

Vicarious Sacrifice: Isaiah 53:5: “Jesus Intensively Pierced for Our Violations,” see Ps 22:16; “Continuously Crushed for Our Iniquitous Status,” resolved by Redemption; “Punishment for Our Reconciliation Fell on Him”

1. The introductory line of the verse is, “He was wounded for our transgressions.” Transgressions refer to violations of a known establishment law contained in the Mosaic Law, for example, the Ten Commandments.
2. The verb “wounded” is the Pual passive intensive participle of **חָלַל** (*chahal*): “to be intensively pierced as a sacrifice for our transgressions”:

The Servant of Yahweh in Isaiah 53:5 ... is a prophetic servant of God. ... salvation for Israel and the nations comes not from what he preaches, but from his offering of his life as a propitiation for many, his innocent and vicarious suffering on behalf of others. The healing gained for others through his wounds comprises the forgiveness of sins and the removal of their punishment.¹

3. Two Old Testament verses mention the piercings of our Lord on the cross:

Psalm 22:16 - Dogs [Roman Goyim] have surrounded me; a band of evildoers [religious Jews] has encompassed Me; they pierced my hands and My feet [crucifixion]. (See also Zechariah 12:10)

4. The next verb is the Pual passive intensive participle of **דָּכָא** (*dacha'*): “to be crushed.”
5. The crushing here borrows from the process that produced crimson dye to color the robes of kings.
6. Those that believe in Christ in the Church Age become members of the Royal Family of God. The means by which this becomes a reality is faith alone in Christ alone.
7. The crushing of an innocent substitute’s vicarious sacrifice made it possible for those who had no previous standing before God to acquire it through adoption by means of faith.

¹ W. Dommershausen, “חָלַל,” in *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*, eds. Botterweck and Ringgren, 4:420.

8. The illustration is the crushing of the *tole'ah* worm's dead body which produces crimson dye.
9. The Lord was crushed in receiving the punishment for our iniquities – violations of divine essence – which rendered us unrighteous.
10. Sin is violation of divine law. Divine law is both positive and negative. Scripture provides guidance on what sins each of these violations include.
11. The continuous crushing of Jesus for these violations constitutes this category of punishment for our sins.
12. Regardless, we are classified as unrighteous at the moment of our physical birth. At physical birth, we are imputed Adam's original sin to our genetically formed sin nature producing total depravity.
13. From physical birth until physical death, a person could keep every mandate of Scripture and still have violated God's law and His standards.
14. Why? Because every person is born guilty of Adam's sin:
Romans 5:12 - Just as through one man, Adam, the original sin of Adam entered into the world and so spiritual death through the original sin, consequently, spiritual death spread to all men because all sinned when Adam sinned. (EXT)
Romans 3:23 - All have sinned and come short of the glory [**the divine essence**] of God. (EXT)
15. The only way any person can be considered perfect is by means of salvation through faith alone at which point the individual is imputed divine righteousness and by which he is justified and vindicated before the Supreme Court of Heaven.
16. The Lord's reception of continuous piercing and crushing resulted in our redemption. The process of our cleansing continues with the next clause, "the punishment for our reconciliation fell on Him."