adam**] sin [**Adam's original sin**] entered into the world, and so spiritual death through sin, consequently spiritual death spreads to all men because all sinned when Adam sinned. (EXT)

20. We are condemned at birth not because of personal sins but by the imputation of Adam's original sin. Adam was perfect but chose to sin. In doing so, he acquired a sin nature which was passed down to mankind through procreation.
21. If Adam sinned from a status of perfection then, a fortiori, we would also sin from a state of imperfection. Thus since we were all seminally in Adam when he fell, we are condemned at birth by the imputation of his original sin.
22. Hypothetically, if a person kept every commandment in Scripture, he would still be a sinner. We are sinners because we are not perfect and that imperfection began at physical birth.

Romans 3:23 - All have sinned and fall short of the glory [**divine essence**] of God. (NASB)

23. In this same chapter Paul paraphrases David from Psalm 14:

Romans 3:10 - As it stands written, "There is not one being righteous, not even one;

v. 11 - there is not one who comprehends the gospel, not one even seeks knowledge of God;

v. 12 - all have deviated from truth and have become depraved; there is not one who attains the integrity of God, not even one. (EXT)

24. Those without the imputed righteousness of God at salvation cannot have a relationship with righteous God. God's righteousness is imputed at salvation due to faith in Christ as the One that removed sin as an issue.
25. Salvation provides three essential characteristics for the function of the Christian way of life: **(1)** eternal life, **(2)** imputed righteousness, and **(3)** unlimited atonement.

26. Verse five continues in the NASB with the clause, "... the chastening of our well-being fell upon Him...." The New King James Bible reads, "... the chastisement for our peace was upon Him...."
27. The words "chastening" and "chastisement" in the Hebrew text are the masculine noun מוֹסָר (*musar*): "punishment."
28. When believers violate divine principles it results in punishments of various kinds. We are alerted that such discipline is not to be received negatively since it is a demonstration of God's love for His children.

Hebrews 12:6 - "For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines and He scourges every son whom He receives."

v. 7 - It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

v. 8 - But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. (NASB)